



## UROLINK NEWSLETTER

### February 2017

Welcome to a busy new year for Urolink. We would like to update you on the progress of our link partnerships and plans for 2017.

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#### **Hawassa, Ethiopia** (Project sponsor BJUI)

Due to local unrest affecting the ability of patients to travel to the hospital, the TURP workshop in October was postponed. However, the first visit to assess the need for improving urethral stricture management went ahead in December; the visiting surgeons were Steve Payne, David Dickerson and Paul Anderson.

The group was impressed with the progress made at Hawassa University Referral Hospital. There are new theatres under construction, which will allow a dedicated urology theatre, a dedicated team of theatre staff and understanding of the importance of equipment maintenance. Dr Aberra, the single-handed urologist who has achieved so much, has just been joined by Dr Getaneh, who has finished his training in Addis and has joined the unit in Hawassa on a permanent basis. Together they have ambitious plans to develop urology at Hawassa and to become a training centre for the region. We are excited to help support these plans.

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#### **Lusaka, Zambia** (Project Sponsor TUF)

Following [the workshop in March last year](#), TURP is now routinely performed. The focus of the last trip in November was on theatre staff, equipment care and data collection. To this end, the recent visit led by Jon Cartledge, with trainee Nick Campaign, also included Jerry Mudohni, a senior theatre nurse in Leeds. This proved invaluable and will be incorporated in future trips.

There is a second urethroplasty trip, led by Paul Anderson, planned for the spring. Flexible cystoscopy and flow study clinics are now also up-and-running, following support from Urolink.

Trainees have also had the opportunity to perform simulated TURPs.

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#### **KCMC, Tanzania**

2017 is the biannual workshop year. The head of department, Frank Bright, has requested development of endoscopic stone surgery to be the focus. Currently all stones are still removed by open surgery. Olympus have generously agreed to donate the stone equipment needed to start the service and to train the local surgeons.

A small project team is organising an initial trip in May, with a plan to showcase endoscopic surgery at the workshop in November.

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### **College of Surgeons of East, Central and South Africa (COESCA)**

A small group attended the annual meeting in December in Mombasa. We met and have started discussions with local urologists to support development of the specialty in the region. They have an examination in urology which they would like to be the standard – six people sat the exam last year. Help is required with developing the syllabus and examining: the next examination will be in Mozambique in early December 2017.

Please let us know if you would be interested in getting involved.

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### **Global Surgery Frontier Conference 21 - 22 April 2017**

We have been asked to present at the meeting at the College of Surgeons in April. This is always an informative and inspirational meeting which we would recommend you consider attending.

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### **BAUS 2017**

The Urolink session at the BAUS meeting in June will be held between 12.30 and 13.15 hr on Wednesday 28 June 2017. Do come along to learn more about the ongoing projects and opportunities to get involved.

With kind regards

**Suzie Venn and Phil Thomas**

**Urolink Co-Chairs**

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