

# Cambridge Global Health Partnerships 2023 End of Year Retrospective

### Thank you for your generous support of our work.

We're delighted to share this round up of the year which gives you a snapshot of the difference your contributions have made. We hope you enjoy reading about the partnership activities and look forward to your continuing support next year.



Bo Stroke Partnership nurses in Sierra Leone



Critical care nurses complete training in Uganda



Filming training videos in Malawi

## A year in numbers

Some of the many achievements in 2023:



**15** health partnerships in **8** countries covering **10** clinical areas



**1** CGHP Annual Event and the presentation of **4** inaugural awards



**10** new East of England Global Health Fellows for 2024; **26** in total to date



**125** critical care nurses with increased knowledge and skills in Kampala



**50** Ugandan healthcare staff trained in BASIC, the first BASIC course delivered in Uganda



**1** Policy for Anti-microbial Stewardship published for Kakamega County



Nearly **150,000** consultations delivered through Myanmar telehealth programme



**1** Global Health Fellowship pre-deployment workshop delivered in Cambridge



**3** new members of staff joined the CGHP team

### Highlights

While our hybrid delivery model remains key, this year we've facilitated highly productive partnership visits to collaborate on the publication of guidelines and policies; deliver bedside teaching and simulation training, and get new partnerships off the ground. This year has also seen the return of longer-term placements, with Addenbrooke's Hospital critical care nurse Gayle Brunskill spending four weeks embedding critical care training with Ugandan healthcare workers in Kampala.

We've welcomed many individuals from our overseas partners to Cambridge, including:

- Sr Martha Alupo from Mulago National Referral Hospital who was able to share her expansive trauma knowledge.
- Chief pharmacist, Lindsay Olima, and head microbiology scientist, Rose Malaba, from Kakamega County Teaching and Referral Hospital, who observed and shared ideas with clinical and laboratory colleagues at East of England hospitals.
- A delegation from Makerere University including Kampala Cambridge Maternal and Neonatal partnership co-lead Musa Sekikubo, and Kawempe National Referral Hospital executive director Emmanuel Byaruhanga.
- Makerere University medical students Stella Nakaye and Yvonne Nakibirango, who spent six weeks on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus undertaking their electives.

The publication of the Experts in our Midst report by THET has further clarified the vital role that diaspora staff play and highlights the importance of recognising the unique expertise and experience these staff bring to the NHS and to health partnerships. 2023 has also been a chance to reflect on and celebrate the positive impact of health partnerships for individuals, partners and patients. At CGHP's Annual Event and Awards in October, five of our members took to the stage to talk about their passion and motivation for participating in partnerships, ranging from the delivery of telehealth in Myanmar to improving outcomes for children with cancer in Uganda and the UK.

## Health partnerships

The health partnerships we support continue to address some of the biggest health challenges of our time and involve healthcare staff from a wide range of backgrounds and specialities. Alongside health partnership activity, we continue to deliver advice and support services and a grant scheme to Cambridgeshire-based NHS staff, students and academics.

## Cancer and palliative care

Three CUH oncology doctors visited the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) in Kampala in February to review the progress being made. UCI serves patients, including children with cancer, from across Uganda and surrounding East African countries. As well as visits, regular online meetings between the partners are continuing to provide a forum for clinical discussion, case reporting and education. An emergency protocol standard operating procedure has also been finalised, and two Cambridge University medical elective students worked with the UCI team to produce information leaflets for parents and carers explaining the treatment process to help reduce treatment abandonment.



Meanwhile the RAMA Foundation, with a team of CUH Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), continues to support the delivery of palliative care to disadvantaged communities in northern India. This year a team of CUH dietitians, a physiotherapist and CUH's Director of Allied Health Professionals visited project partners in India to support local clinicians with home visits for palliative patients, help build local clinical capacity to provide AHP education to clinical staff, and plan how to continue remote teaching and support from the UK. ***"I have gained confidence in my role as a dietitian and I have further developed my skills including teamwork, communication and public speaking."*** Rachael Mullan, CUH Specialist Oncology Dietitian

## Stroke

A visit to Sierra Leone in January was an opportunity better understand pathways from onset of stroke in the community, develop working relationships with key partners, and catch up with five registered nurses at Bo Hospital (where one of the country's first stroke units is based) who recently completed leadership training with support through the partnership. Partnership activity continues remotely to support work towards increasing community awareness of stroke and the risk factors, as well as elevating the role nurses can play and exploring the possibility of training advanced nurse practitioners with assessment, diagnostic and prescribing skills.



## Telehealth

The Myanmar telehealth programme started in June 2021 as a pilot to provide alternative healthcare solutions to crisis-affected people in Myanmar. It provides safe and user friendly online medical services to those who would otherwise struggle to access medical advice and care due to conflict in the country. To date it has delivered nearly 150,000 tele-consultations to around 60,300 registered patients thanks to 277 providers who are experienced volunteer doctors and clinical staff. The programme runs in collaboration with ethnic health organisations who are also piloting telemedicine services. CGHP plays a key role in project coordination and management, networking with other international agencies, and providing technical and financial assistance. With financial support from two donor agencies, in 2024 the programme will expand to offer more mental health services.



## Antimicrobial stewardship



The Kakamega Cambridge AMS partnership is making strides towards establishing Kakamega County Teaching and Referral Hospital (KCTRH) as a centre of excellence for antimicrobial stewardship in western Kenya. Bi-directional learning is a vital component of all CGHP supported partnerships, and in October KCTRH's head microbiology scientist and chief pharmacist visited East of England hospitals to observe pharmacy and laboratory processes and share clinical experience. A UK multi-disciplinary team of two pharmacists, two behavioural scientists and a clinical microbiologist then headed to Kenya to work alongside local partnership leads observing AMS practices that are working well, as well as learning about some of the barriers.

Meanwhile, East of England Global Health Fellows Suny Coscione and Millie Benjamin spent time at Kawempe General Hospital in Kampala, working alongside local staff to plan and then carry out a Global Point Prevalence Study - a standardised method for assessing hospital antimicrobial prescribing and a vital step in improving antimicrobial stewardship practices.

## Maternal and neonatal health

Ongoing collaboration in the Kampala Cambridge Maternal and Neonatal partnership saw UK members join the team in Kampala early this year to meet the authors and co-edit a new obstetrics textbook, 'Principles of Obstetrics in Africa'. Due to be published by Cambridge University Press next year, it's the first region specific textbook of its kind - written for and by practitioners who work in Africa. In July a delegation from Makerere University and Kawempe National Referral Hospital visited Cambridge for a pre-launch event for the book and to meet with UK counterparts to discuss future plans.



The partnership is also working closely with Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital and Kawempe National Referral Hospital to develop and implement national guidelines for maternal care. UK lead Dr Charlotte Patient along with consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Jane MacDougall visited Kampala in November to support the set up of a stronger governance structure within the hospitals to update, implement and audit the use of the guidelines. Alongside their Ugandan counterparts they reviewed the current situation with the guidelines committees, helped to draw up Terms of Reference to be ratified by the hospital, and recruited three fellows to work across both hospitals to monitor and evaluate the use and impact of guidelines to improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

## Critical care

The SCALE Critical Care programme continues to enhance skills and knowledge of Ugandan and UK critical care health providers, with lots of progress made during a week long visit to Mulago National Referral Hospital to co-train with Ugandan faculty over 100 ICU staff from across Kampala. Bedside teaching, simulation learning, and ongoing remote support were all employed to increase ICU staff confidence and skill, while the partnership co-leads on the doctors' side delivered Uganda's first Basic Assessment and Support in Intensive Care (BASIC) course for 50 healthcare staff. CUH critical care nurse Gayle Brunskill stayed on for a longer-term placement to embed knowledge in key areas such as filtration, while Ugandan lead ICU nurse Sr Martha Alupo came to Cambridge to share and develop her knowledge.



## Hearing

Demand is increasing for the innovative bone conducting headsets introduced to deaf children in Malawi earlier this year as part of a new project to improve access to education by tackling hearing loss. Working with an audiologist at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, and teachers at schools for the deaf, the partnership team are trying to find sustainable, affordable and practical solutions to enable more children to continue learning in spite of their hearing issues. A follow-up visit in October found that the headset pilot at the Hospital's audiology unit improved hearing and was accepted by 90% of participants. The team spent a week developing training materials in Chichewa (the local language) to enable patients to use the headsets with less clinical input, as well as considering how to grow and resource the programme to meet the demand.



In partnership with NHS England East of England, the East of England Global Health Fellowship scheme has grown year on year. This year we were delighted to welcome ten new fellows, all senior trainees in East of England training programmes. The Fellows are working within established health partnerships with a focus on their speciality, which this year includes anaesthetics, infectious diseases, neurology, obstetrics, paediatrics, surgery and public health. In September we welcomed back last year's fellows to join the 2024 cohort for a sharing and learning event. ***"Since starting the global health fellowship, I have developed much more confidence in professional meetings. I now recognise that you do not need to be the most senior person to be able to contribute and add value to discussion."*** Dr Sarah Loftus, ST3 Anaesthetic trainee and GHF 2023

2023 was the first year we co-delivered with NHS England a dedicated pre-deployment training workshop for the NHSE Global Health Fellowship Programme that supports trainees earlier in their career to undertake placements in rural hospitals across southern and eastern Africa. The workshop will run again in March for the 2024 cohort.

This year, three medical students were selected to undertake electives within our partnerships, while two undergraduate Ugandan medical students came to Cambridge for their electives. ***"Participating in this elective has been truly enriching, and I cannot wait to return to Uganda armed with newfound knowledge and skills."*** Yvonne Nakibirango, fourth-year medical student, Makerere University, Uganda

## Looking ahead

2024 promises to be another busy year for Cambridge Global Health Partnerships. Here are some of our highlights:

- We look forward to growing the current CGHP partnerships as well as supporting new partnerships: FaceForward in Jordan - a project aiming to provide maxillofacial surgery to Jordan's refugee population, and an orthopaedics project in Malawi supporting the delivery of orthopaedic trauma care.
- There will be more work telehealth work in Myanmar and additional areas of focus, including mental health, childbirth, pathology and laboratory training.
- Longer-term placements are planned, including a microbiologist and a pharmacist within the Antimicrobial Stewardship partnerships, and another critical care nurse within the SCALE Critical Care programme.
- The bi-annual East of England Global Health Conference returns in Autumn 2024 and we'll be busy coordinating a packed and interesting programme.
- The second Essential Global Health Fellowships pre deployment training workshop will run in Cambridge in March.
- Following the publication of the Experts in our Midst report, we look forward to working with other Diversity Network members, THET and Cambridge University Hospitals to raise awareness of the enormous value brought to the NHS by diaspora staff and to promote the opportunities with CGHP to contribute to health partnerships.

## Thank you

We were delighted to welcome three new members to the CGHP team this year - Programme Officer Alyshia Gouldsbrough, Communications Lead Sarah Bennett, and Project Management Consultant Sai Htet Aung. We wish a fond farewell to Thet Win Aung, Programme Associate, who has been instrumental in enabling CGHP to continue providing support to healthcare professionals in Myanmar in the post-coup environment, including coordinating the telehealth project and the creation of teaching and clinical management videos for colleagues working in the most difficult of circumstances. We wish Thet well in his new role working on a civil society programme in Asia and know we will collaborate with him again in the future.

Cambridge Global Health Partnerships is a charitable programme funded entirely by donations and grants. We are hugely grateful to everyone who has helped make our work possible over the past year. If you would like to help us continue our vital work, please get in touch with Hannah, our Fundraising Lead ([hannah.wilson@cghp.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wilson@cghp.org.uk)) or make a donation online: <https://cambridgeghp.org/urgent/>

Thank you for all your support