



Swinfen, at the double!

Two years ago, in our Spring Newsletter, we reported that we had nearly 50 hospital links and over 160 consultants. Today, the number of links has more than doubled to 120 in 34 countries and the number of consultants nears a staggering 300. This is testament to the value of The Trust's work as perceived by those involved and its recipients.

SCT was once again delighted to hold a reception at Ambassadors' Court, The Palace of St James, courtesy of Sir Anthony Figgis. The reception, held in June, welcomed supporters, trustees and friends of SCT as well as a number of consultants from a variety of countries and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Directors continue to be asked to attend an increasing number of conferences worldwide, giving them the opportunity to explain the work of SCT. These are listed later in the newsletter.



Just one of the many worldwide conferences attended by the Directors

CONFERENCES:

Kuwait, Dubai, Brisbane, Las Vegas, Washington, with advance invitation to attend a conference in N. Iraq in March 2008.

Afghanistan



An Afghan Doctor with thyroid cancer was initially treated in Pakistan but required some expensive additional treatment that was unavailable in Afghanistan.

Fortunately the doctor was able to have the necessary treatment he needed at The Royal Marsden Hospital in UK due to their generous offer to waive all fees of a consultant surgeon and a consultant oncologist. An expatriate doctor and her team at the hospital in Afghanistan organised donations, visas and flights to the UK to enable the Afghan Doctor to accept the generous offer of The Royal Marsden Hospital. The same expatriate Doctor made an offer of accommodation and contacts in the UK.

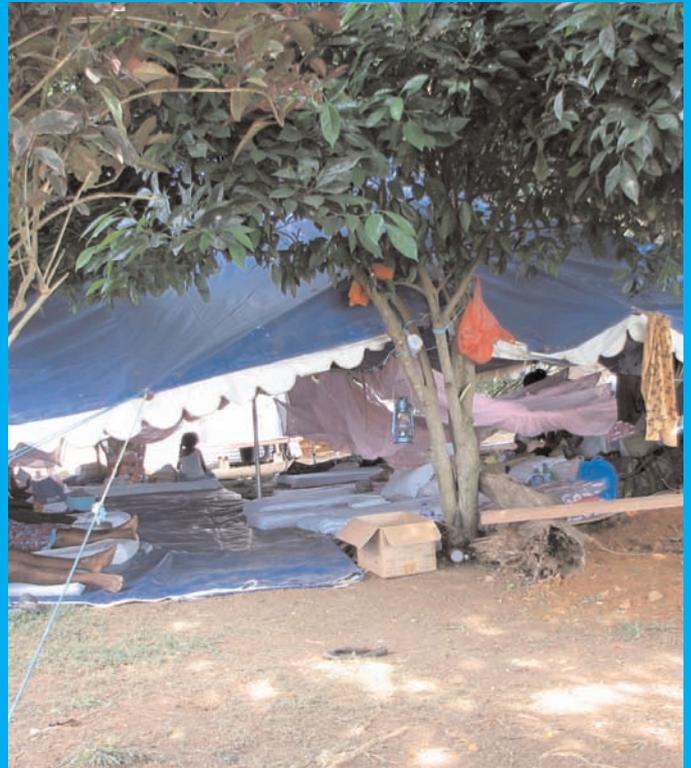
This is an example of the love and care shown by colleagues in difficult times and arduous conditions.

The surplus money raised from the donations enabled a mother of three young children, suffering from valvular heart disease, to be treated in India for her condition (see photo opposite).



Earthquake and Tsunami

The Solomon Islands were struck by both an earthquake and Tsunami in April 2007. The devastation was extensive and many hospitals suffered considerable damage to both ward facilities and staff accommodation, particularly Gizo and Helena Goldie hospitals. Immediate 'patching' work was carried out enabling the hospitals to continue with their vital work.



Improved accommodation for staff and patients.

News of doctors

Dr Habib Award

The Dr Habib Award is given annually to an ophthalmologist from the Middle East and Africa region and this year the award was given to Dr B.G.K Ajayi at the Middle East African Council conference in Dubai.

Dr Ajayi has been working tirelessly to fight preventable blindness in Nigeria and neighbouring countries. SCT has presented telemedicine equipment to Dr Ajayi for three mission hospitals in Nigeria.

Doctor in Kabul

A doctor (who's name must be withheld for security reasons) from the Malalei Maternity Hospital in Kabul, attended the British International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in July. Afterwards she attended a course organised by Dr Ali Kubba on colposcopy and has since been invited to return to London in October to continue her studies.

We made sure to introduce the doctor to the gynaecology specialists who will be giving their valuable advice and guidance when SCT's Telecolposcopy project commences.

Service in St Paul's Cathedral

In September, SCT shared in the collection taken at the Annual Service in St Paul's Cathedral for the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George. Lord Swinfen and our chairman attended this service.

Dr Fung-Yee Chan

Dr Fung-Yee Chan, one of SCT's Foetal Medical experts recently died most unexpectedly in Brisbane. This is a sad loss to her family, Medicine and to The Trust.



Tibet

As a follow up to our report in the Spring, Dr Ray Pinniger, International Director of K u n D e Foundation, tells us that she is still



Dr Ray Pinniger

trying to photograph the fly that bothers the yaks and nomad children. In the meantime the Natural History Museum in the UK has identified that the larva is rare. Prof. Pasvol is continuing to keep in touch with Dr Pinniger on this subject. SCT is in the process of sending her a new camera.

London reception in June

A big thank you to Sir Anthony Figgis for once again allowing us to hold our reception on, 28 June 2007, at The Palace of St James. Lord Swinfen personally thanked all those who attended for their great help and support.



Dr Jacqui Hill, Medical Director of Cure International Hospital, gave a moving account of the work in Afghanistan and spoke of her experience as a referring doctor and the assistance she has received from SCT.

There was ample opportunity for experiences to be shared among those present as well as the

chance to hear first hand about the work of some eminent consultants. Those in attendance, to name but two of SCT's distinguished medical consultants, included Professor John Shepherd (Gynaecology) from St Barts and the Royal London Hospitals and

Professor Geoff Pasvol (Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases) from Imperial College London.

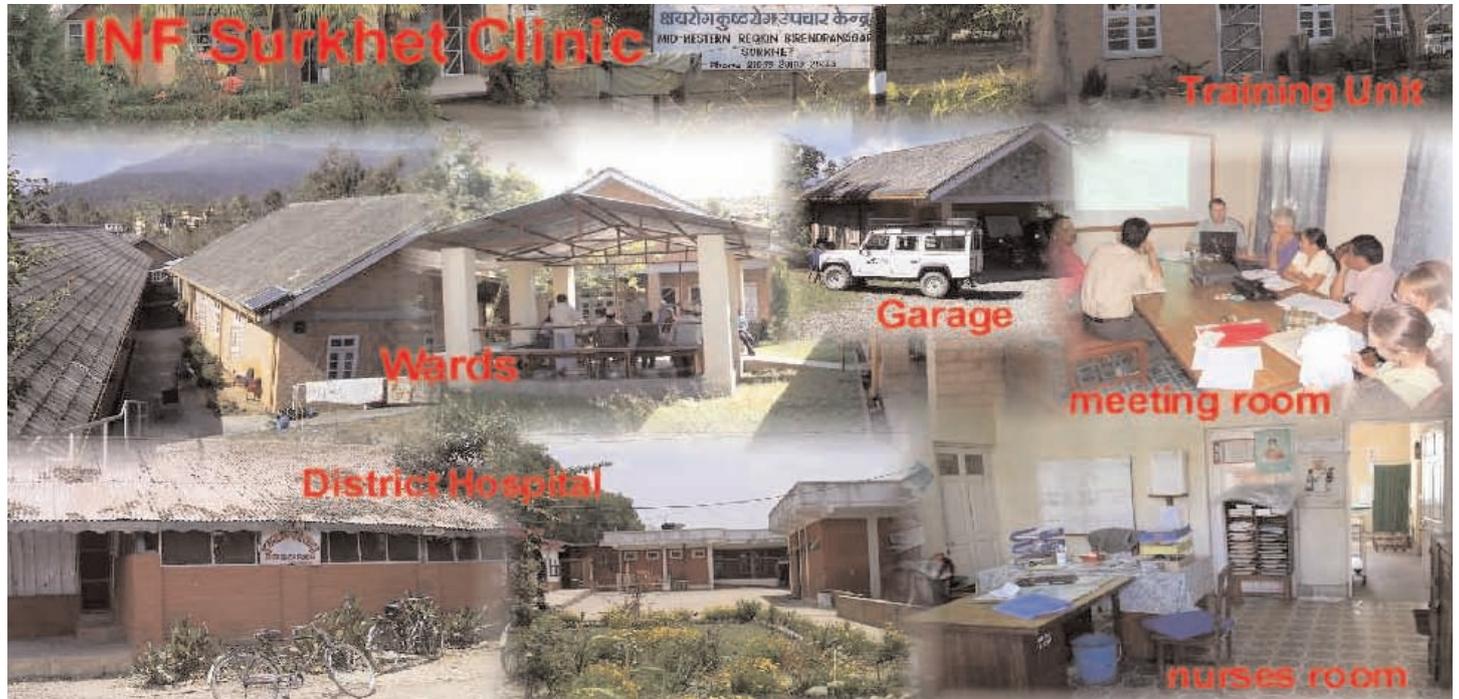
During the reception Dr Jacqui Hill explained that her husband, Eric Sinclair, has been known to conduct his referrals in Afghanistan from the back of a donkey. Is this a first we asked ourselves? Eric is a consultant civil engineer but works with MEDAIR in the rural areas of Afghanistan and has already been instrumental in sending a very serious carcinoma referral from Badakhshan, N. E. Afghanistan. We are encouraging Eric to increase his 'Telemedicine Travels on a Donkey'.

After note:

Cure International, a U.S. based non-profit organisation providing medical relief in developing nations, was one of several groups active in Afghanistan who were recognised by President Karzai in a speech of thanks in August. Dr. Jacqui Hill and Dr. Qudrat Mojadidi are two physicians involved in the work that is being done in Afghanistan, including saving the lives of thousands of mothers and infants who would have been lost in childbirth without this intervention.

The International Nepal Fellowship

A doctor working in a remote western area of Nepal wrote to tell us about the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) that run clinics in very adverse conditions. He said that as he is presently the only foreign doctor, the service provided by the Swinfen Charitable Trust is a real blessing and he is most grateful to Dr Raymond Crawford who set up the link with SCT some years ago.



Afghanistan – NEWSFLASH!

Some readers may have seen the report by Alastair Leithead for the BBC in September on Dr Alex Duncan and his family in the Wakhan Corridor. Dr Duncan covers people in an extremely remote area and was offered a telemedical link by SCT. Dr Duncan's immediate response was, "Thanks very much. This could be very useful for us. I only cover 6000 people, so there won't be much traffic, but there are moments when I do feel rather alone, and such a link could be encouraging as well as directly helpful." We wish the good doctor luck and hope the link helps his lonely but invaluable work. He has already sent his first referral!

Pakistan

Program manager, Dr Noaman Siddiqui, wrote to tell us about the set up of the new Disaster Management Centre at the Ayub Medical College and Teaching Hospital in Abbottabad.

This was set up following the earthquake of 2005 'with the vision of making a difference from pain to relief, from Grief to Happiness, from Poverty to Progress'.

Dr Siddiqui went on to say that the Trust should be proud of its efforts to help after the earthquake and that without the Trust's continuing support the Centre would not continue to flourish. The Chairman of the Centre and the Principal of Ayub Medical College also thanked the Trust specifically for its assistance in their respective speeches at the opening ceremony.



Donations: Can you help? Funds are always at a premium and any donations are most welcome.