

WEEK 4 MEDICINE & THE ARTS – REPRODUCTION AND INNOVATION
CREATIVE PROCESS

00:00:00

Welcome to the fourth week of medicine and the arts. This week, we're going to consider ideas of human reproduction and creativity. In a situation of limited resources for health in an African context, innovation and creativity is absolutely crucial in order to make the most of what is available. These crutches behind me, for example, were made for me at a mission hospital in Swaziland where the availability of medical supplies was very limited. They are strong and light and were custom made, far better, in fact, than the factory made ones.

And this is a recurrent theme I've found in rural health care, which has been my own field of study. Every country and region of the world has its own resource challenges. Because health care is an expensive business, and locally-appropriate solutions have to be found.

At the other end of the spectrum in private industry, millions are spent on research and development of new ideas. But where did these new ideas come from? Personally, my best thoughts come while out peddling my bicycle. There's something about the rhythmic repetition that allows my mind to wander more freely.

But can creativity be deliberately stimulated or taught? We wondered what we can learn from different fields of study. Could the extraordinary event of human reproduction, for example, the literal creation of a human life-- teach us something? And so we invited my colleague Professor Silke Dyer, who's a gynaecologist and an expert in assisted reproductive techniques, to give her perspective. And she's joined by Professor Alireza Baghai-Wadji, who's an engineer and talks from the perspective of mathematics and physics.

And finally, Dr Francois Bonnici, a medical doctor who is involved in social entrepreneurship and speaks from a business perspective. Let's see what each of them can contribute to help answering these intriguing questions.



Steve Reid, 2015

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