



Supporting the Leicester-Gondar Link

PROJECT UPDATES

Project Name : *(please highlight accordingly)*

- Operating Theatre (Jane & Peter Aires)
- Bio-Medical Engineering Dept (Nick Brown)
- Ophthalmology (Geoff Woodruff)
- University Projects (Mark Goodwin)
- Patient Safety (THET/DFID) / Nursing & IPC (Sandra Kemp)
- Orthopaedics & Trauma (Laurence Wicks)
- Mental Health (Lynn Wroe)
- Kolladiba (Christine Iliffe)
- Collaborative Teaching Programme / Endoscopy / Dietetic (Barrie Rathbone)
- Laboratory – Microbiology (Steve Hardy)
- **Global Women's Health Collaborative (Doug Tincello)**

Period Covered : 9th November 2017 – 15th March 2018

Activity : (eg Fundraising, Grant Applications, Visits)

Female Pelvic Floor Health Global Collaborative - Tiger Team (University of Leicester funding) progress report 7th March 2018

The Tiger Team completed a successful fieldwork visit from 20th to 25th November. We were able to visit the hospital environment, a primary health clinic in a rural area (Dabat), meet with the epidemiologists working in the Dabat research centre, and also present our provisional work plans to the gynaecology staff, public health staff, nurses, and physiotherapists. We also were able to meet with the Dean of the Medical School and the Director of Public Health for the whole of northern Ethiopia, as well as a subsequent meeting with the director of WAHA, a non-government charity working in the region to improve access for patients into hospital.

We were able to refine our initial plan and our colleagues in Gondar suggested a related intervention study for women with pelvic organ prolapse, and everyone we spoke to was uniformly supportive of the plans and were enthusiastic about collaborating. The Director of Public Health promised his full support for the work going forward.

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The plan has crystallised into two parallel intervention packages to be delivered to women in the primary health clinic setting:

- pelvic floor muscle training for women with urinary incontinence
- training in self-management of vaginal support pessaries for pelvic organ prolapse.

These interventions have proven effectiveness in the developed world, but due to geographical and logistic constraints, a modified training delivered by primary health workers is planned. We plan five background work packages which are the subject of current funding bids, which will lead us to be able to bid for funding for the two intervention studies.

1. Priority setting partnership with patients, clinicians and stakeholders to identify the most important treatment uncertainties for incontinence and prolapse in this context
2. Formative interviews with patients, carers, clinicians about lived experience of pelvic floor disorders; we will also explore key requirements for training and delivery of the intervention in this context
3. Large epidemiological survey of the conditions across Amhara region of Ethiopia
4. Intervention development through workshops to refine the training and assessment
5. Exploration of communication for social change aspects, including the scope and effectiveness of current information campaigns, community based workshops to explore the stigma of pelvic floor disorders.

We have begun to develop item 5 in collaboration with Dr Thomas Tufte and Dr Jessica Noske-Turner in the department of Media and Communication, and have had a cross college PhD studentship approved by the Colleges; this is currently out for advert.

We deferred the Karachi visit, and have used the remaining funds to employ a short term worker via unitemps to complete a focussed systematic review of interventions for pelvic floor disorders in LMIC.

The Tiger team has been successful; we have completed four work package outlines for funding submissions, which are in hand (College GCRF bid, Wellcome Seed Fund and MRC Public Health Intervention Development grant) and have established cross College links which bode well for future PhD projects and funding opportunities.