



SWINFEN CHARITABLE TRUST

Newsletter

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Autumn 2003

Saving lives with telemedicine

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

Over 200 copies of our first issue were sent (some electronically) to friends, participating hospitals, consultants and others interested in our work. We were delighted with the comments received, which emphasized the wish of those involved to keep in touch with Trust activities. We hope to publish the Newsletter quarterly with the seasons and contributions to future issues or letters will be gratefully received. Part of the keeping in touch involves travel and the Swinfens have clocked up a few miles since the last issue, more of which below. Since the last issue, we have entered for The Beacon Fellowship prize 2003 and await the outcome of that. We also entered the "Best Telemedicine Network in the World" prize at the Third Successes and Failures in Telehealth Conference held in Brisbane in August 2003. *We came joint second!* We have already increased our hospital links by a further *three* since the last Newsletter, bringing our total to *twenty-one*; one in the Solomon Islands and two in Malawi. We are delighted to report as shown in our lead story that more and more are in the pipeline. This is wonderful news, not only for the Trust, but also for those hospitals that will derive the benefit of the link.

Australian Tour

During the month of August, the Swinfens undertook a fairly gruelling programme in Australia covering several thousand miles.

Brisbane

They were present at the Third Conference on Successes and Failures in Telehealth held at the University of Queensland with an international audience from USA, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Korea, Norway, Greece, Sweden, Austria, UK, Finland and Thailand.

Lady Swinfen gave a paper on the automatic routing system we use. This paper will be published in the Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare by the Royal Society of Medicine, London later this year.

NEWS!

A further eight hospital links have been approved and are currently awaiting equipment. These are:

one in Afganistan

two in Malawi

one in Sudan

a further three in Uzbekistan

one in Zambia

The new Malawi link will bring our total to four in Malawi, there will be a total of four in Uzbekistan and the link in Sudan is to the Leonard Cheshire Children's Hospital, Khartoum

During the Conference the Trust entered the competition for The Best Telemedicine Network in the World and came joint second with US Army Doctors from Triplar Hospital Hawaii. The winner was Dr Victor Patterson, from a Northern Ireland Health Trust who is our most senior Consultant Neurologist, which delighted the Swinfens and the Trust.

Perth

During a visit to the University of Western Australia, the Swinfens presented a paper on the work of the Trust and met Professor Geoff Riley and a number of medical consultants who have been assisting with email referrals.

Tasmania

Lord Swinfen presented a paper at the Royal Hospital, Hobart, Tasmania. In the audience was Dr Andrew Stirling, who was Director of Gizo Hospital, Solomon Islands when the Trust link was established there in March 2000. Also present was Dr Hugh Carpenter who was the doctor to the British High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh in August 1998 when Professor Richard Wootton visited the CRP Bangladesh. Dr Carpenter was instrumental in persuading the Bangladeshi Government to accept the Swinfen Charitable Trust proposal to install a Telemedicine link at CRP.

Sydney Group MedTech Outreach Australia

A preliminary meeting was held in Brisbane at the Centre for OnLine Health with this group that works with doctors in Vietnam. There may be ways in which the Trust can work together with the group to the betterment of poor patients in Vietnam.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Professor Amanullah A. Kadirov, Chairman of the Program Committee, Academician of the International Higher Education Academy of Sciences, Director of Center for Strategic Innovation and Informatization in Uzbekistan writes:- *The Research Paper by the Swinfens, co-authored by Prof. T.A. Daminov and Prof. F.T. Adilova, entitled 'Experience with a Low-Cost Tele-medicine System in Uzbekistan' has been accepted for presentation at the first plenary meeting of a conference to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in the near future.*

Iraq Prof Jim Ryan, one of our Trustees to make visit during which it may be possible to identify possible SCT links for selected hospitals.

SCT has carried out its first telemedical referral on a seriously ill nine year old Iraqi girl, obtaining vital opinion and advice. Now awaiting transfer for transplant surgery in Jordan.

SCT asked to consider setting up links in two medical schools in Northern Iraq.

Nepal In late September Dr Raymond Crawford of Ghorahi Hospital, Dang, Western Nepal, met the Swinfens on his way back to Nepal for another six months work. He showed photos of the hospital and the patients and described life in this remote and dangerous area where the hospital is still treating leprosy patients (*see picture*).



Tashkent Swinfens invited to attend telemedicine conference.

PROFILE

Professor Richard Wootton

Richard Wootton is the head of research at the Centre for OnLine Health at the University of Queensland. He was previously the Director of the Institute of Telemedicine and Telecare at Queen's University, Belfast. His main interests are in establishing the cost-effectiveness of telemedicine applications in routine health service delivery, and in the use of telemedicine in the developing world. Professor Wootton is the Editor of the *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*, an international peer-reviewed journal. He has been of immense help in supporting SCT and developing its systems.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE CENTRE OF CONFLICT RECOVERY

The Leonard Cheshire Centre of Conflict Recovery (LCC) lies within the Academic Division of Surgical Specialties at the Royal Free and University College Medical School. It was established seven years ago to study the provision of surgical, medical and logistic support to people injured or incapacitated as a result of war or natural disaster. The emphasis is on long-term conflict recovery as this is an area of humanitarian assistance where there is the greatest need. The Centre had three inter-related areas of activity training/education, research/publication and overseas missions with aid agency partners. Missions have been completed or are on-going in Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. A study mission in Iraq will commence in October 2003.

The Centre works closely with the Swinfen Charitable Trust (SCT) in the fields of education and training and on some of the Centre's overseas missions. For example, SCT provided a store and forward telemedicine facility to the LCC during its mission in Kosovo in 1999-2000.

The Centre's Professor and Director is Professor James Ryan who is also an SCT Trustee. In turn, the Lord and Lady Swinfen are members of LCC's Board of Advisors. This permits a constant dialogue and exchange of information and ideas and will facilitate increased collaboration, particularly on future overseas missions.

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