

Interface Uganda Annual Report 2015

2015 has been a busy year in the CoRSU department of plastic surgery.

January saw our first two students graduating, one of whom (Dr Tungoty) took up a post in Mbarara hospital, in Uganda, to develop a new department of plastic surgery. It will be a challenge but we are hoping to continue the links and support him in the work there. The other trainee, Darius is undertaking a fellowship in Vancouver.

In November, Interface supported Dr Tungoty from Mbarara to attend a conference in New York.

The training programme is being strengthened and 2015 saw two new students commencing - Naomi Leah Kekisa and Cornelius Masambu. Linda Josephine Katusabe commenced her training in January 2014, and is continuing her 3 years at CoRSU. Another 4 trainees have been accepted to start in January 2016.

Despite not increasing the number of plastic surgeons, procedures are on the increase and in particular more complex microsurgical procedures.

Interface Activities in Uganda:

Funding to attend a plastic surgery conference

Dr Galliwango and Dr Tungoty were fully funded to attend a flap course in New York to learn new developments in this type of reconstructive surgery. They found the course very inspiring and have written reports on their trip which you can read on our website.

Physiotherapy visit from CoRSU to Kagando Hospital

This was an assessment of the services at Kagando to find out how the link between CoRSU, Kagando and Interface could be used to strengthen the work at Kagando Hospital. Christine Tusiime (head of therapy at CoRSU) wrote an excellent and detailed report, with some good recommendations of how services can be improved to patients in a rural hospital setting. Interface hopes to action some of these recommendations in 2016. We are very grateful to Christine to her continuing commitment to patient care and supporting Interface aims.

Patient fees

Assisting poor patients remains a very important activity for Interface and enables patients to have essential reconstructive surgery that they could not otherwise afford. Interface has helped with both the transport and hospital costs for many patients this year. We help 1 – 2 patients per month with operations costs, support for their relatives and ongoing care. We spend in the range of £3,000 - £4,000 per annum on patient fees.

Equipment

Interface has continued to send equipment to CoRSU – in particular physio splints and thermoplastic material. We ask the health care workers in Uganda to let us know what they need and use most, our aim is provide equipment that will be valuable and of good quality. This is very well received and we ask for lots of photos so we can see the equipment in action. All the photos can be seen on our website.

Interface activities in the UK:

Networking with other charities in the UK

Karen Devaraj (Interface administrator) and Helen Anderson (Interface trustee) were invited to speak in March at Devon Development Education World at Lunch event, who donated to Interface at the end of their talk.

Linking up with 'Friends of Kagando' charity

Interface Uganda volunteers, Karen and Vikram Devaraj met up with some of the 'Friends of Kagando' charity at their 50th anniversary celebrations in Islington, London in June.

Website

A new website has been developed, as the previous website provider has pursued a different career.

Information Evening

Another successful information evening was held at the RD&E hospital in July, with talks from Vikram Devaraj (consultant plastic and reconstructive surgeon at RD&E), Dom Hazell (physio at RD&E), Charlotte Hazell (dietician at Torbay), who all talked about their experiences in Uganda. Also, Karen Devaraj spoke about how the charity has been helping, and future plans, and Jackie Fowler talked about fundraising events.

Annual General Meeting

The trustees held their annual general meeting in November and agreed priorities for the coming year – these include supporting the trainee surgeons with their burns training, equipment such as loupes and laptops, and visits to CoRSU from specialist surgeons to aid their teaching. Also we aim to continue supporting the physio departments both at CoRSU and Kagando hospitals, and to continue sending out equipment.

Fundraising:

Thank you to everyone who has helped to raise funds for us in 2015

Dom Hazell organised a netball tournament in February, and raised £300.

Jackie and Tim Fowler organised a 20 mile family bike ride in March, along the Exe Estuary. They raised over £1,700.

Jackie and Tim Fowler organised a weekend of walks on Dartmoor in June, and raised £1,900.

Dom Hazell organised a Dragon boat race on Exeter quay for Interface Uganda, and raised over £200.

Sue Moger organised a swim at Budleigh Salterton beach in August to raise money for Interface. Nine people took part, and they raised £122.

Milane Jackson, her children, Jack and Mirella, and all their generous friends and family raised a huge £700 for Interface from their children's birthday party.

Helen Anderson (trustee) ran the Great West Run half marathon, raising £180.

Olivia and Gemma Fowler's apple sales raised £30.20.

We have 47 members donating through 'easyfundraising' – a way to raise money when you shop online, and have raised £626.12 over the years we have been signed up to it (over £180 in the last year).