

## **RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2018**

**Award:** Sargant Fund

**Applicant:** Dr Sarah Helen El-Sheikha

**Project Title:** *Zambia Anaesthesia Development Project (ZADP): Senior Fellowship*

### **Project Description:**

I will be acting as the senior fellow and honorary lecturer for the Zambia Anaesthesia Development Program (ZADP). ZADP is a long-term global health initiative which has the potential to achieve real change in healthcare at a country level. Its primary aim is to develop a sustainable and scalable solution to anaesthetic education and ultimately promote safer surgical and obstetric care in a population with a high burden of surgical disease.

ZADP aims to empower local physicians with training and support to reach achievable and reproducible goals. As a senior fellow I will be expected to provide teaching and support trainees on surgical lists. My primary role will be to work in theatres, however, I will also support my colleagues in Critical care. In addition to providing practical support to trainees, I will have dedicated non-clinical sessions to lead teaching programs. An example of this a 4 day course relating to quality improvement (QI) and patient safety projects (PSP) due to run in Zambia in October 2018. I will have a unique opportunity to develop my teaching skills in a way that would not be possible within my current placements.

Within medical specialties, anaesthesia is a relatively new discipline and its evolution in the developing world has been limited due to a lack of financial resources and respect. The project aims to improve the status of anaesthetists and encourage recognition of the importance of patient safety with simple and achievable changes. The project aims to readjust current practice and improve standards of care. By making changes in one specialty, this will ultimately have a ripple effect across all disciplines.

In addition to my clinical and educational role, I will have dedicated sessions to lead QI and PSP. I will introduce the principles of safe practice from my experience in the NHS and current research. Working in partnership with Zambian clinicians, I will share my knowledge and experience to improve their understanding of the principles of QI and PSP. Ultimately this will result in better care for all patients, not just for those with an acute surgical pathology. By providing the Zambian clinicians with a framework for developing QI and PSP, we can ensure that this practice continues despite our eventual exit. As a trainee, I will have the opportunity to directly lead QI and PSP. This is something I have great interest in and can be difficult to have full exposure to before CCT in the UK.

I will gain skills in procurement, networking, project planning and implementation. All these skills will be invaluable when I return to training in the UK, making me a stronger clinician with the ability to adapt and excel in different medical environments. Furthermore; working in an environment with limited access to finances and resources will encourage me to seek innovative ways of improving standards of care. These skills will ultimately be reproducible in my NHS practice. As a Royal College approved fellowship, I aim to achieve assessments for my higher anaesthesia training.