

WOC-UK in the 21st Century



WOC-UK in Ghana and West Africa

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AT THE AGM OF WORLD ORTHOPAEDIC CONCERN UK

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, ENGLAND

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Primary Goals in Ghana and West Africa

In line with objectives of WOC-UK

- **to provide orthopaedic education in Ghana and West Africa**
- **to give help and advice to those setting up orthopaedic training and service programmes**
- **to offer practical help and support to those practicing and training in trauma and orthopaedics in developing nations working closely with the West African College Surgeons**

Delivering training in orthopaedic trauma in Ghana

- WOC-UK work in Ghana has centred in Accra at the Military Hospital and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospitals.
- Direct support of WOC-UK in the training programmes in Ghana started about 3 years ago.
- Other satellite teaching centres in orthopaedic trauma include a regional orthopaedic hospital (mission hospital) at Koforidua and a district government hospital at Akosombo all in the Eastern Region of Ghana.
- Two working visits per year February or April and October. These training and fellowship examinations visits involve WOC-UK Consultant orthopaedic surgeons, registrars, middle grades.

Trauma Workshops

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- This is usually a minimum of two full days.
- The Medical and Surgical Skills Institute (MSSI) in Accra has hosted one of the National trauma workshops.
- Bi-annual national trauma workshop for orthopaedic residents, district general surgeons, physiotherapists at Koforidua in Ghana.

Resident training programmes at Koforidua and Akosombo, Ghana



Collaboration with the West African College of Surgeons

- The work in Ghana has been at the centre of the WOC-UK- West African College of Surgeons (WACS) collaboration

This involves the following-

- Delivering trauma instructional courses at the annual scientific meeting of WACS each year at different venues-
Accra and Kumasi in Ghana, Lome in Togo.
In February 2015- Abidjan, Ivory Coast will be the venue.
- Provision of external examiners in the WACS Final Orthopaedic Fellowship exams in Ghana and Nigeria. In April 2014- Ibadan and Accra ; October's plans-24th-25th Ibadan, Accra 28th to 30th,
- Opening of avenues for short term training and attendance of courses for Fellows of WACS in UK /exchange programme for UK and West African Orthopaedic residents.

WOC-UK in Accra- Medical and Surgical Skills Institute MSSI-trauma instructional course



As part of the Faculty of Examiners exit exam. WACS orthopaedic Fellowship in Ghana and Nigeria



WOC-UK Trauma Instructional course for WACS in Kumasi, Ghana and Lome, Togo



Collaboration

What is in it for WOC-UK

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- Some learning experience in sub-Saharan clinical conditions which afflict the minority population in UK.
- Networking in education.
- Contribution to improvements in health care delivery in West Africa through education and capacity building.
- Strengthening of bonds between West Africa and UK.
- *Prestige.*

Pathologies- cold and acute.

Giant cell tumour of the distal femur



Congenital multiple constricting bands of the lower limb



What is in for W.A.C.S

- Improvements in the standard of examinations towards a uniformed international recognition of WACS qualifications.
- Training opportunities for trainees and senior members of WACS.
- Opportunity for further links with other sub-specialties in UK.

WACS - benefits

- Participation in BOA-EFORT conference.
- Link with London Postgraduate School of Surgery through WOC-UK.
- Some deprived regions and districts in West Africa receiving support from WOC-UK e.g. Bawku hospital in Upper East Ghana lined up for support which will also benefit children in neighbouring country Burkina Fasso.

The wish list of WACS

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- Observatory rotations for WACS trainees.
- WOC-UK participation in WACS fellowship revision courses in Ghana and Nigeria.
- Delivery of surgical skills courses.

Difficulties

- Unknown terrains in West Africa 'inhibiting' WOC-UK volunteers to travel out
- Memorandum of understanding between WOC-UK and WACS yet to be formalised.
- Shortage of 'indigenous' orthopaedic surgeons in UK to support programmes in W / Africa.
- Inadequate funding from WOC-UK for the programmes (approximately less than 40% provided by WOC-UK, rest of costs by WOC-UK volunteers).

Recommendations

- Encouragement of West African WOC-UK members to help lead visiting teams especially to Francophone West Africa.
- UK volunteer surgeons to continue to deliver orthopaedic trauma instructional courses, serve on the WACS examinations faculty as external examiners.
- Step up of efforts to improve funding of WOC-UK/WACS collaboration through special fund raising activities.
- Definition of boundaries of the WOC-UK/WACS collaboration.
- Provide material support including external fixators to trauma centres of WACS member states.

Social evening in Ghana with the King of Koforidua to welcome you to Ghana



Thank You

