



Christine Evans went to the Trauma in the Tropics meeting arranged by ASGBI on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2006. Christine reports that there were some good talks on orthopaedic issues, as one might have expected. The impetus seemed to be towards the training of medical officers, attendants without medical qualification ('barefoot doctors'), as the trauma could then be dealt with in the rural clinics close to the need for their expertise.

The big advantage of this paradigm is that medical officers can be trained to a competent level and have little incentive to leave their country of origin unlike trained surgeons.

Talks about gynaecological trauma had little content about vesico-vaginal fistula management revolving more around the management of the endemic problem of rape-related injuries. These are common in Africa in peace time but are particularly prevalent in those areas torn apart by war. It seemed to Christine that there was not a huge amount to do until men were educated about the significant health benefits of using condoms.

There was an excellent talk about the management of the Logistics of Catastrophe by Chris Lavy's sister, Rachel, who works for the WHO. She was actually talking about the logistic effects, and relief management, during the Pakistani earthquake.

I also went to the meeting to see Bob Lane, Past President of ASGBI and contributor to HOST <http://www.asgbi.org.uk/host/index.html> , who is coming out to Blantyre, in Malawi, in early December for a Train the Trainers course run by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh at the ASEA meeting <http://www.cosecsa.org/conferences.htm> . Jimmy James and Chris Lavy, who were both at the ASGBI meeting, will be in Blantyre as well for the COSECSA exams.