

## **Urolink. A re-energising experience for a consultant towards the end of their career.**

### **Sunjay Jain**



Over many years of working in Leeds alongside my colleague Shekhar Biyani, I became aware of UROLINK and the work it supports. At the time, although I was interested, competing professional responsibilities and family commitments meant that I never fully pursued the idea of becoming involved. When an opportunity finally arose nearly 20 years into my consultant career, I chose to take it, a decision that proved to be deeply rewarding. Through my role as a trustee of BJU International, I was able to participate in an international emergency urology bootcamp in Uganda, with UROLINK contributing to training at Mengo Hospital in Kampala.

This provided me with the chance to apply my experience in a new setting and to contribute meaningfully beyond technical surgery. I gained a renewed appreciation for the value of adaptability, preparation, and collaboration, supported by an experienced UROLINK team whose guidance ensured I felt confident, and effective, before arriving.

Working alongside the local urology team reinforced the importance of clear systems, communication, and leadership in environments with limited resources. I learned practical strategies for maintaining patient safety and efficiency that I intend to bring back into my own practice. Observing the theatre workflow highlighted how much can be achieved with minimal waste and strong teamwork; these are lessons that resonate strongly with current challenges in the NHS.

From a professional standpoint, the experience affirmed that senior clinicians have much to offer beyond operative skills. I was able to contribute through discussion, mentorship, and shared decision-making, particularly valuable in a department led by a solo consultant who does not have access to the same informal support networks common in the UK. In return, I gained perspective on how mentorship can be delivered flexibly and sustained remotely.

Personally, the experience was re-energising. Stepping outside my usual clinical environment reminded me that learning and growth continue throughout a career. It also reinforced my desire to remain engaged in meaningful clinical and educational work as I approach retirement. I returned with fresh ideas, renewed enthusiasm, and a strong hope to continue contributing in this way in the future.