

## **PRELIMINARY REPORT OF WACS PRE-OUTREACH VISIT TO THE GAMBIA**

*The next **WACS Annual Conference** is scheduled to hold from 25 February – 02 March 2018 in **Banjul, The Gambia**.*

*The **Pre-Conference Outreach** will hold from 18 – 24 February.*

This report is the outcome of a **pre-outreach visit to The Gambia from Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19 October 2017**.

### **Report Author:**

Dr. Samuel O. Osaghae, FWACS  
**Coordinator, WACS International Pre-Conference Outreach**  
**Vice-Chairman, WACS Council Outreach Committee**

**Date of Report:** 31 October 2017

### **A-Acknowledgement and Appreciation**

I was accompanied in the visit by Mr George Akindele Fowlis who is Gambian and Consultant Urologist based in London. He is also actively involved in the activities of the LOC and trying to win international support for the Outreach. His presence made the meetings with the LOC seamless. He kindly drove me to the several hospitals visited.

All the members of the LOC, especially the Chairman Dr Melville George, were very helpful and forthright about the local reality and what to expect. The LOC kindly paid for my subsistence & accommodation at the beautiful Senegambia Beach Hotel in Kololo, the main tourist area of The Gambia. The WACS conference will be held in the same area at the Kairaba Beach Hotel. Hospitality was also provided by the aged dear mum of George Fowlis.

For all the above, I am extremely grateful.

### **B-Purpose of visit:**

To agree the Outreach MOU  
To ascertain suitability of facilities selected or under consideration to host the Outreach.  
To discuss the outreach operational procedures

### **C-Members of Outreach Local Organizing Committee (LOC) present**

Dr. Melville George (Chairman)  
Dr. Mustafa Bittaye (Chair of the LOC outreach committee)  
Dr. Awa Jah  
Dr. Kebba Marenah  
Dr. Awa Sanyang  
Dr. Abubacarr Jah (MD, Sharab Medical Centre)  
Dr. Ahmadou Samateh (CMD, Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital)  
Dr. Charles Adeyemi Roberts (CMAC, Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital)  
Dr. Alagie Manneh (CMAC, Serrekunda General Hospital)  
Dr. Basiru Gai (Deputy CEO, Africmed clinic)  
Mr. George Akindele Fowlis (visiting overseas WACS outreach forum member)

## **D-Nurses**

Currently, there is no Nurse member of LOC. I suggested and it was agreed that some nurses will be incorporated

## **E-Hospitals under consideration by LOC**

1. Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, EFSTH (formerly Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital), Banjul
2. Serrekunda General Hospital, Kanifing
3. Regional Eye Care Centre, Kanifing
4. Maternal and Child Health Hospital, Bunduung
5. Africmed Clinic, Brusubi (**Private**)
6. Sharab Medical centre, Kanifing (**Private**)
7. Bafrow Medical centre, Churchills Town (**Private**)
8. Bafrow Fistula Hospital, Mandinaba

## **F-OUTCOME**

**1-MOU:** This was wholly agreed.

**2- Agreed Date of Outreach:** 18 – 24 February 2018.

**2-Hospitals:** The LOC members and I visited all the hospitals. All are located in the greater Banjul metropolis/conurbation within a relatively short distance, except the Mandinaba Fistula Hospital which is about 45 minutes' drive away. I found each to have more than a critical threshold of the facilities required to host a successful Outreach, allowing for some minor adjustments in work flow and arrangement of infrastructure and personnel.

I made the LOC and the Executive Officers of the private hospitals aware that non-government hospitals are not normally considered suitable except on the one hand, an unusual compelling case can be made by the LOC and on the other, the public benefit and terms of the MOU can be unequivocally guaranteed by the management of the private institutions.

Secondly, for economy of scale in deployment of resources and quality assurance, I suggested to the LOC to consider narrowing the short- list of hospitals to two located in or close to Banjul city namely EFSTH and Serrekunda/Regional Eye Hospital (which in reality share the same compound) for the main Outreach. Depending on availability of suitable volunteers and industry support, the Mandinaba Fistula Hospital, which as previously mentioned is located about 45 minutes' drive from Kololi, ought also to be considered.

**3-Designated Outreach Hotel:** Paradise Suites Hotel, Kololi, The Gambia. ([www.paradisSuites.gm](http://www.paradisSuites.gm); Tel. +220 342 49 42; Email: [gmparadisHotels@outlook.com](mailto:gmparadisHotels@outlook.com)). The Proprietor and her daughter, who is the Operations Director, kindly showed us round the hotel which is currently undergoing extensive renovation. In all, it appeared to meet the standards required for the accommodation of the Outreach volunteers.

## **4-List of desired Specialties**

General Surgery  
Urology  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Orthopaedics  
ENT  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
Paediatric Surgery

Plastic Surgery  
Anaesthesia  
Nursing

**Please note:**

There is a national shortage of Anaesthetists. So there is heavy reliance on Nurse Anaesthetists. Similarly, there are no Paediatric or ENT Surgeons in the Country.

**5-The affordable number of Specialists required (as per the terms of the MOU)**

A maximum of 26. This means that while LOC funding of local accommodation and subsistence will be restricted to that maximum, as many extra self-funding volunteers with relevant skills in the areas of interest who want to visit will be welcome.

**6-Requirements for temporary registration with the Medical Council**

- Brief extract of CV
- Current Certificate of Registration and/or good standing in country of practice

**7-Wish List and Challenges highlighted by LOC**

a. The Outreach should be service oriented. Gambia has a chronic national shortage of specialists and is especially reliant on Cuban Doctors; in addition to that, Doctors from other nations regularly visit for missionary outreach work. Hence, the desire for the WACS pre-conference outreach to be geared towards assisting those citizens who mostly rely on the public health service.

b. Shortage of Consultant Anaesthetists and drugs for anaesthesia

c. National shortage of surgical consumables

d. Insufficient number of multiparameter patient monitors

e. Request for dermatome knife (for skin grafting)

f. Request for Paediatric Cystoscope & Resectoscope set

g. Desire for dedicated training time during the outreach. At least one day should be set aside or at least dedicated time daily for training in the different specialties, depending on the needs of the local team.

h. There is currently no properly equipped Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in any of the hospitals

**8- Miscellaneous**

Further details about the hospitals, available personnel, resources, logistics of the outreach including visit photos will be made available to those expressing interest in due course.

**9- What next?**

- Expressions of interest by prospective volunteers (**online form to register to be made available shortly**).
- Pre-Outreach teleconference (of those expressing interest) to be convened in due course.

**10 – Who to contact with any questions or to seek clarifications:** The Pre-Conference Outreach Coordinator, Sam Osaghae via email: [sosaghae@aol.com](mailto:sosaghae@aol.com) or tel. +234 705 2770 553 (Nig); +44 7770 731 706 (UK).