

Newsletter December 2019

Update on current link centres

University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia

Good progress has been made as a result of continued Urolink visits over the last few years. The team have been signed off for TURP and these are now performed on a regular basis. Paul Anderson undertook another visit ([view report](#)) and felt that the local team were competent to perform most urethroplasty operations (which include some very complex cases).

In October 2018 a Zambian trainee, [Vanessa Savopoulos](#), attended the UK ST3 bootcamp and undertook an observership placement at Leeds. Urolink supported another Zambian trainee, [George Soko](#), to attend the EUREP course September 2019.

Victor Mapulanga (head of Urology department, UTH) completed a leadership course in Sussex over 4 weeks. The focus of his course was on developing skills to set up a Boot camp for new trainees in Zambia. The Zambian Urological Society have subsequently run the 1st local bootcamp and plan to make this an annual event. Urolink is working on plans to support this prior to the next COSESCA meeting in Lusaka in December 2020.

Future developments include support with management of penile cancer and widening of training in urological procedures to some district hospital via the newly set up Zambian Urological Society.

Hawassa, Ethiopia

Local lead Dr Getch Tesfaye is now independently performing TURPs, TURBTs and ureteroscopy. Dr Aberra Gobeze has retired and Urolink would like to formally thank him for his contribution to developing urological services in Hawassa. Dr Aberra was instrumental in establishing the initial link and set up the Urology department in Hawassa. A summary of the progress so far can be seen here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/bju.14670>

The department now aims to recruit another consultant colleague and there remains potential for further collaboration, particularly with a focus on paediatric urology and urethroplasty. A [Urolink team visited in November 2018](#) and Graham Watson has undertaken several visits with ongoing TURP and PCNL training and mentorship, as well as providing much needed equipment. Hawassa medical school has excellent facilities and opportunities for further simulation training can be explored.

KCMC, Tanzania

Aasem Chaudry visited in May 2018 and ran a stone workshop with the equipment donated by Olympus which was a great success. He is working with Frank Bright (Head of Department) to send a member of the team to a high-volume stone centre to train in Endourology.

The biannual workshop in KCMC, Moshi, Tanzania ran November 25th – 29th with a focus on Uro-oncology and reconstructive surgery (Paediatric and Adult). Several Urolink members attended along with 2 UK trainees supported by grants from Urolink and BSoT. Visit reports to follow on the Urolink website.

Kisiizi, Uganda

Adam Jones and the team from Reading continue to support the training of local surgeons to perform TURP with regular visits.

COSECSA 2019

Several Urolink members were in attendance at COSECSA 2019 to help with examinations and meet colleagues working in the region. Urolink supports trainees from our link centres to present work at this conference to promote sharing of opportunities and encourage training within the region.

Future links

Malawi

Charles Mabedi is a Malawian Urologist who has spent 2 years undertaking fellowship training in Worthing. He plans to return to Malawi in January 2020 and is in the process of establishing a link between Glasgow (led by Jaimin Bhatt) and Lilongwe. More details to follow.

University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Nigeria

Urolink donated some equipment in 2013 and since then Sam Osaghae has been working regularly at UBTH developing and now leading the Urology unit. Significant progress has been made with a wide range of urological procedures. UBTH is now accredited towards training residents in urology fellowships and Sam is now workshop co-ordinator for NAUS. UBTH have asked Urolink for any members interested in helping with workshops for training in endourological, reconstructive or paediatric urology to make contact.

Equipment for resource-limited countries

Graham Watson has negotiated to supply re-usable disposables (eg TURP loops, stone baskets etc) through his charity Medi-Tech trust. For further details please contact Graham directly .

Ru MacDonagh awarded St Peter's Medal

Ru MacDonagh, previous chair of Urolink, was awarded the prestigious St Peter's medal at BAUS 2019. Ru worked in KCMC and was instrumental in promoting the 'link' model of partnering institutions for training. Ru went on to form his own charity, HIPZ (Health Improvement Project Zanzibar) and has encouraged countless urologists in both the UK and abroad to get involved with training and promoting global urological care.

Ru's talk at BAUS and the whole Urolink session is available to view on [the BAUS website](#).

Overseas Leadership Fellowship

A second course has recently finished at Western Sussex Hospitals FT. This is a 4 week course with participants from Zambia and Ethiopia this year, including 3 anaesthetists, a Paediatric Surgeon and a Urologist. The course aims to improve the leadership skills of consultants from LMIC. This includes training in leadership methods, education skills, quality improvement and support to run a project of improvement in their hospital on return.

Thank You to supporters

Once again Urolink are very grateful for the ongoing financial support of our main sponsors for the 3 link centres.

Hawaasa – BJUI

KCMC – BAUS

Zambia – TUF

Trainee involvement

We continue to get lots of interest from trainees wanting to get involved with Urolink. We will advertise opportunities to participate in trips when opportunities arise and will also try to support trainees interested in taking periods out of training to work overseas. Dominic Teichman gave an excellent and honest account of his year as an 'OOPE' (out of programme experience) at BAUS 2019, see the meeting link above.

Call for expanding scope of BAUS Urolink practice

Informal feedback from colleagues at BAUS was that Urolink should widen it's scope of activity to other parts of the world and this is in keeping with the aims to support urologists overseas. The Urolink committee would welcome requests from any urologists involved in overseas work and would be keen to discuss further the support BAUS members could offer.

Future trips:

Medi Tech Trust visits

Graham Watson, Chair of Medi Tech Trust, is planning a number of visits to Africa in 2020. Workshops under consideration include Benin, Ethiopia, Nigeria. A visit to Senegal was scheduled from 30 May – 6 June but is probably being amended to coincide with the revised dates for UroDak, which are still awaited.

Additional trainers are most welcome to participate. For more details please email MTT-Training: mtt-training@meditechtrust.org