Mr Simon Derbie takes time off!
New Vice-President (Agt) Dr Christine Amakye Rolls - in.

by P. Ofori-Atta, President. Motec Life -UK

Motec Life - UK is going through a smooth transition in many respects. The balance between clinical work and educational campaign is shifting towards more of education and practical support with increasing effort to respond to requests from the University Teaching Hospitals in Ghana. By coincidence, the Vice President Mr Simon Derbie who has increasingly been under pressure of time in view of heavy commitments with his regular hospital based commitments with his employer plus other social responsibilities has requested to scale down his responsibilities while staying as a member of Motec. The move has been understood by members who know the challenges of charity work in the circumstances that we find ourselves with virtually no professional leave being granted for most health workers within the National Health Service in England. Mr Derbie has endured this situation for about three years on the trot having paid three working visits to Ghana with Motec and a few other non-sponsored errands over the years.

 Mr Derbie has been one of the pioneers of Motec Life - UK and has helped our organization grow from strength to strength. He masterminded the establishment of a strong Motec base at Northwick Park Hospital and was the leader of the delegation that led Motec's expansion of humanitarian mission north of the Black Volta in Ghana. Mr Derbie with whom I share similar principles has been inspirational in the creation of opportunities that have led to the recognition of Motec in Ghana, Europe and beyond through direct appeals and contacts that have yielded positive results.

In his reassuring message, Mr Derbie accepted the position of non-executive Trustee as per Motec constitution and pledged to continue to provide support for our course. Motec hierarchy in turn has agreed with difficulty his humble approach and has pledged to re-invite him for other responsibilities in future whenever possible. Three cheers for a nobleman! Messages of gratitude have been 'pouring in' from Trustees for Simon's work.

In the meantime, Trustee consultations have been concluded and Dr Christine Amakye, a veteran charity worker and an active Non - Executive Trustee of Motec has been appointed Acting Vice-President of Motec (effective date 8th of December 2009 for one year, till general elections in December 2010 – legible for elections thereafter). Dr Amakye who works at QE2 Hospital Welwyn Garden City has already been instrumental in Motec's educational drive in patient recovery, safe delivery of anaesthesia and played a key role in Motec's Nutrition Working for Life Project (NUWLIFE) in Jirapa. She has been credited for the successful organization of Motec's Fund Raising Dinner Dances and has personally taken a high moral ground to save patients who had otherwise given up hope. 'Christine has been a part of my Presidency' ever since she joined Motec about two years ago. I have taken some lessons from her 'on our code of conduct' and information on the Patron Saint of Volunteers, which she has at her fingertips - St Vincent de Paul of France. She is a lady with incredible talent and her devotion to duty unparalleled and she is a true Christian in every sense. With Christine, we have additional weaponry to go out and serve the people in need in sub-Saharan Africa. On behalf of the Trustees and on my own behalf, we welcome Dr Amakye to the canopy of Motec. The challenges are daunting but the rewards in our hearts are everlasting. We wish her a happy vice-Presidency and hope her one year period in office will open other avenues for us all. 'You have been doing it and you will do it even better.

I am completely overwhelmed by the co-operation of Trustees in this 'index' of changes to come. Words from all angles of Motec express support for your tenure of office. God Bless!'

Dr Christine Amakye – Acting Vice-President of Motec Life – UK.
'I understand people's passionate feeling for Motec. I will endeavour to do my best.'