

Report to Interface following a 6weeks elective at University of British Columbia .

First of all, I would like to say thank you for offering me this amazing opportunity to be exposed to the state of the art training and surgical practice in relation to plastic surgery. My elective was from November 17 to December 27th of 2013 at the University of British Columbia in Canada mainly at the Vancouver general hospital.

I arrived safely and was picked up by the residents and shown to my place that would serve as home for the next 6weeks. It was a house near the hospital where I would be placed for the coming days.

Vancouver General hospital is a very large hospital with over 23 operating theatres and lots of acute trauma cases like cuts and bites but also other cancers and diseases.

I was able to be part of most of these operations, observing and assisting. During this time I was exposed to a number of different cases and different ways in which the cases were managed.

Some of the cases were managed the way we were managing them in Uganda, but others were being managed as you expected, differently. E.g. patients with breast cancer would have the affected breast taken off and then a new breast reconstructed in an 8 hours operation. This usually involved using advanced techniques(microsurgery) and implants. This I had read about but I had not seen. In Vancouver General hospital it was happening every Thursday.

The children with cleft palate had a whole team of numerous specialists to deal with each aspect of their development. This situation I also found very interesting because at home only the surgeon does all that he can and the speech therapist is usually not available. So the children here had a better out come in terms of speech and esteem.

The university also offers fellowship opportunities for qualified plastic surgeons even though only a few were funded which I think presented an opportunity to further encourage advancement of plastic surgery training for people like me whom are training in east Africa in a new programme.

The setup of the teaching and the rounds was also very enlightening because depending on the specialty, the consultant attended the presentations of the residents and fellows who presented on different topics, and I was also allowed to be part of this learning experience. Which was different from my home situation where we had a semester system, here they seemed to just cover the body in units. This gave me the time to go back and revise the topics I had covered a year or so ago.

I think this opportunity has widened my view on the possibilities of plastic surgery in terms of what can be done and how it can be done. Bu it has also shown me that after the programme am undertaking there is still more that I can learn to become a more skilled and better plastic surgeon.

Thank you very much interface

Balumuka deo darius

Mmed plastic and reconstructive surgery iii