

## **MOTEC JUNE 09 MARATHON TEAM RETURNS HOME**

Six Motec Life - UK volunteers were in Ghana for voluntary work, the third such visit this year. The trip was led by Dr Christine Amakye, Anaesthetist of Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, and Welwyn Garden City. Two clinical leads consisting of Mr Ofori-Atta, Orthopaedic Surgeon of Watford General Hospital, and Mr Michael Burke, General Surgeon and Medical Director of Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, London. Other members of the contingent included Dr Thungo Kuwani, consultant anaesthetist, Northwick Park, Mrs Felicity Adu-Mills - Palliative Care Nurse (former Community Nurse) St Luke's Hospital, London and Mr Raymond Ofori, Biomedical Scientist, Quest Diagnostics, London.

The working visit saw task teams of volunteers providing lectures and or clinical services at four main base hospitals- Akosombo, Jirapa St Joseph's, Nkawkaw Holy Family and Koforidua St Joseph's Hospital. Other hospitals that were visited by some members of the group benefited from educational programmes, professional guidance. The institutions included Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi (Trauma /Orthopaedic / Anaesthetic collaboration) and Sefwi Asafo Hospital (International Surgical Centre - a collaboration professionally guided by Motec) and Nurses Colleges in the base hospitals.

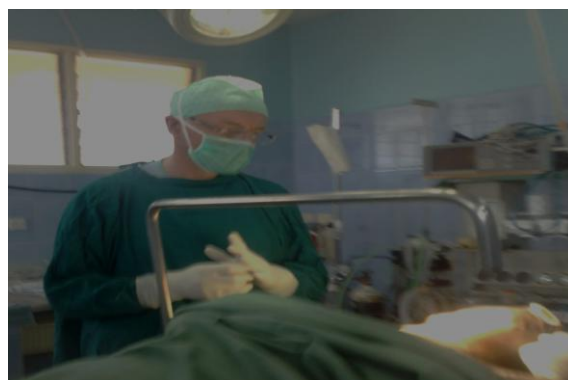


**Motec volunteers with Mrs Appoh, Principal Nurses College, Nkawkaw**

A Surgical Team was based at Nkawkaw Holy Family Hospital and was led by Mr Michael Burke, Consultant General Surgeon, supported by Dr Thungo Kuwani. Mrs Felicity Adu -Mills and Mr Raymond Ofori provided support at the induction phase. A variety of clinico-surgical services were provided including herniorrhaphy, thyroid and breast surgery assisted by the local staff. Daily lectures were given at the Nurses College which attracted attentive students and tutors and lively discussions. Up to 150 students attended each lecture. The team worked at this base hospital for about 2 weeks



**Clinics and pre-op assessments were heavy.**



**Mr Burke prepares for major surgery at Nkawkaw.**



**Dr Kuwani and resident anaesthetists – a formidable team.**

**Community Health Activity**



**Felicity on Community Education near Nkawkaw**





Lecture time at Nkawkaw Nurses College

The Akosombo team consisted of Mr P. Ofori-Atta and Dr Christine Amakye supported at some stage by the Biomedical Scientist Mr Raymond Ofori. Daily lectures – lively - were given to doctors, nurses and students which were accredited by the local Professional Colleges and Councils (e.g. Ghana Medical and Dental Council). An average attendance of the lectures was estimated at about 35. The team worked with the resident Orthopaedic Consultant and doctors, registrars and final year medical students in rotation from the teaching Hospital in Accra. Clinical conditions treated included sickle cell bone and joint disease, knee ligament injuries, degenerative joint diseases, fractures, deformity of hands, limb deformities. The team worked at Akosombo for six days including weekend.



Motec Recourse Personnel with resident doctors, final year medical students at Akosombo.



Lecture time at Akosombo. Mr Raymond Ofori on 'microbial infection'.

The second working visit saw reconstitution of teams Mr Ofori-Atta visited the Sefwi Asafo St John of God Hospital to assess the progress of work at the International Surgical Centre being developed for training and clinical services sponsored by Brothers of St John of God, Dublin. This was Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. During the visit, Mr Ofori-Atta reported satisfactory progress with the structural changes. The other team led by Dr Christine Amakye, Mr Raymond Ofori and Mrs Felicity Adu-Mills. Headed for a marathon drive to Jirapa, 7 hours from Kumasi as Mr Ofori-Atta returned from the Western Region to join Mr Burke and Dr Kuwani at Kumasi Sunday evening.



The Surgical Centre at Sefwi Asafo in the Western Region in June and before in April

The Jirapa team embarked on an intensive teaching programme at the Nurses, midwifery and community colleges. Lectures were well attended by both students and tutors. Lectures were interactive and the rooms were

fully packed with an average attendance of about 200 students. The team also exchanged ideas on clinical care which led to Motec adopting one malnourished patient. The team stayed for four nights in that hospital. The hospital and people of Jirapa were very appreciative of Motec's working visit. The volunteers found the people of Jirapa very friendly and welcoming.



Motec and Asante Kotoko hierarchy in Kumasi stand shoulder to shoulder

It was not all hard work and no play. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> evening socials included dinner for Motec volunteers in Kumasi by Asante Kotoko Football Club Executives in appreciation of Motec's contribution to the surgical care of the injured patients including footballers.

While the Jirapa team were starting Monday morning work on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Mr Ofori-Atta led a team of three (Mr Burke, Dr Kuwani) Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital to meet the authorities, discuss the request from the Hospital for assistance in developing the Orthopaedic Trauma Centre. A proposed lecture on Breast in Health and Disease sadly could not happen due to local shortfalls in planning. During the visit however, the team was taken on tour of the New Trauma Centre which is planned to host Motec Orthopaedic Trauma team in October 2009 for intensive Orthopaedic Trauma workshop and clinical work.



The Modern Trauma Centre at Kumasi Teaching Hospital, largest in sub-Saharan Africa



From left Dr Y. Karikari (Administrator), Dr a Nsiah Asari (CEO) and Dr Kumar (Orthopod)  
All of Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital during meeting with Motec's P. Ofori-Atta

Clinical work and lectures resumed at Nkawkaw and Koforidua and all teams concluded clinical work and lectures in the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.



Lecture time at Jirapa

Motec's lecture series during the visit included the following:

- Post-operative Care
- Post-operative Pain Control
- Patient Recovery
- Cervical Spine Injuries – radiography
- Microbial Infection – the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges
- Breast is Health and Disease
- The Thyroid Gland in Health and Disease
- Community Patient Care
- Post-partum Haemorrhage
- The Expert Patient
- Bacterial Vaginosis
- Tuberculosis
- Sickle Cell Bone and Joint Disease – case report on arthroplasty on SS Disease.

Overall the team achieved its objectives of working with local workforce, exchange of knowledge, transfer of skills, teaching students and providing clinical services especially specialised and basic care.



The sweet farewell where cakes, sandwiches, drinks were enjoyed by Motec volunteers and theatre staff of Nkawkaw Holy Family Hospital.

Motec Trustees wishes to thank volunteers for the marathon of sacrifices and hard work by the volunteers. Also Motec expresses her gratitude to the host hospitals who did look after the teams very well throughout. Akosombo VRA, Nkawkaw Holy Family, Sefwi Asafo, Koforidua St Joseph's Hospitals were excellent, as always. Also Asante Kotoko football club for the social evening and Komfo Anokye Hospital for organising the Trauma Centre Tour.