

RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2016

Award: The Belfast Fund

Applicant: Dr Iain Carroll

Project Title: *Delivery of a Developing Healthcare Systems Intensive Care Course in Gonder, Ethiopia (BASICS DHS).*

Project Description:

Gonder University Hospital is a 400 bed hospital that offers healthcare to 4 million people in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. Its services include general surgery for adults and children, gynaecology, trauma surgery and general medicine and paediatrics. Within the hospital are 3 areas in which higher level, or critical care services, are provided. In a single month period in 2015, the theatre recovery cared for 52 patients with critical care needs, the adult critical care for 23 patients and the paediatric critical care 28 patients. However, there is no specific training offered to staff in the treatments and devices used in these areas.

In recent years the standard of anaesthesia care has improved greatly. A 2 year MSc in Advanced Clinical Anaesthesia has become the norm for the anaesthetic practitioners after the 4 year BSc. Both the applicants for this grant have taught on this MSc in 2015 and are familiar with the local environment. Anaesthetists are now being allocated to clinical work in the intensive care areas, which had previously been staffed exclusively by medics.

This has highlighted a gap in care quality between the theatre and critical care areas. The anaesthetists are unfamiliar with looking after critical care patients, and the medical staff lack any training in areas of critical care such as monitoring, vasopressors and non-invasive ventilation. Furthermore the improved care in theatre has highlighted the mortality in the post-operative period where 10 patients out of 290 admissions died in recovery in a month in 2015. The anaesthetic department have been looking for training to overcome this skill gap.

The BASICS DHS course has been developed by a Hong Kong University and covers assessment of the seriously ill patients and implementation of care. It has been taught to multi-profession groups in 55 countries in the developing world. The course itself is 4 days long. In addition, there is train the trainers day where senior local staff may be taught to deliver the course in the future, thus offering local sustainability. We plan to deliver this course in Gonder to 15-20 staff who work in the critical care areas (anaesthetists, nurses and doctors will be invited) and the instructor course to 5-6 of these. While the course participants will initially be limited to those who are working in Gonder, many of these staff have been sponsored by hospitals in other regions of Ethiopia, to which they will return and the benefits of the course will impact more widely.

The funding applied for is to cover travel to Gonder and transport of the teaching materials to Gonder. We envisage this to be an initial step in the development of the critical care training in Gonder.