

Lord Crisp's report, *Global Health Partnerships, The UK contribution to health in developing countries*, was published in February 2007. In it he emphasised the value of links between institutions in UK with those in the developing world which brought benefit to both. The predominant need that he identified in Africa was training of personnel. "The single most common request I heard, however, throughout Africa in particular, was for assistance with educating and training staff of all kinds: community health workers, clinical officers, doctors, nurses, managers and technicians." (page 16). Lord Crisp describes how such links benefit institutions in this country. He goes on to write "The NHS employer usually welcomes back a highly motivated member of staff who has grown personally and professionally, to deliver better services for patients in the UK."

Links that have developed between departments in the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals (ORH) and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania fulfil the best practice criteria outlined in the Crisp report and as promoted by bodies such as the Tropical Health and Education Trust.

Links have existed between Oxford and KCMC for many years in Dermatology and Urology. In 2002 additional links were set up in other specialties at the request of staff at KCMC and staff from Oxford have made annual visits to KCMC to take part in their teaching and training programmes. Staff from KCMC have visited Oxford for specific training which could not be provided at KCMC.

In February 2007 folk in the following departments spent a week in KCMC: Theatre Nursing, Paediatric Surgery, Anaesthetics, Anaesthetic and Intensive Care Nursing, Radiography, Radiology, Dentistry/Faciomaxillary Surgery and Medical Physics. Unfortunately the established link in Paediatric Medicine suffered a funding crisis and no Paediatrician went this year. As on previous occasions senior management, consultants, postgraduate trainees, nurses and students all gave us a warm welcome. Lectures and seminars were given and teaching conducted on the wards and in the operating theatres. Dentistry/Faciomaxillary Surgery, ITU Nursing and Medical Physics were all new links this year. It is hoped that these and the other links will continue and grow in the future.