

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

**Award:** Ernest Leach Fund

**Applicant:** Dr Nicola Schunke

**Project Title:** *Mercy Ships Mission, Africa Mercy, Conakry Port, Guinea, West Africa*

### **Project Description:**

In the role of **Anaesthetic assistant** on board for 2 weeks, I will work in a theatre team delivering high standard Anaesthesia on-board the ship for life changing operations for adults and children in need. There will also be the opportunity to travel to the local hospitals and provide training to anaesthetic practitioners in Africa to improve the standards of safe Anaesthesia in the communities.

### **Aims:**

- 1) delivery of Anaesthesia out of the NHS setting
  - broaden my skill set, work with new equipment and differing international anaesthetic techniques
  - opportunity to work in a (relatively!) austere setting...not familiar, new challenge, will overall prepare me for work in new hospitals/departments as an SR in the future.
  - learn how to operate in a resource limited/poor setting, hopefully will transfer over to my NHS practice and improve consciousness of resources and reduce waste.
  
- 2) Inspiration. In an NHS with global poor morale it is easy to lose sight of the immense rewards possible from our careers, in the shadows of the huge sacrifices we have made thus far through training. I hope to meet inspirational anaesthetists and healthcare workers, alongside patients, and I hope to be inspired and re-enthused for a lifelong career as an anaesthetist.
  
- 3) Culture. Experience a new culture, increase my appreciation of global affairs in development counties and ultimately give back to the developing world and people most in need.