



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 3 April 2009

- The St Mary's Hospital, IW-Juba Teaching Hospital Link is making excellent progress in developing education and training for doctors and nurses at Juba Teaching Hospital in Southern Sudan.
- In terms of activities the Link supported a successful visit by 4 trainers in October 2008. France Reed undertook a 3 day workshop for midwives and worked alongside the midwifery team advising them on good practice and undertaking deliveries. One young mum was so happy with the care she received from France she named her baby after her! Tim Walsh undertook a week long course in Applied Surgical Physiology and a further course in Trauma Management. Jane Newson-Smith undertook a needs assessment in psychiatry and also provided daily teaching to the medical assistants (there are no medically qualified psychiatrists). Zorina Walsh reviewed the educational needs, resulting in a number of definitive proposals both in terms of facilities for teaching and structured programmes. All members of the team attended meetings with various members of the Ministry of Health and the British Consul. Jane also visited the local prison.



- In December 2008 2 trainee doctors (Dr James Ayrtton and Dr David Attwood) returned to the Isle of Wight after a 4 month attachment in Juba Teaching Hospital. This attachment has provided them with a wealth of experience both of conditions not normally seen in the UK and in the ability to provide healthcare under difficult circumstances. James and David undertook a major review of the functioning of the Emergency Unit, utilising their experiences gained whilst working on the Isle of Wight. They were also able to provide teaching to the local healthcare professionals which was very much appreciated.
- The second training visit took place between the 16th March to 4th April. A report on this visit will be made in the next Newsletter.
- Apart from undertaking hands-on training in Juba Teaching Hospital we will be working with the Ministry of Health, Government of Southern Sudan to restart the Nursing and Midwifery Schools in Southern Sudan which were closed down during the civil war. This part of the project has attracted a lot of attention, including from the Tropical Health Education Trust in London and at least one American organisation (The Real Medical Foundation). The RMF have secured funding to pump prime

the re-opening of the School of Nursing and Midwifery from the World Children's Fund and the RMF, Juba Link and the Ministry of Health, Government of Southern Sudan are currently agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding in order to progress this project and make the re-opening a reality.

- We are also working with the doctors at Juba Teaching Hospital to develop a postgraduate medical training structure.
- The Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan are extremely supportive of the St Mary's Hospital, IW-Juba Teaching Hospital Link and appreciate that the objectives of re-opening the Nursing and Midwifery Schools, the development of postgraduate training for doctors and the attracting of trainers to develop local skills are central to improving healthcare in Southern Sudan.

Fundraising:

- There has been enormous local support for this project. A Bikeathon, sponsored by TJ's gym at Lake in November 2008, has raised a total of £4,500. We are enormously grateful to those who took part, those who donated and to Tina Marsh and her team at TJ's. This amount is sufficient to support 4 trainers to visit Juba, Southern Sudan.



- A major part of our current fundraising is in order to build a small bungalow in the grounds of Juba Teaching Hospital which will provide a base for our visiting trainers. Accommodation in Juba is extremely scarce and surprisingly expensive. The availability of a dedicated building would be of enormous long term benefit to the project. We are fortunate that our anaesthetist, Dr Fiona Henderson, is also a qualified architect and will take to Juba some proposed plans for discussion with the hospital and Ministry officials. So far we have raised about half of the £75,000 needed to build and we are very hopeful of some support from the International Joint Donor Fund in Juba.
- A Spring Walk was organised in February 2009 which raised £250.

Forthcoming fundraising activities:

- 12th June 2009 at 7.30pm a Concert at the Priory, Carisbrooke
- Car boot sale – date to be arranged
- Joint public meeting with the Drs Baksi/Majumdar charity in India – to be arranged
- Bikeathon – to be arranged - November 2009

Registered Charity No. 1123754

Donations can be given online at : www.justgiving.com/stmaryshospital

Or cheques can be made payable to : St Mary's Hospital, IW-Juba Hospital Link and sent c/o Mrs Jo Hanks, Colorectal Nurse Specialist, St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5TG

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Patron : Baroness Cox of Queensbury