

Society for Education in Anaesthesia UK Greaves Award: Kumar Award

Applicant: Dr Jolene Moore

Project Title: Anaesthesia in Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, Western Uganda

Project Description:

Hoima is a town in the West of Uganda served by the Hoima regional referral hospital, a hospital with 246 beds and two operating theatres. The hospital is a regional referral centre serving Hoima, Kibaale, Buliisa, Kiryandongo and Masindi districts. Its catchment area is about three million people. In addition, there are a high number of immigrants and refugees from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The hospital is funded entirely by Government grants, and budgets are inadequate for the workload, especially drugs, medical supplies and diesel. Drugs and supplies ordered from the Government store in Kampala are not always sent so essential items often run out. There is no laboratory service and specimens have to be sent to Kampala, 4 hours away by road. Blood for transfusion has to be brought from Kampala. There is 1 functioning ambulance, and electricity and water supplies are erratic. There is no recovery room, no isolation ward, nor the facilities for barrier nursing.

The hospital has specialists in obstetrics, paediatrics, medicine and ophthalmology and surgery. There is no medically trained anaesthetist. Only around 45% of staff vacancies are filled and Hoima has only 1 doctor per 38,917 people, less than the national average of 1/24,725, while WHO recommends 1/800. The maternal mortality rate in Uganda is 440 per 100,000. A maternity unit with its own theatre has recently been built in Hoima, and is functioning, and there is a real desire to improve patient safety.

I plan to travel to Hoima through the Liverpool–Mulago Partnership (LMP). The LMP was founded in 2008, and has expanded to improving healthcare throughout Uganda. Its main aims are to reduce maternal and infant mortality and improve the quality of obstetric and neonatal healthcare through exchange of knowledge and training of local staff. I plan to join a volunteer obstetrician, and evaluate obstetric anaesthesia in Hoima hospital, and improve services through education of local staff in obstetric anaesthesia and critical care.

I am currently an anaesthetic ST5 trainee. During Foundation training I developed an interest in Medical Education, and completed a Postgraduate qualification in the field. More recently I have become further involve in this area by undertaking out of programme training as a Clinical Teaching Fellow. This has provided the opportunity to develop skills as a teacher in the delivery of material at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, educational organisation and management, and contribution to curriculum design. I would like to utilise and further develop my teaching skills by participation in a sustainable cause within a developing country. I believe this opportunity will provide an extremely valuable experience that will develop skills which will aid me in my future career. I hope to challenge myself and improve self-confidence and I expect to learn a great deal about service development and resource management, whilst developing leadership skills and skills in managing situations with limited resources, all of which will aid me in a future consultant post within the UK National Health Service.