

Anaesthesia and Interface.

Although Interface was originally set up to promote plastic surgery treatment and training in Uganda, it has also played a role in helping to improve anaesthetic services in Uganda.

In 2006 the Uganda Society of Anaesthesia held a very successful refresher course which was run over 2 weeks to ensure that all anaesthetic providers across the country could attend. Most of the funding for the course was provided by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) and the World Federation of Society of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), all this funding was channelled through Interface Uganda. Due to the success of the course the AAGBI committed funding for 3 years which again has come through Interface Uganda. Dr Iain Wilson acquired over 250 free copies of the Oxford Textbook in Anaesthesia to be given out to all participants and the money to cover the clearing of these books was provided by Interface Uganda.

Interface has also provided the means for funding to be raised in the UK to equip a high dependency bed on the plastic surgery ward in Mulago Hospital.

The AAGBI has been very committed to promote training of physician anaesthetists in Uganda and has dedicated funds for 2 doctors at present. Without Interface it would have been very difficult to transfer the necessary funds.

For the last 25 years Mike Dobson has run the Anaesthesia in Developing countries in Oxford and in 2007, he courageously decided to run it in Uganda. It is designed for anaesthetists interested in working in developing countries in under resourced environments. Once again Interface was the conduit for the funds. The course was a resounding success and is being run again this year (2008).

Over the past 3 ½ years many companies have been very generous with donations of equipment and when Intersurgical supplied a paediatric anaesthetic circuit for all hospitals in Uganda, Interface provided the funds to cover the clearing and trans[por]ting of the boxes to Kampala.

Finally in the last 12 months we have been running the GO Uganda project, looking at pulse oximetry usage with donated machines to 16 anaesthetic officers across the country. The machines were all donated by GE Healthcare. Part of the study was to look at the robustness of the machines in the austere environment of Uganda, as we were very impressed by the performance we have bought some for upcountry visits with Interface money and supplied 3 other hospitals in Rwanda, DRC and Uganda. The initial capital to buy the pulse oximeters has

come from Interface and Interface bought the pulse oximeters and oxygen concentrator for Kagando Hospital in Uganda, which is a busy rural hospital close to the border with DRC and run by the church of Uganda.

Interface has also organised 3 containers of donated equipment to be shipped to Uganda, in part to equip the new hospital and a large proportion of this equipment is anaesthetic.

Interface has enabled many anaesthetic related activities to take place in Uganda and anaesthesia has become an integral part of its remit.