

# Trauma & Orthopaedics training and research in East, Central and Southern Africa

## Year 1 Progress Update

The COOL Health Partnership Scheme Programme is well under way across the ten countries of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), supporting multi-level training and epidemiological research into trauma and musculoskeletal impairment (TMSI). Thank you to all our volunteers and partner organisations for their valuable support. Here is a summary of the first year's activities.

### *Primary Trauma Care (PTC) training*

We have seen Primary Trauma Care training scaled up with new courses so far in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Our aim is to enable around 45 PTC courses in trauma management training for front-line staff across the ten COSECSA countries. The courses have been led by teams of PTC country organising committees, COSECSA representatives, and experienced PTC instructors.



Mozambique, March 2013

Since the start of the programme, over 200 health workers have taken the PTC course, and over 50 have been trained as PTC instructors. Around 30 UK volunteer surgeons and anaesthetists have been involved in training and support for the courses.



Uganda, February 2013

## *Primary Trauma Care (PTC) training*



Kenya, December 2012



Uganda, February 2013



Rwanda, April 2013



Malawi, February 2013



Mozambique, March 2013



## *Clinical Fellowships in Paediatric Orthopaedics*

Since January 2013 ten trainees have taken up clinical fellowships (up to six months) in children's orthopaedics at four teaching hospitals in the region: Beit CURE International Hospital Malawi, AIC-CURE International Children's Hospital of Kenya, CURE Ethiopia Children's Hospital (CECH) & Beit CURE Hospital of Zambia.

*'We have seen a variety of cases in paediatric orthopaedics and the results of the operations are rewarding... I have got good knowledge and skills from it.'*

Dr Ebrahim Ahmed, COSECSA trainee at CURE Ethiopia Children's Hospital, March 2013



## *Advanced Orthopaedics Courses*

The first COOL one-week surgical training course (paediatrics) will be held at the Beit CURE International Hospital, Blantyre, in July 2013 with a focus on paediatrics. Around thirty COSECSA trainees will receive specialist training from both local teaching faculty and instructors from the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford.

## *Epidemiological Research into Trauma and Musculoskeletal Impairment (TMSI)*

Some of the epidemiology studies that have started are:

- A Key Informant Methodology study into the prevalence of childhood disability, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with co-funding from CBM, CURE International UK, and Liliane Foundation. The study trains existing community leaders to identify children with disabilities. These children are then referred to medical screening camps where impairments are assessed and the children (and caregivers) are referred to available clinical and social services. The results of this study will provide useful information that can be used to improve the provision of health care and other services for children with disabilities.
- A survey to assess capacity for TMSI care in the COSECSA region.
- A retrospective review of medical records in district hospitals, to assess the burden of trauma in Malawi.
- Establishment of a trauma registry at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, to inform injury prevention and improve trauma care.
- Small grants (\$1000 USD) awarded to COSECSA trainees who are interested in research studies into trauma, to develop regional research capacity in TMSI.



## Aims

Increasing **survival rates** from serious injuries

Improving **musculoskeletal impairment (MSI) care for children** affected by club foot, angular limb deformity, infections of bones and joints and other MSIs

Increasing **training opportunities** in trauma and orthopaedics in the COSECSA region

Strengthening **links** between UK and overseas health professionals and health institutions

## Developing Partnerships in Global Surgery

The COOL programme is developing links with a wide range of individuals and organisations with an interest in global surgery and TMSI treatment needs.



Primary Trauma Care Foundation meeting with COSECSA country trauma training representatives, COSECSA AGM, Addis Ababa, December 2012



Royal Berkshire Hospital FT Global Health Day, March 2013

Global Surgical Frontiers Conference, January 2013

(Image courtesy of the Royal College of Surgeons of England)



**COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL)** is a multi-country partnership programme between the **Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS)** at the **University of Oxford** (based at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre) and the **College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)**.

The three-year programme (2012-2015) combines research and training in **trauma and musculoskeletal impairment (TMSI) care** across ten sub-Saharan countries in the COSECSA region: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It aims to meet the critical need for more health workers trained in treating serious injury and musculoskeletal impairment in the region.

### COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL)

Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, University of Oxford, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Oxford, OX3 7LD.

EMAIL: [cool@ndorms.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cool@ndorms.ox.ac.uk) | TEL: +44 (0) 1865 737543 | WEB: [www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool.php](http://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool.php)

*This programme is funded through the Health Partnership Scheme, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of the UK and partner country health sectors and managed by the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET).*

