



# SWINFEN CHARITABLE TRUST NEWSLETTER

## Saving lives with telemedicine

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

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### TRUSTEE CARES FOR WOUNDED IN LONDON BOMBINGS

Professor Jim Ryan, Surgeon at University College Hospital, London was heavily involved in tending the sixty or so wounded that ended up in University College Hospital after the London bombings on 7 July 2005. Professor Ryan, a Trustee of SCT, is also the Director of the Leonard Cheshire Centre of Conflict Recovery, a humanitarian aid and research centre studying the medical consequences of war.

Jim has plenty of experience in dealing with the effects of war, having survived the bombing of the 'Sir Galahad' when it was hit off the Falklands by Argentinian bombs in 1982. He then joined the Ajax Bay Field Hospital to treat the ninety-seven people wounded in the incident.

Since leaving the Army in 1994, Professor Ryan has worked hard to make sure that UCH is ready to cope with major emergencies.



SCT welcomes Professor Richard Wootton's appointment as Trustee. Prof. Wootton is the Director of the Centre for Online Health at the University of Queensland, and works closely with SCT.

### News snippets

At a Reception in June 2005, the Kurdistan Regional Government High Representative to the UK made glowing reference to the assistance being provided by The Swinfen Charitable Trust in assisting doctors by setting up e-mail 'Store and Forward' Telemedicine Links between hospitals in the region and medical experts worldwide.

She included a report from a doctor 'both doctors and patients at the Centre will greatly benefit from amazing image link-ups and the resulting advice that is e-mailed back from international medical experts, this gift to Kurdistan is improving medical

skills and saving lives'. She went on to say that from the e-mails received from doctors in Kurdistan we know that lives have been saved.

Feedback from doctors at the various hospitals is positive and friendly working relationships have been established. The doctors in the region are very good at keeping in touch and we feel the Telemedicine Links are really appreciated.

She took the opportunity to officially thank Lord and Lady Swinfen and The Trust on behalf of the Kurdish people.

### The Swinfen Charitable Trust Reception

A most enjoyable Reception was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at Ambassadors' Court, St James' Palace, London by courtesy of Sir Anthony Figgis, Her Majesty's Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

Among those attending were generous donors, consultants, doctors from the referring hospitals, many friends of the Trust and the Trustees.

Sir Anthony Figgis, in welcoming those attending said that it was a pleasure to allow the Trust to hold its Reception in the Palace and congratulated the Trust on its marvellous work.

Professor Jim Ryan, in an enthusiastic and forceful speech, reminded those present of the aims of the Trust to assist poor, sick and disabled people in the developing world, including areas beset by conflict and disaster by

establishing Telemedicine Links between hospitals in these regions and special medical institutes around the globe.

He referred to the amazing growth as well as the number of consultants and disciplines that have been built up over the years. He went on to say that the age range of patients was from birth to a lady from Iran who is reliably stated to be 110. He felt that the Trust was making a significant difference to those in the developing world having been involved himself in a number of referrals and in one of those, involving a man shot in the abdomen who was dying. Following involvement of a number of specialists from the UK, Australia and South Africa, the man's treatment was adjusted; he survived against expectations.

He went on to say that whilst Lord and Lady Swinfen and the Trust were widely known and respected internationally, this was not so at home and the hope would be that those present would act as ambassadors for the Trust and assist in raising its profile and bringing the outstanding work to the attention of those who can make a difference in assisting in finance and spreading the word.

He ended by saying that whilst we continued to make a huge difference to the lives of the vulnerable people living in some of the most austere and dangerous places, we could do even more if we had better support in our own country.

### 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*

## Telemedicine Conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Successes and Failures in Telehealth took place in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

Professor Richard Wootton presented a Paper on Referral Patterns for a global store and forward Telemedicine system.

Roger and Pat presented a Paper on Low- cost Telemedicine in Iraq: an analysis of referrals in the first 16 months. This Paper won first prize in its section.

The Swinfen Charitable Trust gave a Reception for 40 at the Customs House in Brisbane. The guests included Professor John Hay AC, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Queensland and Professor Peter Brooks, Dean of Health Sciences, University of Queensland, and many other medical consultants who give their expert services to the Trust.

Professor P Brooks later gave a dinner for the Vice Chancellor and Mrs Hay, Professor R. Wootton and Dr Fiona Wootton, and Roger and Pat, at the Customs House.

Roger and Pat also presented a Paper on the work of SCT to the medical staff at Nhulunbuy Hospital, Gove, East Arnhem Land, Northern Territories. The senior nurse present, Mrs Judy Hoskins is on the committee of the Australasian group of doctors and nurses who deal with medical matters in countries bordering Australia. It is felt that SCT may be of support in the future. Mrs Hoskins will give a presentation about the work of SCT at their next meeting.

*A recent edition of The Drapers' Company Magazine contained an article by Lord Swinfen updating the Company on the work of the Charity and thanking it for its generous donation towards the work of the Charity.*

## Introducing Roy the Robot

The Centre for Online Health (COH), University of Queensland has constructed a Telemedicine system that is mobile and wireless, which means that the unit can be easily transported directly to the bedside of patients when a specialist consultation is required.



The system, also referred to as Roy the Robot, for his child friendly appearance, is an initiative of COH, with the support of the Royal Children's Hospital in Queensland.

This system is of immense benefit in the rural hospitals that have no pediatricians on staff. For example, contact with the Gladstone Pediatric Ward was made each day by a tele-pediatric co-ordinator based in Brisbane. If a specialist consultation was requested, the co-ordinator liaised with senior pediatricians at the RCH and organised an appointment time.

During the video conference a virtual ward round was conducted between the RCH pediatrician, the local staff, family and patient, giving everybody the opportunity to discuss concerns relating to clinical management.

During the first four months of operation a total of 86 consultations were conducted for regional patients requiring review by a senior pediatrician.



*SCT is proud to announce that the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, have granted Fellowships to Assistant Professor Maida Shamdeen of Mosul Medical College, Iraq, and Dr Emil Azzo of Azadi Hospital, Kirkuk, Iraq, both of whom are Referring Doctors through SCT Telemedicine links. We congratulate them on their well deserved success and look forward to many years of working together.*

In a letter received by Roger and Pat Swinfen, from the Navajeevana Healthcare Centre, Dehewala, Sri Lanka, heartfelt thanks and gratitude were expressed for the generous contribution towards the Tsunami Relief Fund set up by the Centre. Dr Melwyn and Mrs Premini Tissainayagam

## FACTS

Number of links	57
Number of consultants:	181
Number of specialties:	94
Number of referrals :	1000+

**NEWSFLASH**  
**PROFESSOR RYAN IS ON HIS WAY TO PAKISTAN FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE, TO ASSESS TRAUMA AND REHABILITATION NEEDS.**

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