

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of Motec Life-UK,

As 2015 comes to an end, we realise it has been a successful and fulfilling year, and we have a lot to be thankful for. With perseverance, great strides have been made and we have accomplished more this year than we ever dreamed of. We have seen the results our work in Ghana and West Africa go from strength to strength, with improvements in staff education and standards of patient care in our target hospitals. This year, one of our doctors from Ghana in training has returned home after a year's training in orthopaedic trauma in London and we expect some new doctors to join for long term training.

Next year we (Motec) celebrate the 10th anniversary of our establishment as a charity and we will be preparing to celebrate this August milestone. Our first anniversary was observed at the British Council Hall in Accra and we are hoping to have an event in UK to focus both on celebrating and reflecting upon our difficulties. In a similar way, each of our target hospitals in Ghana will be visited to share the moment with them. Over the last decade, we have had successful training workshops and assisted in the delivery of clinical services to patients who would have otherwise been left in grave situations. We have proudly supported the training of some Ghanaian health workers in India and UK, provided teaching and examining roles with the West African College of Surgeons, established strong links with the World Orthopaedic Concern UK, the London postgraduate School of Surgery. We have had a very active international exchange programme in a decade involving over 200 individual visits from mainland UK, Holland, USA, Canada, India and Ghana. Most of these visits could not have been easily achieved without the dedication of our volunteers, support from our target hospitals and smooth visa arrangements with the Ghana High Commission, London

In UK, we have supported the exposure of junior doctors to the new experiences of orthopaedic trauma practice through educational programmes at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. Many UK trainees have been involved in our work in Africa and have found their experiences extremely valuable in a positive way. We have also participated in global surgical conferences, presented our work in various specialty conferences of the Royal College of Surgeons in breast, trauma and also publicised the plight of malnourished children at the helm of British politics at the House of Lords.

In West Africa, we have maintained our support for malnourished children in the Jirapa district of Ghana, and introduced breast care and breast education in our 'elite' target district type hospital with a strong link with the Teaching Hospital in Accra in order to deliver breast education and cancer care almost to the door of the rural community. Our teaching and examining roles for nurses, doctors and other health professionals have been extended to Nigeria, Togo, and Ivory Coast and soon in the Cameroon.

We have not confined ourselves to supporting our own specific projects but also responded to the call of governments and the WHO in international disasters. The motivation of our charity did play a part in two of our members volunteering to serve in Sierra Leone during the Ebola crisis, all having returned to base safely. All these have been possible through the

unflinching dedication to good causes by our members and the impeccable support from the British public. We are also heavily indebted to our chief patron Professor Lord David Alton and the consortium of Patrons – Mr Peter Dyson and Mrs Marian Barnor. At the background, we have enjoyed the support of Lord Paul Boateng and Lord Bernard Ribeiro. We are grateful to all of them so also others such as Mrs Marilyn Goreham, Mr and Mrs Fleming all of Hemel Hempstead, Prof Nigel Standfield of the London postgraduate School of Surgery and the Ghana High Commissioner Mr Victor Smith for his open door policy.

We have pleasantly noted the growth of interest in our health care improvement projects in Ghana. Our accredited workshops have been well patronised, with participants from all over the country both from government and the private health service providers in physiotherapy, breast care and elective orthopaedic surgery and trauma care. The Ghana Health Service has certainly given us the thumbs up.

Unfortunately, during the current year, we have lost ardent supporters like the ‘Warrior Princess’ late Zena Bullmore-OBE, and Mr Digby through illnesses. May their souls rest in perpetual and happy peace

In the New Year, we will be placing special emphasis on public health related training and support services alongside our new health worker training programmes in breast care. We will continue to promote education through workshops for our volunteers and the health workers in our target hospitals. We will work closely with the international community, local service providers, the teaching hospitals and the Ghana Ministry of Health in order to maximise the impact of our ideas and experiences for the benefit of all. We will make a case to the British government institutions to support capacity building in the health sector in Ghana and we will be hoping that the Government of Ghana will match pledges. There will be challenges, especially in the current economic climate with sponsorships, investments in human and material resources, but we are armed with the kind hearted support from all of you, the people of Ghana, the people of Great Britain and the international community.

2016 may be a transition year in which many more members will be encouraged to take on the responsibilities of running our organisation more efficiently. We will continue to encourage members with special skills and organisational experiences to take ‘ownership’ of projects and develop them safely and responsibly. In this regard, we commend the breast care team led by Mr Steven Goh, safe casting team led by Miss Beth Tite, accounting and transparency led by Mrs Muriel Raymond for their commitment and sacrifices. We commend the efforts of the local organising committee of Motec based in Hemel Hempstead and others and I hope many more will emulate.

We exhort you all to continue to make contributions into our educational programmes, raise funds for our ongoing projects, and to carry the banner for quality patient care ‘par excellence’ for the people of Ghana and our base country the United Kingdom.

We wish you a Joyful Blessed Christmas and a Happy Peaceful New Year. We look forward to your renewed commitment and generosity in the year to come.

Thank you.