

**REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL
SURGICAL CONGRESS
LIVERPOOL
2010**

THE CHALLENGES OF SURGERY

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CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
2.0. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION.....	2
3.0. HOSPITAL VISITATION.....	2
4.0. THE SURGICAL CONGRESS.....	3
5.0. ENTERTAINMENT.....	5
6.0. INTERRUPTIONS.....	5
7.0. BENEFITS OF THE CONGRESS.....	6
8.0. SUMMARY.....	7
9.0. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7

1.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I wish to thank the ASGBI for the bursary awarded to me which enabled me attend such an important congress and also to visit the beautiful city of Liverpool. Without this bursary it would not have been possible for me to attend the congress in view of the prohibitive costs involved.

Secondly I wish to thank the organizer for having organized the congress so well. The congress was a success. We were well received, the organization starting from the hospital visits and then the congress itself was so marvelous.

I in particular would like to thank Bhavnita for having worked tirelessly ensuring that all the logistics were in place and also having been available to us to ably attend to our needs through out the period of our stay in the UK up to the time of our departure.

2.0. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION;

All went according to the travel arrangements that were made. Accommodation was as pre arranged and personally I really enjoyed my stay at Jurys Inn Hotel. The atmosphere, the staff, the meals were all fantastic.

3.0. HOSPITAL VISITATION;

This was very inspiring in the sense that the quality of health care in these hospitals was quite high as compared to what is obtaining back home here in Zambia. In my view, it conforms to what is described as working in an ideal health care facility. I visited Wirral university hospital and Warrington hospitals. All can be summed up as follows;

1. Quality of infrastructure was of very high standard.

2. Work environment was fantastic and inspiring.
3. Staffing levels were extremely good, staff well motivated.
4. All essential equipments, medications were available which makes the work of health care providers easier and enjoyable.
5. Health care utilities were all readily available. In other words I did not notice any shortages.
6. Advances in the field of surgery is a reality, citing laparoscopic surgery as an example which is not well established in Zambia.
7. Hospital computer net work is present in all the hospitals I visited I think is very essential for various reasons such as for patient tracking and record keeping. Therefore it is easier to do research in such an environment .

4.0. THE SURGICAL CONGRESS;

A number of papers were presented covering a wide range of of surgical conditions. Some of the paper which were very interesting are;

- **Changes in anal sphincter function following anal fistula surgery;**

This was of great importance to me in the sense that fistulae in ano are very common in Zambia. Unlike in Zambia were most of the fistulae are a HIV related, it was interesting to learn that in that part of the world fistulae are mostly caused by inflammatory bowel disease.

- **Further experience with the muscle sparing latissimus dorsi flap ; a key of contender for single side or bilateral breast reconstruction;**

This presentation was very relevant to me in that breast surgery particularly due to cancer is becoming very common in our setting. Therefore more women would require breast reconstruction for cosmetic reason.

- **Management of knife injuries;**

Injuries of such nature are also very prevalent in Zambia. This symposium touched a number of areas including prevention and care.

- **Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy;**

It was very interesting presentation. In Zambia we only do open cholecystectomy. Laparoscopic surgery is a new concept and hope in the near future the knowledge will become established.

- **Inguinal hernia; which operation;**

Hernias are very common in Zambia. However the management is exclusively by open method. Laparoscopic hernia repair is the current teaching. There is need for us to also move in this direction.

- **Global challenges of surgery in developing word and man power challenges;**

It was a very interesting symposium. A lot of issues were brought up. Solutions however seem to be far fetched.

Other presentations I attended which were equally very educative are;

- **Aneurysm screening**
- **Prostate screening**
- **How to avoid disaster in cancer surgery**
- **Rectal cancer**
- **Pancreatic cancer**
- **Melanoma**
- **Oesophago-gastric cancer**
- **Role of mesh in incisional hernia**

The congress was really of great benefit to me. I gathered a lot of new information on a wide range of surgical conditions. Some of the information will be passed on to my colleagues and for the benefit of our patients.

5.0. ENTERTAINMENT;

We really enjoyed ourselves while in Liverpool. The visit to the towering City Radio station was very interesting. The gala dinner was equally interesting.

Liverpool is a very beautiful city. We visited a number of places which include the museum, Anfield the stadium for Liverpool football club and we also under took the ship cruz on river Mercy. The extra days due to the volcanic ash basically added to our time for exploring Liverpool.

While in London on the day of departure, we had an opportunity of visiting the London Bridge as well as taking a ride on the London eye. The London eye gave us the opportunity to have a glimpsy of London.

I would have loved to see much of London but unfortunately we had to depart just the same day we got there.

I feel there are so many nice places we could have visited but for luck of time. I hope in the near future I could come just for a holiday and tour some places.

6.0. INTERRUPTIONS;

I had an opportunity to meet Doctors from the UK and from third world countries that is from within Africa and also from other continents. We were able to exchange notes on various issues pertaining to health in our respective countries. Above all I made a lot of new friends.

7.0. BENEFITS OF THE CONGRESS

I fully met objectives for wanting to attend the congress in that I benefited in a number of ways;

- (i). Appreciated the complex nature in the organization and execution of a congress of that magnitude.
- (ii) Learnt what is going on in the field of general surgery in other parts of the world both in the developing and developed world.
- (iii). Learnt how scientific papers are presented at a large fora.
- (iv). Had the privilege of getting hold of new strides in general surgery.
- (v) I gathered a lot of useful information for my education purposes and also for the benefit of patients.

8.0. SUMMARY;

The international surgical congress Liverpool 2010 was such a success. For the bursary winners it was preceded by two days hospital visit culminating into the congress itself. The hospital visit gave me an insight of what it means to work in an ideal health care facility. The congress provided me with a lot of useful information for education purposes as well as for direct patient benefit. I was well entertained and enjoyed exploring the beautiful city of Liverpool. Remembering this congress always reminds me the Iceland volcano eruption with ash grounding flights all of the UK.

I thank the ASGBI for the bursary awarded to me, otherwise this could not have been.

9.0. RECOMMENDATIONS;

- (i). Awarding of such bursaries to third World Countries Doctors in the surgical field should continue.

- (ii). The number of awards should be increased.

- (iii). As policy markers, senior Doctors from third world countries should be encouraged to attend such congresses.

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