



SWINFEN CHARITABLE TRUST

Newsletter

Issue No. 3

January 2004

Saving lives with telemedicine

Linking the remotest regions of the earth with the world's finest medical minds

EDITORIAL

In the four years since the first link was established in Bangladesh the Trust has filled, and continues to fill, a desperate need to ensure that those who suffer and those who relieve their suffering are provided with the best advice available with minimum delay.

The information shown in the charts demonstrates not only the increasing reliance on the Trust, but also shows the way in which the Trust has developed in all respects over such a short period of time.

The dedication of our Consultants for whose services we pay nothing, is enormously appreciated by the Trust and of course by those who receive the benefit of their advice and opinions.

The growth of the Trust in so short a time to a total of 22 hospitals on line at the end of 2003, a further 5 approved and awaiting equipment and more under consideration by the Trustees demonstrates the continuing and desperate need to establish links as quickly as we can.

It will be appreciated that this level of growth and the requirement to service the links we already have, cannot be sustained without adequate financial support.

Many of our readers are perhaps unaware of this and how easy it is to support the Trust. Donations are always gratefully received and can be made by cheque or, by visiting our website, details of which appear at the bottom of the Newsletter, to make a donation.

consultants by e-mail, photos and diagnosis for correction/comment and return by e-mail.

Everyone in the hospital is very excited by this idea. *Good luck to everyone involved.*

Links 2003



HOSPITAL DOCTOR AWARDS 2003

We are pleased to report that one of our Consultants, Dr Badal Pal, a Consultant Rheumatologist and his team has just won the Innovation Team of the Year 2003

Award. They have previously been awarded the trophy for the Big Difference Award 2003, the Medical Management Team of the Year in 2001, awarded by the British Association of Medical Managers and Dr Pal himself has previously won the Zeneca ODA Fellowship Award in 1995. The nominations and awards have recognised the fast and patient friendly service developments, exploiting innovative methods, such as the Internet and SMS Text Messaging, utilising no extra funds at all with dedicated team members working, often over weekends, to achieve this - quite an achievement.

NEPAL

Dr Raymond Crawford writes from Nepal of his pleasure in receiving the Autumn issue of the Newsletter showing the picture of his hospital in Ghorahi.

He tells us that, following visits by British Dermatologists from Newcastle, Worcester and Bristol where they were training Nepali staff in running the skin clinics, they have hit on an idea that will keep training up to date.

Once systems allow, this is likely to involve 'tele-homework' where local staff will submit to the visiting

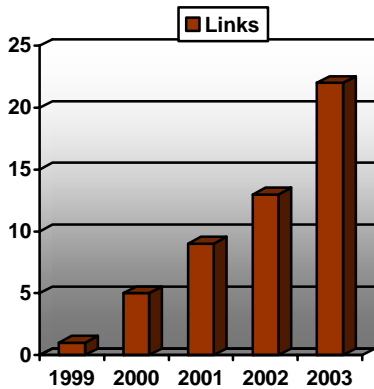
Aims of the Trust

To assist poor, sick and disabled people in the developing world by establishing Telemedicine links between hospitals in remote places and medical specialists around the globe

RAPID RESPONSE

Urgent request from hospital in La Paz, Bolivia for up to date information for pain relief to treat children in the burns ward, where they were currently being given paracetamol and were clearly in severe pain.

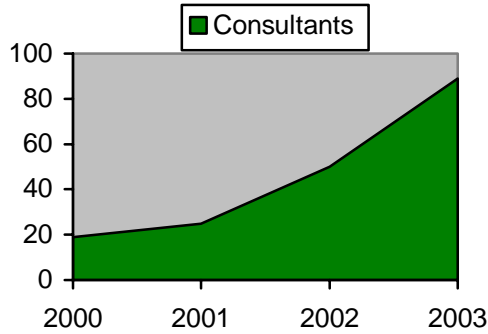
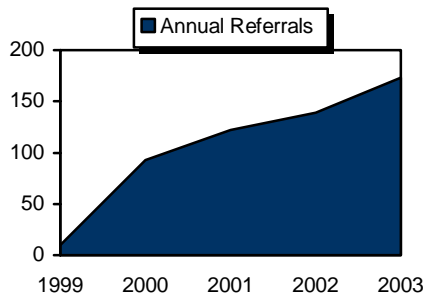
Information was quickly found and relayed within 24 hours by two Consultants, one Canadian and one from Southampton.



More Links?

Meetings are currently in progress with three Iraqi groups of doctors. A significant development is an invitation from the Iraq Liaison Group of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to the Swinfen Charitable Trust to establish a Telemedicine link to Basra University. Proposed links are also envisaged to Duhok and Erbil in Northern Iraq. A further link is in the process of being established with the Malali Women and Children's Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan.

STOP PRESS – equipment delivered to Kabul by Prof Jim Ryan mid-January.



500 mark passed in Oct 2003

REPORT FROM IRAQ

Professor Jim Ryan, Head of the Leonard Cheshire Conflict Recovery Centre and a Trustee of the The Swinfen Charitable Trust was commissioned to visit Iraq and give an independent assessment of the current health situation by the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Medical Branch of the Multinational Division South East.

The report highlights the impressive and unusual level of coordination that has taken place across agencies involved in the humanitarian effort around health needs.

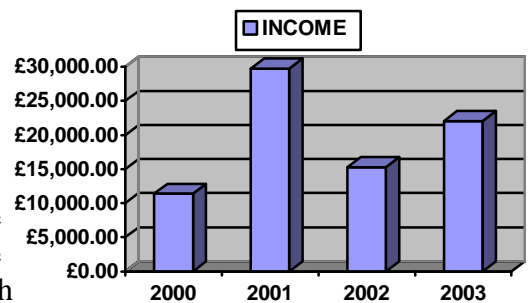
Findings conclude that although the feared humanitarian disaster following recent hostilities has been avoided, there are still risks ahead. Findings include:

- Lack of security continues to hinder healthcare; for example,

parts of cities regularly become 'off limits'.

- The imminent rainy season means blocked sewage channels are a hazard and could lead to the spread of disease.
- The water and sanitation in hospitals continues to undermine their safety.
- Infrastructure is more seriously degraded than originally perceived and so donations of pharmaceuticals and equipment will have little impact until power, fuel, water and sewage systems are repaired.
- Significant threats from diseases such as malaria, measles, and TB still remain.

If you would like to see a copy of the report, or to speak to Professor Jim Ryan about any of these issues, please contact The Swinfen Charitable Trust.



UZBEKISTAN

Professor Fatima Adilova has applied to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for research funds. The Trust has performed a vital role in supporting this and 3 Medical Directors in remote hospitals have agreed to take part in the research.

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