



## NEW YEAR MESSAGE



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

As 2018 comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year of achievements. We have a lot to be thankful for. With perseverance, great strides have been made and we have continued to make great headway with many of our objectives. We recount a few of the things we have done together this year.

In October, we successfully delivered the third Lord Alton's course for surgeons in the developing world, the pre-op assessment programme, casting workshops with excellent feedback. We have dedicated training programmes through the Lord Alton course to encourage interventional radiology in Ghana. Our two-way training programme for doctors from West Africa is now in full flow with five doctors leaving Ghana for London hospitals from Tamale, Kumasi and Korle Bu. Two doctors have completed 2-years of UK training and are due to return to Ghana in the new year. In the new year some of the doctors from Ghana will have formal eighteen-month training in vascular surgery and nurses will also have the opportunity for observorship in vascular surgery in London.

Of note, we have seen the start of our school building complex in rural Ghana (Nankese Abisim). Progress is well underway and is earmarked for completion in the new year. It brings us much joy to see our handicapped children's education programme with Nsawam Orthopaedic Training Centre grow from strength to strength. This is admirably coupled with our free and popular surgical correction services for children with physical deformities of the limbs which is in its seventh year of service in Ghana. We welcome the additional paediatric orthopaedic team in the New Year/ We hope to maintain the momentum of these projects in the new year!

Contrary to the skewed perception of NHS draining resources in the developing world, the work of Motec volunteers continues to demonstrate what NHS employees are giving back to the developing world. Our efforts aim to further strengthen the friendly relations fostered between the UK and West Africa.

We have enjoyed support from our patrons- Professor Lord David Alton, Mr Peter Dyson, Prof Nigel Standfield and Mrs Marian Barnor. In addition, the British public and the Ghana High Commission together have provided us with advice and insight, and most crucially, a great morale boost for our hard-working volunteers. The efforts of our volunteers – in particular Professor Nigel Standfield of the London Postgraduate School of Surgery, Mr Peter Dyson of Hertfordshire, Mr Kristian Aquilina of Great Ormond Street, Dr Ashish Bhagat of Watford, Mr Adedapo of Middlesborough, Jane Jackson of Bedfordshire, the Bigham family of Hertfordshire, Mrs Marilyn Goreham and the Mayoress of the Borough of Dacorum stand out clearly as shining examples for humanity. We have also continued to enjoy the services of our honorary accountant Mrs Muriel Raymond. Their input into our key projects have been invaluable. We are heavily indebted to them and hope they continue to support Motec for years to come!

In 2019, we will continue to work closely with the international community, local service providers, the Ghana Health Service, the Ghanaian government officials, the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, the West African College of Surgeons, and our target institutions to maximise the impact of our ideas and experiences for the benefit of all. Various Companies in the UK, including DeSoutter Medical, Corin Medical and Adler Ortho UK to name but a few, have been exceptionally supportive of our work in Ghana. We are most grateful to them.

Next year, our teams will be involved in teaching and examining doctors in Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana. There will be foreseeable challenges, particularly taking into account the current economic climate with sponsorships, investments in human and material resources etc, but we are armed with the kind-hearted support from our Ghanaian public, the people of Great Britain and the international community.

We encourage members to continue to develop their projects safely and responsibly. To fulfil our commitment to improving quality patient care for the people of West Africa, we must continue to improve our educational programmes and raise funds for ongoing projects. We hope you will join us in our vision for 2019.

***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.***

The Presidency, Motec Life – UK