Clinical Audit Training for Africa

During September this year, Gondar University Hospital’s Audit Team hosted individuals from Ndola Hospital, Zambia for Clinical Audit Training.

Clinical Audit began in Gondar Hospital following training and support given by Dr Elaine Carter of the Leicester-Gondar Link and later with the support of the Clinical Audit Support Centre run by Stephen Ashmore and Tracy Ruthven.

Ndola Hospital in Zambia is partnered with Guys & St Thomas Hospital NHS Trust and part of the WHO supported Patient Safety initiative. Berth and Mbao from Ndola Hospital, received a 5-day “Advanced Clinical Audit” training programme from Addisu Alemu and Dr Sisay Yifru at Gondar Hospital.

The feedback from the training programme was excellent and both participants developed an action plan and plan to share the skills and knowledge their have learned with their employees and colleagues in their own hospital.

This is a fantastic example of how a small intervention from the Leicester-Gondar Link programme is creating a bigger ever expanding impact across the continent. Gondar Hospital is very keen encourage more institutions across Africa to develop clinical audit as part of their push to improve patient safety.

Written by Mr Addisu Alemu
Audit Clerk—Gondar

L-R Addisu, Mbao, Berth and Dr Sisay
On March 21st I set off on my 10th visit to Gondar, Ethiopia. I went with Gerry Clarke (a computer technician) and two former pupils from Hall Orchard Primary School, Barrow upon Soar, Danielle Gudger and Lucy Elms (nee Graham). It was lovely to take to Gondar two women who I had previously taught – they clearly learnt a great deal about caring for others during their time at Hall Orchard.

With us, we took over 200kg of luggage which included fiction books, children’s clothes, adults clothes, knitted blankets, towels, stationery, test tubes for Dr Shitaye, glasses and over 240 pen friend letters!! Everyone in the Hall Orchard family has been so kind donating so many things; particular mention should be made of Colette Newberry who works at Boots Head Office and organised a collection of hundreds of reading glasses and to Barrow Town FC who donated a football kit.

It was lovely being able to visit families and charities to give out all the wonderful things that Hall Orchard friends and families had donated.

Every morning we worked at our Link School (the University of Gondar Community School) teaching English through music, stories and letter writing.

In the afternoon we mainly worked at Kindu Trust - the charity which cares for Hiwot, Hall Orchard’s sponsor child. It was lovely to see Hiwot working on the computer at the Kindu Club, eating a meal of pasta and vegetables also at Kindu Club and seeing her in the home that Hall Orchard rebuilt. Marta, the leader of Kindu in Gondar, said that Hall Orchard had given Hiwot ‘a life’ – powerful words indeed.

We joined UGCS on a school trip and visited Fasil Castle and a famous church in Gondar – special times. We were also given a special day in the Simien Mountains where we saw some amazing scenery and lots of baboons - a memorable day. I would like to thank Danielle, Lucy and Gerry who were wonderful companions and showed a real heart for the work in Gondar.

Special thanks too to Solomon Assefa who worked tirelessly to ensure our party had visas, arranged the accommodation at the lovely Kino Hotel and organised our trip to the Simien Mountains - he was such a help to us and is a valued brother and friend.

Also many thanks to Nichole Bruce who arranged our insurance and gave really important help and advice during the planning of the trip. We look forward to our trip in October and really value our support from HALE!!

Written by: David Dipple
Hall Orchard Primary School
Kolladiba Health Centre HIV Mother’s Group (HMSG) Project Crops Thrive

Kolladiba is 35 km south of Gondar. It is surrounded by Armachiho to the north, Lake Tana to the south, Zuria to the east and Delgi Woreda to the west. The Kolladiba Health Centre (HIV) Mothers’ Support Group (HMSG) is an official association, recognised by government. This group consists of women from Kolladiba town districts 1&2, Atikilet, Fenja, Jangua, Dembia and Salje Chillo kebeles (local districts) as well as neighbouring areas (Delgie and Shaura).

Approximately 1,146 women in the region become pregnant each year. Currently, HMSG has 62 (5.4%) members receiving active support. HMSG is self-funded with each member paying 2 birr monthly (about 6p). Currently, there is about 2,000 birr in the communal kitty (£62). This money is available for short term loans to members to help with the cost of transport to hospital, for example. It’s main role however, is to give health education advice for mothers, pre and post-delivery.

In order to reduce the transmission of HIV to their unborn children and breast fed babies, HIV positive mothers need to take anti-retroviral treatment (ART) meticulously. Mothers are encouraged to come to the Health Centre for delivery (about 80% of women in rural areas deliver at home). Women are supported during their pregnancy and for twelve months after delivery, attending the HMSG in Kolladiba twice a week for 18 months.

Over the past year, 38 out of 40 babies born to women in the HMSG were HIV negative at one year of age. Apart from receiving ART medication, health advice and a snack of tea and bread, there is no incentive for the mothers to attend regularly. HMSG would like to generate income in a way that would improve the health and nutritional status of the community. After long discussions with the HMSG group, I decided to approach the Worida, for land to be made available for the group to cultivate.

The Local Government office agreed to support the group in a farming project by giving them 1,000 square metres of land. They insisted that the 48 women attend a formal training session of 5-6 days, on cultivation, harvesting, selling produce and finance management. The members of the association attend the course in February 2015 and after this, the HMSG purchased all the equipment so they could start cultivating the land.

I was very pleased that on my visit at the beginning of May, I was present when maize was sown on their land, at the ideal time just before the rainy season. They are planning to have 3 crop rotations per year, the next being in September.

The local government office will inspect the land, and if they feel that they are doing a good job, they will then allocate more land.

We decided that we needed 2 project managers to help support the women, first we have Abebe who works at Kolladiba Health Centre, and is responsible for all medication for people living with HIV. He is available to help the women at any time and secondly, Ashenafi who is in charge of Community Based Rehabilitation at Gondar Hospital. He has experience of setting up small self-supporting projects, is assisting the group.

We look forward to a successful year’s farming.

Written by: Christine Iliffe
The MSc in Advanced Clinical Anaesthesia continues to go from strength to strength in Gondar. Having started with four students per year in 2010 with support from the Leicester-Gondar Link, there have been successful graduations of four students per year up to and including 2015. In 2016, 6 students will graduate from the University. It is the intention of the department that all practising anaesthetists working in Gondar in the future are MSc graduates – it is thus as important as ever to maintain the standards and relevance of the curriculum.

During the first years of the course, two tutors were recruited from abroad. As the graduating cohorts of MSc Anaesthetists are able to teach on the course, over the last year only one tutor has been recruited from abroad for each term.

The course continues to focus on those aspects of clinical practice most relevant to anaesthesia in Gondar; the use of regional anaesthesia, obstetric anaesthesia, trauma care and intraabdominal operations being the most common nature of surgery.

The operations remain challenging – here one of the MSc students is pictured in recovery with a mother and her six week old boy who has just had successful surgery for hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.

BSc student presents the cases to the department and initiates a discussion with the tutors on the more interesting clinical aspects. This allows every student to learn from all of the cases, not just those in which they are directly involved, as well as giving valuable experience in presentation skills.

The graduates of the course have had a large impact on the work of the hospital. The surgeons have all noticed and commented on their ability to manage the surgical cases. The work of the anaesthetic department has expanded to other areas of the hospital, such as the adult and paediatric intensive care units, analgesia on the labour ward and education to the interns.

As we look forward, it is likely that the course expands with the development of clinical practice and includes more detail on post-operative care, high dependency care and pre-operative assessment. Future tutors are likely to focus more on these expanding areas of clinical practice. Any anaesthetists who are potentially interested in teaching on the MSc or who wish to contribute in any way, should contact Ben Silverman or Jude Cheong-Leen (bdzsilverman@gmail.com or jp.cheongleen@gmail.com).

Written by: Iain Carroll
MSc Tutor May - July 2015
A Journey towards Centre of Excellence: The success story of the Department of Nursing

Despite its remarkable role in the establishment of the then Public Health College and Training Centre (now University of Gondar) some sixty years ago, the Department of Nursing was limited to only training diploma level nurses (2 years training) for nearly fifty years.

A new chapter began in 2004 when the nursing department launched a bachelor level nurse training programme. The development of this degree programme introduced more professional nursing care, gave diploma graduates possibility of career progression as well as providing a mechanism for the retention of nursing staff.

One of the primary concerns in Gondar was to enhance professional development for a range of health professionals, in order to improve the quality of clinical care and to avert the leakage of staff from clinical disciplines to public health, NGO’s or abroad. In 2011, supported by the School of Nursing within De Montfort University Leicester and Leicester-Gondar Link, the MSc in Clinical Nursing with specialties in paediatric, medical and surgical nursing commenced. At that time there were only five nursing tutors within the department in Gondar holding MSc qualifications. As a result the running of the programme fell entirely on the shoulders of UK tutors until the first batch of students graduated. After a period of handover, the programme is now solely run by the Department of Nursing and the number of MSc qualified tutors has increased to twenty five.

In the 2014/15 academic year (2007 E.C.), the Department of Nursing was recognised as ‘The Best Department of the Year’ from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar. It is expected that the Department is on the right track to realise its vision: to be the Centre of Excellence for nurse education, research and community service in Ethiopia by 2020.

Written by Eshetu
Head of Department of Nursing
University of Gondar
BioMedical Engineering in Gondar - an extended visit by Nick Brown.

The success of medical treatment these days is heavily dependent on the electro-medical equipment used in the clinical areas of hospitals and clinics. The University Hospital in Gondar is no exception. It has been keen to keep abreast of the times by not only building a new hospital complex within the Hospital compound, but also by planning a much-expanded Biomedical Engineering (BME) Department.

In 2010 a Senior Medical Physics Biomedical Engineer from Leicester, Alan Hollowell visited Gondar to evaluate any potential for the Link to participate in the area of medical equipment maintenance. In 2014 I was asked to take the BME work with Gondar to a further stage. As a Biomedical Engineer of long-standing, with wide-ranging experience in the field of hospital equipment management and maintenance and in teaching and training, I was able to offer a 6-month stay working in a hands-on capacity in the BME workshop in Gondar.

An initial two-week assessment period soon showed the scale of the programme envisioned by Dr Desalegn, CEO of Gondar University Hospital, and his team. The two technicians who had previously provided a basic service had been sent away for a three-year period of further technical training. A recently qualified Biomedical Engineer from Jimma University was seconded to work in the hospital workshop, but was homesick and soon departed. A limited workshop service being maintained by the chance-arrival earlier in 2014 of Mark - an American mechanical engineer and Rajath, recruited from India to be a lecturer for the proposed BME Bachelor Degree course at the Gondar University.

Our attention soon turned from assessing the manpower and level of expertise required to run the service in the future, to looking at the state of medical equipment in general. A recent inventory of medical equipment on-site had been done with the help of biomedical interns from Jimma University during their BME Bachelor Degree course. In addition to this, we looked into the level of financial and managerial support that was and which would be likely to extend to future project-related requests. Dr Desalegn, the CEO, was most supportive.

We found a wide-range of medical equipment from the technically most basic up to the most sophisticated (such as CT and MRI scanners). However, without some specialised test equipment - these days invaluable in helping to establish whether equipment is actually healthy or not -
along with adequate service documentation and the where-with-all to obtain spare parts, any maintenance work was bound to be limited. For high-end equipment requiring outside contract service engineers, intervention for anything but the most basic of equipment failures—such as that caused by rats eating cable insulation—was minimal!

We decided to tackle the overall functionality and looks of the BME Workshop by a general rearrangement, clearing out of unnecessary items that had accumulated over many years and installing new shelving which we found elsewhere in the Hospital. Dedicated computers were once more set up and a telephone installed. Teaching sessions began. Some one-hour talks were provided to clinical staff elsewhere, a large white-board was installed in the workshop and technical teach-in sessions began with Mark and Rajath. In between helping with the more basic repairs and ‘tech-talks’, time was given to dealing with repairs and sometimes looking into the commissioning of more technical equipment.

We will continue first and foremost to offer on-site technical advice and physical help in endeavouring to establish a good foundation for the vision of creating an effective Biomedical Maintenance Department in Gondar University Hospital, the result of which will go a long way to helping to provide a much-needed ‘boost’ to its currently very low ‘status’ within the clinical service. Improved awareness of the importance of an effective BME service in the eyes of the Clinicians and University Administration alike is vital for the smooth functioning of the new Hospital.

I look forward to returning to Gondar in November 2015 for another extended period to meet old colleagues and friends and to continue this work.

Support our Work

Payroll Giving
Sign up to give regularly through your employer. Contact Nichole Bruce on 0116 2525321 or email nb50@le.ac.uk for the form to complete and send to your employer. Donations given in this way automatically attract gift aid so your £2 a month donation means the charity receive £2.50 per month.

Support our Events
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—make the power of your internet searches benefit our work.

Support us whilst you shop
Register at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/hale to make your online shopping benefit the work of our Link programme at no cost to yourself.
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

Infection Prevention & Patient Safety:
Leicester: Sandra Kemp—sandrakemp@btinternet.com
Gondar: Amsalu Gessesse—amsalu24@gmail.com
Gondar: Yalelet Shiferaw—cyalalet@gmail.com

Mental Health Project:
Leicester: Heather Dipple—heatherdipple@sky.com
Leicester: Lynn Wroe—lynn.wroe@leicspart.nhs.uk
Gondar: Mr Niguise—neglideta@yahoo.com

Leicester: Heather Dipple—heatherdipple@sky.com
Leicester: Lynn Wroe—lynn.wroe@leicspart.nhs.uk
Gondar: Mr Niguise—neglideta@yahoo.com

Laboratories
Microbiology
Leicester: Steve Hardy—steve.hardy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Gondar: TBC

Histopathology
Leicester: Tony Sims—tony.sims33@googlemail.com
Gondar: Dr Bewket—zwongel@yahoo.com

Collaborative Teaching Programme
Leicester: Barrie Rathbone—barrierrathbone@me.com
Leicester: Daniel Rogers—daniel.rogers010@gmail.com

Equipment Maintenance
Leicester: Glen Bush—glen.bush@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Gondar: Dr Desalegn Tegabu—zdesalegn@gmail.com

Orthopaedics
Leicester: Laurence Wicks—wickslaurence@yahoo.co.uk
Gondar: Dr Mensur—omensur@yahoo.com

Clinical Audit
Leicester: Elaine Carter—elaine@elainecarter.net
Gondar: Addisu Alem—addissualem@yahoo.com

Anaesthetics
Leicester: Ben Silverman—bdzsilverman@gmail.com
Gondar: Dr Amare—amaretom22@gmail.com

Ophthalmology
Leicester: Joyce Burns—joyce.burns@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Gondar: Dr Asamere—asameret@yahoo.com

Kolladiba Health Centre
Leicester: Christine Iliffe—christine_iliffe@yahoo.co.uk
Gondar: Dr Shitaye Alemu—shitaye@yahoo.com

Nursing Link
Leicester: Carol Greenway—cgreenway@dmu.ac.uk
Gondar: Eshetu H/Selassie—eshet143@gmail.com

University Links
University of Leicester
Dr Mark Goodwin—majg1@le.ac.uk

De Montfort University
Carol Greenway—cgreenway@dmu.ac.uk

Gondar University
Dr Desalegne Mengesha—desmen96@yahoo.com

Our Link Partners