

RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2016

Award: The Sargent Fund & The Belfast Fund

Applicant: Dr William James Packer

Project Title: *Zambia Anaesthesia Development Project: Visiting Lecturer in Anaesthesia*

Project Description:

I am ST5 Anaesthesia trainee with 8 years anaesthesia experience. I have recently accepted a 6 month unpaid visiting lecturer position which is part of the well-established Zambia Anaesthesia Development project that is also recognised by the Royal College.

The purpose of the role is to participate in the anaesthesia teaching programme in East Africa to help produce independent Zambian anaesthesia practitioners. Training Zambian anaesthetists is the ultimate goal so as to address the shortage of anaesthetic personnel in this underdeveloped country, a shortage so severe that, in some areas, only 10-15% of the surgery that should be performed can't be performed.

The ZADP is supervised by both on-site and remote UK consultant anaesthetists.

The focus will be on building health worker skills and capacity by establishing and developing sustainable systems for training and delivery of safe, quality anaesthesia.

The job itself is a mixture of classroom teaching, a supervisory role in theatres and a supervisory/senior workforce role in intensive care.

The University Teaching Hospital has limited resources despite being a tertiary referral hospital and the case mix is uniquely different from the UK with many patients presenting late. Previous participants dealt with severe symptoms such as huge thyroid goitres, airway tumours, massive ovarian cysts and big trauma. The paediatric case load included gastroschisis in neonates, VP shunts for hydrocephalus and cleft lip repairs.

The job has a number of dedicated days every week for teaching, both in the classroom and also for in-theatre teaching in a supervisory position. Previous participants lead 3 to 4 formal teaching sessions a week, ran weekly simulation teaching sessions and took part in teaching on international courses. Participants also initiated journal club and introduced monthly M+M meetings. I intend to continue and build upon these ongoing projects.

I have spent a large amount of time researching this job and obtaining feedback and advice from a number of previous participants.

I am confident that this is both a highly organised and rewarding project which I will have as much to gain from as to contribute to.