



Urolink Newsletter – March 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Urolink Newsletter. Over the past year, Urolink has continued to grow, with numerous visits to our link centres and expansion of the Emergency Urology Skills Bootcamp supported by BJUI.

Funding remains crucial in supporting local teams to develop services. Last year, BAUS was registered on the Just Giving platform enabling fundraising for Urolink. In April 2025, Rustam Karanjia completed the London Marathon in an impressive 3 hours 50 minutes, raising over £2,000 to support training, equipment, and patient care in resource-limited settings. Congratulations to Rustam for this outstanding achievement. In January 2026, Len Payne (Steve Payne’s Dad) celebrated his 100th birthday and organised a fundraiser for Urolink, raising over £2,400.

Summary of Urolink visits April 2025 – March 2026

Hawassa, Ethiopia - HUSCH

In **May 2025**, supported by BJUI, Paul Anderson, Shekhar Biyani, Will Finch, and Steve Payne visited Hawassa University Comprehensive Surgical Hospital in Ethiopia for a PCNL and urethroplasty workshop. Despite local healthcare challenges, the team completed six stone and six reconstructive surgeries over three days. They then attended the Urology Society of Ethiopia Annual Meeting in Addis Ababa, showcasing the successful HUSCH–Urolink partnership. The week concluded with the 2nd Emergency Urology Skills Bootcamp, training 12 residents in advanced surgical techniques, making it a busy but highly successful visit.

Kampala, Uganda – Mengo Hospital

In **November 2025**, Shekhar Biyani, Steve Payne, Sunjay Jain, Will Finch, Mary Garthwaite, and Mike Kimuli visited Mengo Hospital, Kampala, Uganda, supported by BJUI and TUF, to deliver a TURP workshop and Emergency Urology Skills Bootcamp. Seven patients underwent TURP, with local surgeon Dr Vincent Medeyi mentored in advanced techniques. The bootcamp used hands-on simulation with animal tissue to teach ureteric, bladder, renal, and scrotal emergency procedures. Pre- and post-course assessments showed significant improvements in knowledge and confidence, with delegates appreciating the practical, one-to-one training.

Lilongwe, Malawi – Kamuzu Central Hospital

In **November 2025**, a Emergency Urology Skills Course took place at Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe, Malawi, led by their unit lead Dr Charles Mabedi with UK support from Steve Payne, Shekhar Biyani, Mary Garthwaite, and Will Finch. Eleven residents received hands-on training in emergency

urology, including ureteric reconstruction, bladder repair, renal trauma, and penile fracture management. Post-course assessments showed a 33% improvement in knowledge and strong gains in confidence. The course highlighted the value of practical, simulation-based teaching and collaboration between local and international faculty.

Moshi, Tanzania - KCMC

The team were due to run a stone workshop and Emergency Urology Skills Bootcamp in **November 2025**. Unfortunately due to political unrest around the election the visit had to be cancelled. We are working with the local team and look forward to being able to reschedule a visit in 2026.

Ndola, Zambia – Ndola Teaching Hospital

Following a successful scoping visit in **September 2025** TUF fellows Mike Ng and Rustam Karanjia, along with urology consultants Nick Campain and Nish Bedi, travelled to Ndola, Zambia, for a Prostate Uroweek. The workshop focused on teaching TURP and transperineal prostate biopsy techniques, emphasising the importance of selecting appropriate patients for investigation or surgery. The training directly benefited the local population, with two patients becoming catheter-free after five and six years. The visit also provided the fellows with valuable hands-on experience in open surgery, demonstrating Urolink's bi-directional approach to learning, where both visiting and local clinicians gain practical skills and share knowledge.

Scoping visits

In **February 2026** Suzie Venn visited Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital in Tanzania. The unit has a high demand for urology care but limited resources, with most surgery still performed open due to gaps in equipment and training. The visit highlighted a committed local team with strong potential to develop services. Urolink is currently considering a plan to support the unit through training, mentorship, and improved equipment over the coming years, introducing endourology and building a more sustainable service, ultimately improving patient care and reducing the need for referrals elsewhere.

In **February 2026**, Nikita Bhatt, as part of her TUF Urolink fellowship, visited Muljibhai Patel Urological Hospital in Nadiad, India, for a scoping visit focused on female and functional urology. The centre provides high-quality, high-volume urology care with strong surgical expertise, teaching, and facilities. However, the visit highlighted a clear gap in female and functional urology services, mainly due to limited specialist training, lack of equipment, and low patient awareness. There is strong interest among local clinicians to develop this area, and the visit identified good potential for future collaboration through training, workshops, and ongoing support.

COSECSA FCS Clinical Exams

Charles Mabedi from Lilongwe, Malawi remains the chair of the examiners. In **December 2025**, Steve Payne, as the appointed COSECSA external examiner and Suzie Venn travelled to Bujumbura, in Burundi, for the COSECSA FCS clinical exams. The exam included a mix of clinical OSCE and VIVA stations, with a new online marking system, although limited internet access caused some challenges. Twelve candidates completed the assessments, with Omar Darboe (Tanzania) being awarded the gold

medal for best overall performance. The exams were well organised and reflected the high standard of urology training across East Africa.

Fellowships

For the 5th year the Urology Foundation supported four UK Urology trainees by awarding a TUF Urolink Fellowship, providing £1500 each towards the cost of travel and a period of time in a Urolink recognised centre. Following a robust selection process Nikita Bhatt, Rustam Karanjia, Lap Yan Leung and Katie Mallalieu were all awarded fellowships. Some have already joined a visit for their fellowship with others upcoming. We hope they have enjoyed the experience and will continue to participate in global health work.

In addition, BAUS launched a new Urolink Fellowship in November 2025 for senior trainees and early-career consultants from low and middle-income countries, offering the opportunity to attend the 2026 BAUS Annual Scientific Meeting and complete a UK observership. In February 2026, Musliu Tolani was announced as the first recipient, selected from over 150 applicants for his commitment to improving andrological care in Nigeria. He will visit the UK later this year and is expected to share his experience at the BAUS ASM.

BAUS Annual Scientific Meeting

At the **June 2025** BAUS Annual Scientific Meeting in Manchester, the Urolink session featured three engaging speakers. Charles Mabedi, Consultant Urological Surgeon at Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe, and Chief Examiner in Urology for COSECSA, was our invited international guest and shared insights into the examination process and its role in raising surgical standards across sub-Saharan Africa. Will Finch reflected on the benefits of working in low-resource environments mid-career, while Steve Payne (Manchester) shared personal insights from his experiences in Africa, highlighting the lasting impact of international collaboration.

Looking Ahead

This year has been another remarkable period of growth, learning, and collaboration, with local colleagues making impressive progress across the region. Thanks to the dedication of Urolink members and the generous support of our funders, we are seeing tangible improvements in urological care and patient outcomes, particularly as specialist services such as stone surgery continue to develop.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming months and are deeply grateful to all our teams for their unwavering commitment to making a real difference. Opportunities for involvement continue to expand: the TUF Urolink fellowship program for trainees remains strong, and the new BAUS Urolink fellowship for surgeons in low- and lower-middle-income countries offers additional avenues for engagement as host centres.

We are also exploring closer collaboration with other organisations working in the region to maximise benefits for our link centres and the communities they serve.

The Urolink Team