Patient Safety Work Continues

In November 2015 we were lucky enough to get a grant to support the work we are doing around Hand Hygiene, Sharps Safety and Occupational Health and Safety.

Since then we have been gathering data and audit as our baseline and now the real work starts to improve all of these areas.

We plan to train all staff in these things and also involve the Community to improve Patient Safety. Hand Hygiene will be demonstrated to all patients and their carers with support from the Pharmacy Department to ensure we have adequate supplies of Alcohol Based Hand Rub. We also plan to celebrate the Global Hand Hygiene Day in May to put Ethiopia on the World Map.

We want to improve the way we handle sharps and ensure their safe disposal by making sure safety boxes are close to every bed.

We also want to improve everyone’s knowledge of Health & Safety whilst setting up an Occupational Health service for all staff. We plan to celebrate Health and Safety Day in April.

To make all of these things work we need YOUR help to ensure that Gondar Hospital becomes a safer place for our Patients and Staff

**Team members : -
Amsalu and Avier - Infection Preventions and Control
Yalelet and Giziew - Occupational Health Service
Addisu - Clinical Audit, Monitoring and Evaluation
Sandra Kemp - Patient Safety Lead
Lynn, Amanda, Clay and Heather returned to visit Gondar in November 2015. We all attended the mini conference which brought together visitors from Leicester and staff from different departments in Gondar University and Hospital to think about what had been achieved in the Leicester Gondar partnership and how we could move forward to strengthen the partnership in the future.

This was a good time to reflect on the mental health developments we have been privileged to see over the past 7 years. When Leicester mental health staff first visited Gondar in 2008, 2 dedicated nurses worked in the outpatients clinic and were the only specialised mental health staff in the region. Since then Gondar has initiated the BSc in mental health nursing course and the graduates form this programme are now working in many different parts of Ethiopia and some still in Gondar. MSc nurses trained in Addis have also been recruited to work in Gondar and the psychiatric department has grown substantially. The building of the psychiatry ward completed in 2014 has raised the profile of psychiatry within the hospital and many patients have now been admitted and discharged home after receiving appropriate treatment. Staff from Leicester have been involved in helping with activities on the ward and delivering some training on the management of aggression.

Clay has worked with the CBR team and their field workers to develop therapeutic interventions for children and young people with mental health problems and learning disabilities. Over the last 6 years there has been a rolling training programme with a particular focus on meeting the needs of children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders. The CBR team are now delivering a version of this training to healthcare support workers and school staff across the region.

Ethiopia now has a Mental Health Strategy. One of the aims of this strategy is to integrate mental health into primary care. When the psychiatry ward was established we all thought that the next steps would be to try to reach out into the community. If this was possible patients discharged from the ward would be able be seen for follow up nearer to their homes. People in the community would also hopefully be seen and assessed earlier in the course of their illnesses and receive appropriate help.

In 2015 Niguse and his team undertook a community survey in 6 woredas. The survey was designed to find out what health centre staff about their skills in assessing and managing mental health problems, if they would welcome training and if psychiatric medication was available. Niguse then presented the results of the survey to the woreda leaders. The woreda leaders were very receptive to mental health initiatives, as were faith leaders who came together for a workshop a few months later.

Our partnership plan for the next year is to try and secure funding to train Gondar nursing staff as trainers in MHPG so that they in turn can train health centre staff. The very beginnings of a community outreach programme using the chronic disease model has just been started by Niguse and his staff, this is an exciting development but needs to be able to be supported in a sustainable way.

Lynn, Amanda, Clay and Heather would like to thanks all the psychiatric staff and the CBR programme for their warm welcome and for a very enjoyable visit.

Written by: Heather Dipple

Find Out More

Please keep checking our website at www.le.ac.uk/gondar for updates on all of our projects. You can also discover the fun ways we are fundraising for our work and get involved.

A coffee ceremony at the Kindu Trust compound

Written by: Heather Dipple
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: gondar@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 gondar@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 gift aid declaration.

Other Ways to Help
Visit our website www.le.ac.uk/gondar to see details of our forthcoming events or contact gondar@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.
In November 2015 a mini conference was held in Gondar with the aims after nearly 20 years of partnership to:
- Review achievements: the partnership model
- Learn lessons from past projects: academic and clinical project models
- Prepare for the next phase of the partnership

The conference was chaired jointly by Heather Dipple—Chair of the Leicester-Gondar Link Executive Group in Leicester and Dr Sisay—Dean College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Gondar University.

Presentations were given by Professor Mensur and Professor Mike Silverman, who had both been involved in the partnership since the early days looking at where we were and where the partnership is now. It was felt that there had been many exciting and innovative developments in both education and health over the time which were spurned by the Link.

Two of the main opportunities of the partnership were highlighted to be—firstly, to be a model UK-African partnership and secondly, to become a lead centre for research in Ethiopia.

Presentations were also given by:
- Dr Mark Goodwin and Dr Baye Gelaw on the PhD programme and the exciting developments to support Gondar University’s own in-house PhD programme in the future.
- Lyne Wroe and Niguse explored the Mental Health support over the history of the Leicester-Gondar Link including the building of the in-patient psychiatric ward—the first outside Addis.
- Dr Barrie Rathbone and Dr Mohamed gave a presentation about the Collaborative Teaching Programme. This seeks to develop collaborations between clinicians in any area and is an open resource site, featuring podcasts and other training and support resources for anyone to use. It is very much hoped to role this out to wider areas, providing a ‘one stop shop’ for support and help.

Sandra Kemp and Dr Desalegn Zegene revisited the efforts since 2010 to improve patient safety within Gondar, firstly with the African Partnerships for Patient Safety (APPS) initiative and now more through a THET/DFID funded programme to consolidate and imbed training within the organisation, building on past training and developments.

For full details of the presentations given at the Mini Conference or any of the initiative mentioned, please contact Nichole Bruce—Gondar@le.ac.uk
Leicester—Gondar Ophthalmology Link Update

In July 2014, Dr Mulusew Asferaw was awarded a research mentorship grant of £15,000, in conjunction with Prof Clare Gilbert from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Dr Geoff Woodruff from Leicester. Clare is an internationally recognised expert in epidemiology of Blindness in Children in the developing world. Over the last 18 months, Mulusew has conducted a study of the causes of visual Impairment in Blind schools in Northern Ethiopia, has completed a retrospective review of the outcome of cataract surgery in 160 children operated in Gondar over a four year period, and has started work on a prospective audit of paediatric cataract surgery.

Mulusew has sadly now moved from Gondar to Addis Ababa. However, Dr Teshagar Wondale will take over Mulusew’s role in running the paediatric ophthalmology service in Gondar. The prospective paediatric cataract audit will continue in Gondar, while Mulusew hopes to develop the prospective study into a national and ultimately pan-African audit of paediatric cataract surgery.

In September 2015, Dr Asamere Tsegaw visited Leicester and met with Nita Odedra, Joyce Burns, Ashish Mokashi, Somnath Banerjee and others to discuss how the link could help reduce blindness from Diabetic Retinopathy in Gondar region.

In addition, Asamere and Geoff Woodruff participated in a 3 day ‘Lead Forward’ workshop in Manchester designed to develop skills in Facilitation and Leadership in Health Care Quality improvement. This was attended by 24 ophthalmologists and senior managers from eye departments all over Africa and their partner institutions form the UK. In the evenings and at the end of the course there was time for relaxation and a pilgrimage to the home of Manchester United.

Geoff will travel to Ethiopia in March to review Mulusew’s research in particular with regard to continuing and developing the prospective audit of paediatric cataract surgery, to assess Teshagar’s training needs as the new paediatric ophthalmologist in Gondar, and to run a Facilitation Leadership and Quality in Health Care Workshop with Asamere.

Most recently Dr Asamere has submitted a grant application to prevent diabetes related blindness in North West Ethiopia which has been well received by THET Africa Grants Programme. We are now seeking to recruit a middle grade UK ophthalmologist with an interest in diabetic retinopathy who would like to take a lead role in supporting this project in Gondar. The project will survey the current level of understanding of diabetic retinopathy by patients and health care staff in northern Ethiopia, develop and deliver educational material about Diabetic retinopathy in Gondar region and then measure the effects of this intervention.

Written by: Mr Geoffrey Woodruff
Ophthalmology Group
**Important Leicester-Gondar Link Contacts**

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

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Our Link Partners