

Report on October 2008
Moteflife-UK Nkawkaw Trip

12 – 24 October 2008

by
Dr Kofi Amu-Darko



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Report from Nkawkaw team – October 2008

All Moteclife members on the October 2008 trip met for lunch at the home of Ms. Liz Rees on Sunday 12 October 2008. Various members had arrived in Ghana in the days prior to this meeting in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Liz Rees welcomed the members with a generous lunch, serving both Ghanaian and non-Ghanaian dishes.

Following meals some adjustments were made to the carefully planned program for some members as a result the inability of some resource persons to undertake the trip. This change in itinerary was just the beginning of a series of changes that became necessary as a result of the unforeseen circumstances, which affected the availability of resource persons. Despite these major setbacks, the flexibility of team members and the organising dexterity of the president ensured that the educational aspects of this trip were largely unaffected although the surgical component was significantly limited due to lack of personnel.

After lunch team-members sorted out their luggage onto the appropriate mini-buses that for their various destinations, namely Akosombo, Koforidua, & Nkawkaw. Some members of the Nkawkaw team were meant to continue in eventually to Pramso and Jirapa after completing their tasks at Nkawkaw.

The Nkawkaw team arrived safely at Nkawkaw during the early evening of Sunday 12 October 2008. They had a warm welcome that evening from Dr Amuzu, Medical Superintendent of the Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw and his wife. Mrs Amuzu's catering services for the team was superb throughout our stay. The Nkawkaw team, which at this time was made up of Mrs Patti Edwards, Reporting Radiographer, Raymond Ofori, biomedical scientist, Isaac Amo-Dadzie, nurse anaesthetist, Simon Debbie, Vice President and Nurse Anaesthetist, and the writer, Kofi Amu-Darko; Physician

The next day, the Nkawkaw team, was given a complete tour of the hospital facilities by the Superintendent, Dr Amuzu. This included a general tour for the whole team and departmental tours for individual members in their respective departments. Team members were also taken through the workflow of their respective departments and related activities e.g. the pathway that patients might follow from the moment they present in the hospital till when they leave.

Although staffs were always helpful this initial trip was of great benefit in the facilitation of the subsequent working of the team members.

In the course of the two weeks stay in Nkawkaw the team were joined at various points by Dr Mike Brunner, Consultant Anaesthetist, Dr Bhakti Hansoti, Catherine Dimmer, Claire Fitzpatrick, chartered Physiotherapists.

Over the following two weeks Raymond Ofori worked with the laboratory to update their techniques and quality control before he proceeded to Pramso. Simon Debbie and Isaac Amo-Dadzie worked with the theatre staff before they proceeded to Jirapa. They would write their reports with regards to these legs of their visit. Patti Edwards received and installed a donated Image Intensifier and instructed theatre and x-ray staff on its safe operation. In addition she worked with the x-ray staff in the x-ray department. Kofi Amu-Darko saw and managed referred medical cases on the wards as well as the outpatient's clinic. He also discussed strategies of chronic disease management with practitioners on the ground, particularly diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidaemia.

The usual working day for the team began at 8am and was not over till 6pm. Lunch was always provided but being able to break for them was never guaranteed due to the volume of work.

The Nkawkaw team also delivered a lecture at the Komfo Anokye Hospital (KATH), Kumasi and contributed to the Paramedic Workshop in Koforidua on 17th & 23rd October 2008 respectively.

Change of plans

Originally Kofi Amu-Darko was supposed to continue to Jirapa with Simon Debbie and Isaac Amo-Dadzie. Nkawkaw hospital had gone to great lengths to inform patients about the visiting surgical team and had prepared list for the expected surgical team. They had made public announcement in various churches and throughout the town. However, with the unforeseen circumstances making the surgical team unable to operate Kofi Amu-Darko was requested to stay behind and provide a non-surgical medical input. There was disappointment in Nkawkaw among both patients and staffs that had been waiting for the surgical team but the medical patients were understandably very pleased.

To accommodate the changed circumstances Simon Debbie and Isaac Amo-Dadzie gave their lectures early in the week so that they could then proceed to Jirapa.

Observations

The Moteclife team was very well received and made to feel very much at home. Most people in Nkawkaw were keen to learn. However despite this medical and nursing staff often could not attend the lectures at the Nurses Training College because of work commitments.

Thanks to the new Ghana Health Insurance Scheme (GHIS), patients were presenting early in the course of most illnesses and also primary prevention of various conditions was possible because healthcare was now easily more assessable.

The biochemistry lab was not running thyroid function tests and lipid screens when this was readily available in private laboratories in town.

Possible ways around difficulties

One primary aim of Moteclife is to disseminate patient care knowledge and expertise. This would be enhanced and made easier if at least some staff members (doctors, nurses and other staff) depending on their field and the lecture or demonstration topic could have protected time to attend these 1-hour lectures. Presenters often left copies of their presentation on the Library computers of the Nurses' Training College so staff members who attend these presentations can in turn cascade the knowledge down to their colleagues on the work floor. I noted that the Ghana Medical & Dental Council requires evidence of CME for annual registration renewal. Maybe Moteclife, the hospital authority and other stakeholders can investigate how to get these talks accredited especially for personnel in isolated areas like Nkawkaw.

Moteclife need to assess the reasons for the unavailability of basic tests like thyroid function tests and serum lipids assays and see in what manner it could be of help.

Formal Lectures at Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw, Ghana 14 – 24 Oct. 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Main Audience</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Feedback forms received</u>	<u>Comments</u>
13 Oct. 2008	Trauma in perspective	Simon Debbie	Student Nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	15	
14 Oct. 2008	C-Arm and image interpretation	Patti Edwards	Staff of X-ray dept	X ray department	None given out	The Image intensifiers arrived the next day. So this presentation was from Mrs Edwards' laptop computer
14 Oct. 2008	Tracheotomy	Isaac Amo-Dadzie	Student Nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	15	
15 Oct. 2008	Diabetes Mellitus	Kofi Amu-Darko	Student Nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	8	
16 th Oct. 2008	1. Demonstration of Image intensifier 2. Instruction on the safe use of the Image intensifier	Patti Edwards	Theatre staff & Staff of X ray department	Theatre	0	
16 Oct. 2008	Sexually Transmitted diseases	Raymond Ofori	Student Nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	6	

17 Oct 2008	ATLS	Mike Brunner	Doctors, Medical Students, Nurses, Student Nurses	Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi		
17 Oct. 2008	Professional development	Simon Debbie	Midwifery Students	Jirapa	9*	These 2 lectures were giving at the same sitting and as a result the feedback was joint
17 Oct. 2008	Tracheotomy	Isaac Amo-Dadzie	Midwifery Students	Jirapa	9*	These 2 lectures were giving at the same sitting and as a result the feedback was joint
18						Weekend
19						
20 Oct. 2008	Trauma radiology	Patti Edwards	Student nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	10	
22 Oct. 2008	Stroke	Kofi Amu-Darko	Student nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	13	
21 Oct. 2008	Care of the Critically Ill Patient	Dr. Mike Brunner	Student nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	3*	Mike had to rush off immediately after the lecture due to a change of circumstances so the feedback forms were collected 2 days later

23 Oct 2008	Paramedic workshop	Presenters Christopher Hurt Mike Bruner Patti Edwards Bhakti Hansoti Workshop demonstrators and coordinators were other members of Moteclife	Emergency Medical technicians, doctors, nurses, police and prison officers	Koforidua	39	
24 Oct 2008	Introduction to ECGs	Kofi Amu-Darko	Student nurses	Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw	0	

Acknowledgements

I would like to take the opportunity to put on record our gratitude to everyone who made our trip go smoothly. Needing special mention are Dr Amuzu and his wife, Principal of Nkawkaw Nursing training College, Liz Rees, Staff of Lister Hospital in Accra, Staff of Nkawkaw hospital.

Compiled by
Dr Kofi Amu-Darko
On behalf of
October 2008 Nkawkaw Team
28th December 2008

