African Partnerships for Patient Safety Programme (APPS) Plans for the Future

Following a successful meeting in Zimbabwe between WHO, THET and APPS First and Second Wave Leads (Dr Desalegn, Gondar—Lead, and Sandra Kemp Leicester—Lead) submitted 3 proposals to the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) Health Partnership funding scheme to support continued work in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Health Worker protection and a new project around Medical Equipment.

Unfortunately the grant applications to support Health Worker Protection and Medical Equipment were unsuccessful, but we have been shortlisted for funding for the IPC proposal and have further project work to do before we know if we have been successful.

Dr Desalegn and Sandra Kemp have been working with many others to secure project funding and hope to try further grant submissions later in the year.

We will know in September if we have secured funding for a further 3 years to continue work on IPC. Please wish us Good Luck. It would be great if we can continue our Patient Safety work in this Gondar College of Medical Science’s (GCMS) 60th Anniversary Year.

Written by: Sandra Kemp
All my life I had wanted to work in another culture, experience life as a person who lived and worked in another country rather than as a tourist. So after four children and a career in nursing culminating in my current job as a lecturer and co-ordinator of adult pre-registration programmes on my small island of Guernsey, I finally got my chance. I responded to an advert in a Royal College of Nursing magazine, had an interview and found myself in Gondar in September 2013, together with Sarah, a Para-medic trainer and lecturer from Northampton University. Our mission was to teach and support the Master’s programme for nurses in Gondar Hospital in Northern Ethiopia.

We settled into local accommodation known as the University Guesthouse. It was strange sharing a flat when we had only just met, and were over 20 years apart in age, but we found an equilibrium and I think managed to make it work. We trudged the three miles or so to work at the hospital every day, passing children playing in the dirt, women cooking over open fires and donkeys laden with eucalyptus wood.

Our work was divided between supervising the Masters students on the wards and teaching in the university campus nearby. My background is in surgery, so I worked on the general surgical ward and orthopaedic ward, whilst Sarah was assigned the two medical wards. I had three students to supervise whilst Sarah had five. The most shocking part of the work for me were the things I saw on the surgical wards, the physical conditions that people endured. So many health and safety accidents, legs being caught in machinery and needing amputation from the upper thigh, terrible burns from accidents with open fires and gas stoves, even burns from lightening strikes. There were many men with gunshot wounds, either accidental or intentional; farmers shooting at potential raiders, or outlaws.

The people of Ethiopia seemed so amazingly resilient, bearing all the pain with fortitude with minimal analgesia. Morphine was not used as the staff in the hospital felt sure it would lead to addiction, so were reluctant to supply or prescribe it. The students too, bore changes and delays in their programme with much fortitude, and were so eager and enthusiastic about their study.

I started a “Journal Club” whilst I was there. The idea being that the students would find a piece of research related to their field of work and critique and discuss it, with a view to considering how they might integrate new evidence into their practice. This was attended very enthusiastically, with heated debate about the merits of one particular research paradigm over another. Sarah arranged some great skills sessions around life support and medical emergencies which was very well received by all the students, especially after we discovered there was a well equipped skills lab to hold the sessions in.

The Masters programme had been running for nearly two years when we arrived, the idea being that it was supported by De Montfort University, Leicester who would send lecturers over twice a year to work with and support the Gondar staff until, after two years they would have the expertise to manage the programme. Many of the Gondar staff were prolific researchers and very knowledgeable in their field, and appreciated our support.

There were times of frustration with miscommunication about teaching sessions and times when Sarah and I were unsure about the assessment process, but we worked our way round and I think our help and presence was much welcomed by the students. The expectation is that now that the support of UK tutors has been withdrawn, as agreed with the Gondar Nursing Department, the programme will be sustainable and produce a high calibre of nursing leaders who will promote good quality nursing care, benefitting the amazing people of Ethiopia.

Written by: Wendy Corbin
UK supported Nurse Tutor
Gondar - Sept-Dec 2013
In 2013 I was awarded the David Watkins Overseas grant, by University Hospitals of Leicester, to try and establish an orthopaedic link between Leicester and Gondar. I made my first visit to Ethiopia at the end of November 2013, really as a fact finding mission before a longer visit I have planned in August 2014.

The Gondar surgical department is made up of 10 general surgical consultants, each with an area of specialist interest. Dr Mohammed is the sole consultant taking an interest in orthopaedics (almost exclusively trauma).

There is a morning meeting on Tuesday and Thursdays to discuss the admissions. The residents are generally left to deal with the emergencies, and call a consultant if there is big case beyond their abilities to manage. Wednesdays are dedicated to education, with residents giving presentations (and a monthly morbidity and mortality report). Dr Mohammed will do a ward round and clinic on Tuesdays, and operates all day on a Friday.

As with many African countries, the incidence of trauma is increasing as the number of roads and vehicles rises. This provides a significant workload for the staff at Gondar. Many of the trauma patients have multiple injuries, require high levels of care, and spend a lengthy time in hospital.

Currently in Gondar the trauma patients are brought through a triage area and are then directed to the Emergency room. If they require emergency resuscitation and surgery, they are taken to the ‘recovery area’ which is used for pre-op, post-op and sick surgical patients. This system is inefficient and so there is desire to create a dedicated ‘trauma unit’ which would streamline and improve the care of these patients. The surgeons in Gondar have been collaborating with the trauma unit from Vancouver, and when I was in Gondar I met with Professor Richard Simons who was visiting at the same time. I therefore do not plan to become heavily involved in development of the trauma service in Gondar, but will keep in contact with Professor Simons (who is originally from Leicester!) to work together constructively in the future and to avoid stepping on each other’s toes.

My interest in Gondar instead will focus on working with Dr Mohammed to support the orthopaedic unit. He is in desperate need of some basic surgical equipment and I am meeting with Tim Beacon from MedAid (www.medicalaidinternational.com/) to try and secure this.

Following my visit last year, it is clear to me that there is a need to develop training of the surgical residents as they work towards the COSECSA MCS (www.cosecsa.org/). The collaborative teaching project website (www.leicestergondarlink.com/) makes it possible to do some of this without travelling to Ethiopia, and I hope to encourage my colleagues to become involved in this way. Part of the difficulty for trainees, I feel, is a lack of mentorship and I hope to establish a partner scheme, where trainees in Leicester can support individual residents in Gondar by email.

As part of the training in Gondar I am looking to run the Primary Trauma Care course which had become a well established alternative to ATLS for low and middle income countries (www.primarytraumacare.org). By training up a local course faculty, this can become a regular part of the training calendar.

An orthopaedic link between Leicester and Gondar is taking time to establish but I hope that by developing a good relationship with surgeons in Gondar, and by focussing on training and education, that the link will be sustainable.

Written by: Laurence Wicks
Orthopaedic trainee
In April Jan Moore and Heather Dipple had the opportunity to visit Gondar and found out how the new wards work was progressing.

We were pleased to see that patients were being admitted to the ward and many had completed their inpatient stays and had been able to go home. The ward was calm and welcoming and the staff were working hard to both run the ward and the outpatient clinic which was as busy as usual. We thought about how the space could be developed further and hope that the outside space can be used as a seating area and an extra therapeutic space for the patients and their carers.

At the end of our visit we were able to share a traditional coffee ceremony on the ward with the staff, patients and carers, it seemed to be appreciated by everyone and we hope that it was the first of many.

Further visits to the ward are planned Heather Crozier and Amanda Wallace are planning a trip in September. Later in the year we are also planning for a team to visit who help our staff in Leicester manage the clinical challenge of aggressive behaviour which can sometimes be a problem when patients are very unwell.

Staff in Gondar are thinking about the next steps in developing mental health resources, it would be great to develop a community based service and also some day services for adults.

Written by Heather Dipple
Mental Health Project Lead

Baye worked with Professor Mike Barer of the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation on aspects of the diagnosis, progression and treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis, which is a major problem in Ethiopia and elsewhere. Worku worked with Professor Pat Heslop-Harrison in the Department of Biology on the genetics and characteristics of varieties of linseed. Linseed has been grown in Ethiopia for thousands of years, especially in the highlands. It has a range of local uses and significant export potential.

Another student, Kassahun Tegegne Gesese, is working to complete a thesis with Professor Elizabeth Draper of the Department of Health Sciences on a project looking at reproductive health for women in Ethiopia.

The Leicester–Gondar PhD programme is designed to develop sustainable research at Gondar University - focused on issues of local significance - through collaborations with academics at the University of Leicester and Ethiopian academics at a range of other Ethiopian institutions. It is hoped that the project will form the basis for future research collaborations between the University of Leicester and the University of Gondar.

If you would like to know more about the PhD programme, please contact Dr Mark Goodwin (telephone 0116 252 3489 or email majg1@le.ac.uk).
The University of Gondar—established in 1954, marked its 60th Diamond Jubilee graduating over 4,137 students in the presence of senior Government officials, alumni invited guests, family of graduates and partner universities from Ethiopia and abroad.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Prime Minister Halie-Mariam Desalegn said that higher learning institutions are powerful weapons to change a country through producing capable and effective manpower. Accordingly the University of Gondar has been contributing its share in the national development drive.

University President Prof. Mengesha Admassu for his part said that since its inception the University of Gondar has been making a major progress. From limited beginnings providing just three diploma programmes, it has increased its educational provision to 61 Undergraduate and 76 Postgraduate programmes.

Leicester-Gondar Link Fundraising in Gondar’s Diamond Jubilee Year.

Some members of the Leicester-Gondar Link met in glorious summer sunshine on Sunday 6th July to take part in either a sponsored walk (7 miles) or a cycle ride (17 miles) at Rutland Water in Leicestershire.

The event which raised just over £500 towards supporting the work of the Link culminated in a celebration picnic.

You can still support the work of the link by giving to this appeal at www.virginmoneygiving.com searching for Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia—the charity which supports the work of the Leicester-Gondar Link programme.

More events are planned throughout the year—please regularly visit our website for details.
Interested in undertaking a Medical Elective in the Developing World and in particular Ethiopia?

The Leicester-Gondar Link partnership is a collaboration between University of Leicester, University Hospitals of Leicester, Leicester Partnership Trust, De Montfort University and the hospital and University in Gondar Ethiopia. It was originally set up by Prof Mike Silverman (now retired Prof of Paediatrics) and is very much based around education and providing the opportunity for local clinicians to improve things themselves rather than your standard financial based charity.

Over the years a number of students have been on electives in Gondar. Many students are pulled more to very developed areas of the world with nice beaches.

In addition to the humanitarian perspective of doing an elective in the developing world, Electives through the Leicester-Gondar Link provide a very well supported and safe environment, with a local link coordinator in situ who can provide advice and help during visits.

There are a number of mini projects that students can join during their time in Ethiopia that would be excellent for their CVs as well as having the potential for publications.

Gondar is also a beautiful part of Ethiopia 2200 metres above sea level and on the edge of the Simean Mountains which is one of 2 World heritage sites in the area.

Values of an elective in Gondar in brief:
- Broadens your outlook.
- See how medicine works in a completely different setting.
- See illnesses you have never seen before.
- See tropical illnesses that may present in this country, with travel so regular nowadays.
- Make new friends and gain a new experience.

The values for your CV:
- Shows what specialties you are interested in.
- Keep a diary while you are there and write it up afterwards, and can submit it to local BMA to present, or to local journals to print.

If you are interested in the Elective opportunities in Gondar, please in the first instance contact our Leicester-based Administrator—Nichole Bruce nb50@le.ac.uk.

You can also see our website for information and articles written by some students who have taken their electives in Gondar Hospital at http://www2.le.ac.uk/institution/gondar-information-hub/medical-electives

Fundraising Event News
Saturday 27th Sept 2014
Holbrook Hall, Holbrook Road, Knighton

The Leicester-Gondar Link Present:
JAZZ ‘N SNAKES

Bands will include:
- Peter Houtman Jazz
- The Free Rangers
- with vocals by Sue Eato

Nibbles and table snacks will be provided.

No bar at the venue - so bring your own choice of drink

Advance Tickets only £8

Tickets available from
Sue Talton 07972901906
email susantalton@hotmail.co.uk
OR
Nichole Bruce 0116 2525321 or 07578717812
email nb50@le.ac.uk
My trip to Gondar in April 2014 was my first trip to Africa and I was therefore fortunate to be travelling with both Barrie Rathbone and Rob Jay, on behalf of the Collaborative Teaching Programme (CTP). The flight schedule was changed whilst we were at Heathrow and so despite a late take off we arrived in Addis earlier than expected. This gave us a good chance to have our first (of many) Ethiopian coffee in the airport whilst we awaited our lift, which was much appreciated after a long overnight flight.

We arrived in Gondar the next morning to beautiful blue skies and warm weather. The heat was much more tolerable than I was expecting, though we all noticed the altitude as Leicester is only about 60metres above sea level compared to Gondar’s 2000 metres. We had a hectic programme of meetings to get through, all expertly coordinated by Solomon, starting in the Ghion Hotel in Addis as the week of our visit unfortunately coincided with Dr Desalew being away from Gondar as an external examiner.

Throughout the week we met with the heads of each department, the CEO and various junior doctors and members of the nursing staff. We were made very welcome by all, and everyone seemed keen to develop the CTP and use it for their own clinical area. During our visit we opened up new pages in response to this enthusiasm, and pleasingly also managed to record some podcasts and video casts of material produced by local clinicians that can all be found on the website — www.leicestergondarlink.com.

We also got to see the now almost completed diagnostic block which is a very impressive building with clinic rooms far superior to those we are used to in Leicester, with each being about three times the size of ours.

We look forward to seeing photos of the first patients in there and seeing it in action during future visits.

During our visit we thought of a number of potential future projects including dietetic support and support for the further development of the endoscopy services working towards the provision of therapeutic services.

We came away with a much greater understanding of the issues faced and ways in which we can make the website more accessible together with a heightened enthusiasm to continue long term collaborative working and we all look forward to visiting on a regular basis.

Written by: Daniel Rogers Gastroenterologist & CTP

Find out More

Further information about the Collaborative Teaching Programme please visit the website: www.leicestergondarlink.com.

You can find teaching materials and podcasts which are short and easy to use as well as find information on how to contribute material.
Ways to Support our Work

Through the Post
You can send cheques made payable to “Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE)” to the treasurer at the address below:

Nichole Bruce
Leicester-Gondar Link Administrator
and HALE Accounts Assistant
International Office
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 5321 - Email: nb50@le.ac.uk

By Credit/Debit Card
You can donate either as a one-off or regularly online with your debit or credit card through virgin money giving.

Scan this code with your smartphone to be taken directly to our Virgin Giving page.

Please specify with project you wish to support in the comments box, else your donation will go for general funds to aid project start-ups.

Note: Please send us a copy of the receipt with your name and address and registration number so we can match this to our bank records (you can complete the back page donation form to send your details); alternatively you can email nb50@le.ac.uk with all the details.

Donate by Bank Transfer
You can make a donation by standing order, or direct bank transfer. Details:

Bank: CAF Bank
Account: Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE)
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account Number: 00017188

Please send details of your donation along with your name and address and which project you would like to support so we can match this to our bank records and ensure that your donation goes to the right cause.

Current projects include:
⇒ Mental Health Fund
⇒ Kola Diba Health Centre
⇒ Nursing
⇒ Children’s Ward
⇒ Patient Safety
⇒ Equipment Maintenance Support

Where possible please complete a gift aid declaration and make your donation work harder at no cost to yourself.

Please see our website: www.le.ac.uk/gondar and go to support our work, donating and you will see a highlighted link for the donations form which includes the giftaid declaration.

Other Ways to Help
Visit our website www.le.ac.uk/gondar to see details of our forthcoming events or contact nb50@le.ac.uk to suggest a new event.

Buy one of our £1 charity wristbands— you can order these from our website— complete order form and send payment and your wristbands will be sent to you.

Register with Everyclick.com to make the power of your internet searches benefit our work. You can also download the give as you shop widget.

Thousands of retailers are waiting to give to our cause at no cost to yourself as you shop online.

Please register at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/hale to make your online shopping benefit the work of our Link programme.
Important Leicester-Gondar Link Contacts

General Contacts:
Leicester: Nichole Bruce—nb50@le.ac.uk
Gondar: Solomon Assefa—solomonazezo@gmail.com

Don’t forget to visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/gondar

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Our Link Partners

[Images of logos for University of Leicester, University Hospitals of Leicester, De Montfort University, and others]