

NEW WEEKEND CRUSADING GUIDE

**Ghanaian
Doctors For
Specialist
Training**
...In London

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GHANAIAN DOCTORS FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING

By Philip-justice Forson

A British medical charity, Motec Life-UK, has secured an agreement with the London Postgraduate School of Surgery to offer specialist training to Ghanaian doctors in a programme expected to address some surgical specialty needs of the country.

Beneficiary trainees for the programme will do a maximum of two years in nine specialties and subspecialties, including Vascular Surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedic and Sub-specialization – upper limb, spinal and pelvic, Ear, Nose and Throat, Facio-maxillary, as well as Laparoscopic/abdominal Surgery.

The Ghana Education Trust (GET) is supporting the programme. The Ministry of Health and other sponsorship sources within Ghana and abroad will be harnessed to implement a successful, organisational structure for the training.

A stakeholders' meeting attended by representatives of all the teaching hospitals in the country,

officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Services, as well as some prospective trainees for the first batch of the programme was held at the 37 Military Hospital in Accra Wednesday to discuss and adopt the various proposals under the programme.

Among some of the highlights of the training programme are that the trainees would be encouraged to attend courses and professional conferences to broaden their scope of learning, and other benefits from learning tools and books, equipment and living allowances.

In addition, the trainees will maintain their salaries with the Ghana Health Service during the period of training, while they will also earn a maximum of about 70 percent of the standard UK salary of an employee of the same grade.

Later in an interview with *The New Crusading GUIDE*, the president of the medical charity

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group – Motec Life –UK, Mr. Paul Ofori-Atta, who is also an Orthopaedic Surgeon, said the agreement with the London School of Postgraduate Surgery to offer specialist training to Ghanaian surgeons is an extended programme, depending on the needs and request from the Ghanaian health institutions.

He said the first batch of the trainees was expected to be enrolled soon after all preparations to secure the UK International English Language Testing System (IELT) Examination Certificate, the UK Medical Council Registration through the Royal College of Edinburgh, Visa and travel cost.

He added that new teaching hospitals in the country will be encouraged to participate in the programme to train specialist surgeons.

Professor Nigel Standfield, Head of the London Postgraduate School of Surgery, and also Professor

of Vascular Surgery and Surgical Education, was impressed about the commitment by the Ghanaian stakeholders toward the programme to ensure its smooth take-off.

He urged for an administrative system in the health service to encourage the trainees to return home after the completion of their training, adding that the UK government would not issue work permit to the trainees as an indication for the sponsoring country to benefit from the expertise of the trainees.

The London School of Surgery is the largest single training organisation for surgery in the world. Responsible for managing more than 900 trainees, the school offers programmes at prestigious teaching centres across London.

He is committed to education and training, particularly of postgraduates, as well as translational research, and has published extensively and presented at national and international meetings. Nigel is the

MSc surgical science director at Imperial College, an intercollegiate examiner for the FRCS in general surgery, and has been medical advisor to the British Council and the National Advisory centre for postgraduate medical education.



Professor Nigel Standfield, seated 2-L, and Mr. Paul Ofori-Atta seated 2-R in a group photograph with participants at the stakeholders' meeting