

REPORT ON UROLOGY IN UGANDA

Background

I have recently made a visit to Uganda, at the invitation of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), to assess surgical training. COSECSA is an African initiative evolving from the association of Surgeons of East Africa with which UROLINK has had close relationships. COSECSA was inaugurated in 1999 and has the approval of Ministers of Health of the Region, Medical College Deans and the Commonwealth Regional Health Secretariat which has provided office space in Arusha. The quality of surgical services and training in the region is variable and generally unsatisfactory. Access to surgical training has been restricted to University Hospitals yet there are excellent opportunities for education in many district and mission hospitals. To address the need for more locally trained surgeons COSECSA has developed a surgical curriculum and programme that can be undertaken at any designated centre, and a common examination and an internationally recognised qualification: basic surgery for a minimum 2 years leads to Membership of the College with a further 2 years specialty training for the Fellowship. COSECSA is now in the process of validating hospitals that have been proposed by national surgical associations as suitable for training. The Secretary of COSECSA, Professor Jimmy James, and an outside surgeon are undertaking the validation visits. Uganda was the first country to be visited, followed by Zambia and Zimbabwe with Christine Evans.

UROLOGY

Although the Uganda visit was primarily to look at basic surgical training I took the opportunity to find out about urology services and training.

Hospitals: 11 hospitals were visited

2 University	Mulago (Kampala), Mbarara
3 Regional Referral	Masaka, Jinja, Mbale
5 Mission	Mengo, Nsambya, Rubaga, (Kampala), Lacor (Gulu)

Urologists: Total 8

Mulago:	<i>Sam Kaggwa</i> , Stephen Watya, Kisalu, Bakame, and a Russian.
Nsambya:	<i>Rosemary Nassanga</i>
Mbarara:	<i>Prof Mutakooa</i> Bagamonda (a dynamic Ugandan recently returned from training in South Africa)

Specialist Urology is available in 3 hospitals only: Mulago, Nsambya and Mbarara

One other hospital, Lacor, an impressive and very active mission hospital, undertakes cystoscopy and has the equipment but not expertise for TUR. All other hospitals offer only basic 'general surgical' urology.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UROLINK

1. Encourage the 8 specialist urologists to:

- Meet regularly and to meet with other urologists from the Region
- Link up with urologists in COSECSA
- Form a specialty section in COSECSA (Orthopaedics have a section in the ASEA for many years)
- Develop a core and speciality urology training programme

2. Respond to requests

- From Stephen Watya (Mulago) for help with developing a local training programme
- From Martin Ogwang (Lacor) for a visit to teach endoscopic surgery
- From Lacor hospital to receive the BJUI (and other individuals)
- For dates and details of the next KCMC Eshleman/UROLINK workshop at Moshi.