

Building bridges across the radiography globe

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and the SoR in Kenya (SoRK) hold a one day seminar in Nairobi. Brigitte Kaviani and Mark Sherratt report.

Following 18 hours of travelling and one lost suitcase, a team of staff from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The purpose of their three-day visit was to promote to a developing country the high quality imaging service that we in the UK take for granted, and to share our experiences with our colleagues, diagnostic and therapy radiographers.

The trip coincided with the 7th Sheffield Radiological two-day conference in Nairobi, organised by Dr Sameh Morcos, Consultant Radiologist at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Both radiographers and radiologists were able to meet and discuss working in partnership.

Members of the group were: Brigitte Kaviani, Training Manager, Medical Imaging and Medical Physics; Mark Sherratt, Site Lead Superintendent Radiographer, RHH; Mark Buckley, Site Lead Superintendent Radiographer, NGH; Julia Belton, Trauma and Orthopaedic Superintendent Radiographer, NGH; Sue Nutton, Clinical Governance and Risk Lead, Medical Imaging and Medical Physics; Sarah Rigg, Ultrasound Manager, STH;



The stunning Chania Falls, 3km from Thika Town.

Graham Hague, Ultrasound Site Manager; Jessop Wing, STH; and Andrew Wood, Matron, Medical Imaging and Medical Physics.

Day 1: 14 January

The UK team split into two groups so that we could visit

both types of healthcare services available to the Kenyan people – government-run state hospitals and private hospitals. One group visited Thika Hospital, a state hospital 25 miles from Nairobi. The hospital is classified at the level of a sub-district hospital, but

operating at the capacity of a provincial hospital. The second group visited Mater Hospital, which is privately run in Nairobi.

■ Thika Hospital

We were taken by Longino Mucheusi, SoR Kenya (SoRK)



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Chairman, to meet Joseph Mathai, Chief Radiographer, and his staff. Joseph explained that the whole hospital was staffed by 35 doctors and 130 nurses and provided a wide range of services, including A&E, maternity, orthopedics, medical and surgical. His x-ray department consisted of three rooms, one general bucky room with an OPT, one screening with a dental set and one ultrasound room. He had eight radiographers covering a 24 hour service, but at the present time there was no radiologist.

The workload was in the region of 80 patients a day. This was primarily general and ultrasound cases. Due to the fact that even in the state run hospitals, patients are expected to subsidise the cost of their examinations, (£1 for a CXR, £3 for an US scan) the incident of positive pathology per examination is very high.

Following lunch, Longino had organised a three hour presentation and discussion session with a number of radiographers from the surrounding areas (one radiographer had travelled 40 miles to meet us). Topics included radiation protection, the development of CPD in Kenya, the correct film series to undertake for the acute abdomen and the state of the radiographic service in Kenya.

The session ended with the presentation of radiographic text books from our group to the Thika radiographers.

■ Mater Hospital

We were taken by Caesar Barare (SoRK secretary) to Mater Hospital x-ray department. This x-ray department consisted of an ultrasound room, one general

room, one CT scanner, a cardiac catheter laboratory and a mobile unit. It was staffed by one radiologist and five radiographers covering a 24 hour service. The workload was in the region of 150 patients a day.

Following lunch, Caesar had organised a three hour presentation and discussion session. Topics included policies protocols and procedures within the Mater radiology department, evolution of the healthcare provision in Sheffield and UK radiographer role briefing.

The session ended with the presentation of radiographic text books to the Mater radiographers.

Day 2: 15 January

On the second day delegates attended a one day seminar entitled 'Building bridges across the radiographic globe', and this was the main purpose of the visit.

All eight UK staff and five Kenyan staff presented a total of 16 lectures including, ultrasound technique and physics, infection control, modernisation and role extension of the plain film and barium services, advanced life support and trauma imaging, spiral CT technology and technique, risk management and finally sessions on CPD and portfolio building.

The event was held at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi and was attended by 80 delegates (13% of the total 610 radiographers in Kenya). They had travelled to the event from across the country and quite a number had undertaken more than 1000 mile round trips from Eldoret, Lodwar and Mombasa.

Day 3: 16 January

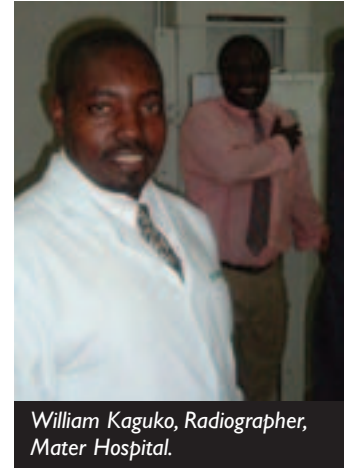
Leading members of the SoRK met with the team from Sheffield



Group photo at the end of special sessions at Thika Hospital Lecture Theatre.



Francis Tuitoek, Radiographer, Mater Hospital.



William Kaguko, Radiographer, Mater Hospital.

to discuss the way forward and to put in place mechanisms that would continue the process of development.

Under the leadership of Longino Muehisi, SoRK Chairman and Caesar Barare, Hon Secretary, the Society in Kenya is extremely well organised. The new leadership have awakened radiographers in the last 18 months. There is a newsletter with regular meetings and study days and a website, www.radiography.or.ke.

However, there is still a lot to

do as the entire council is in full time employment, which means that SoR duties are carried out in their own time.

How can you help?

Radiography departments or medical companies can help by donating old textbooks or participating in education programmes run by the Society. Cash donations are also needed to support the logistics and organisation of such efforts.

Please contact Brigitte Kaviani, Training Manager on Brigitte.Kaviani@sth.nhs.uk or send directly to Longino Muehisi, PO Box 30401, code 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya. Email, muehusil@yahoo.com or fax: 254 20 2718463.

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The lecturers and delegates at the seminar.