

Oxford/KCMC Links

The clinical links between Oxford and KCMC have been strengthened further this year by 16 (a record number) staff visiting KCMC during February. For the first time an anaesthetist joined the group. Teaching, training and planning future cooperation were the key activities.

Paediatric Surgery

Kokila Lakhoo (Consultant Paediatric Surgeon) made her fifth visit accompanied on this occasion by Bip Nandi (Specialist Registrar). This was with some trepidation as the two paediatric surgeons at KCMC, with whom she had developed a good working relationship, had both left. Despite this she found this to be the most structured and organised visit to date. Dr Msuya, one of the four general surgeons at KCMC, was chosen to receive training in Paediatric Surgery with Eric Borgstein in Malawi. Dr Catherine Mung'ong'o who completes her surgical training in August 2006 will visit Oxford as an observer in Sept/Oct 2006.

Paediatrics

This is the fourth year that the David Baum Foundation has sponsored a paediatrician to visit KCMC principally to teach MMed trainees. This year it was the turn of Georgina Hall (Consultant Paediatric Haematologist). She had a full week of teaching MMeds, medical students and AMOs. She presented Professor Noel Sam, the head of clinical laboratory medicine, with the latest edition of Dacie and Lewis's *Practical Haematology*. She was impressed by the heavy workload carried by clinicians and pathologists. She identified the urgent need for additional lab technicians and the training of lab and ward staff in the preparation of good quality blood smears. The treatment of childhood Acute Lymphatic Leukaemia could then be conducted at KCMC.

Theatre Nursing

Over four years Wendy Edmundson (Senior Theatre Nurse) has seen steady improvement in nursing practice at KCMC. This year she was accompanied by her colleague Jenny Webster. They were able to work and teach in the Main, Urology and Labour Suite theatres. They noted advances made in CSSD in particular. The one functioning autoclave is in a dangerous condition, but will shortly be replaced. If any engineer reads this there is a real need for training personnel at KCMC in the maintenance of hospital equipment such as autoclaves.

Radiology

Ruth English (Consultant Radiologist) made her third visit to KCMC this year. During 2005 Svetlana Karenga, Radiology trainee at KCMC, visited Oxford for 10 weeks. Subjects taught by Ruth English included chest radiology, limb fractures and gastrointestinal radiology. Interventional radiology was discussed and an interventional radiologist from Oxford may visit KCMC next year. There is a need for a medical physicist and Chris Gibson, medical physicist in Oxford, may also visit in 2007.

Radiography

Anne Dunbar and Debbie Gavey both came to KCMC, the second time radiographers had been in the group. They gave tutorials on the interpretation of appendicular films and chest X-rays. They discussed with their counterparts various issues regarding equipment and procedures within the department. Also they discussed the proposal of a School of Radiography with courses leading to a BSc in Radiography. Plans were also made for a future visit next year.

ENT

Andrew Freeland (Consultant ENT surgeon) and Jane Jones (Audiologist) had previously made several visits to KCMC and had been active in the training of two MMed candidates who were successful in their examinations and have returned to Dar-es-Salaam. On this occasion Andrew Freeland and Jane Jones spent most of their time at Muhimbili Hospital in Dar-es-Salaam. It is doubtful whether further visits to KCMC would be of value at present. Philip Reece (Specialist ENT Registrar) spent time at KCMC teaching medical students and operating. Poor theatre equipment is a limiting factor. Diathermy, operating microscope and drill were all out of action.

Urology

Griff Fellows (Retired Urologist) had attended a biennial Urology workshop at KCMC in November 2005. These workshops are supported by the British Association of Urological Surgeons. In February four Urologists visited KCMC: Jeremy Crew, Neil Haldar, Mark Sullivan (Consultant Urologists) and Nilay Patel (Specialist Registrar). This was the first occasion for Mark Sullivan and Nilay Patel. The Urology department has only two consultants at present and the help they gave in the short time available was appreciated.

Anaesthetics

There had previously been some links between Oxford and KCMC in Anaesthetics, but not in recent years. This was the first visit by Elize Richards (Consultant Anaesthetist). She was made to feel very welcome and played an active part in the teaching and clinical work of the department and was asked to return. One of her observations was that the anaesthetics staff had no role in the postoperative management of patients. This could be developed and would lead to an improvement in morbidity and mortality.

Summary

During February 2006 sixteen from Oxford visited KCMC. They comprised 2 senior nurses, 1 audiologist, 2 radiographers, 8 consultants and 3 specialist registrars. The emphasis, as previously, was on teaching and training. Three trainees from Oxford gained experience from the visit as did the rest of the group. Several visits of KCMC staff to Oxford are planned. These links are founded on friendship and trust between

comparable staff in the two institutions and hopefully will continue to the benefit of all.