

Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeon (2 Positions Available)

Volunteer Brief and Terms of Reference

Summary

King's Global Health Partnerships (KGHP) are looking to recruit two experienced Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeons to provide in-country training and remote mentoring to surgeons at Ndola Teaching Hospital in Ndola, Zambia.

This opportunity has several components, including a series of virtual meetings to be held within the UK, and trips to Ndola to provide supervision and mentorship to in-country teams who specialise in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. In addition, KGHP are hoping to fundraise for a return trip for Zambian clinicians where they will be able to undertake a UK based observership with King's Health Partner trusts.

King's Global Health Partnerships

KGHP is an initiative of King's Health Partners, housed within King's College London (KCL). Bringing together academic, clinical and development professionals, KGHP works in partnership with health professionals in Africa to strengthen health systems and improve the quality of care. Our approach works at individual level to empower people, at organisational level to strengthen institutions and at national level to enhance systems.

KGHP has established partnerships in four African countries: Somaliland, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Our programmes are delivered by volunteers, with educators, researchers, health professionals, managers and health sector leaders taking up volunteering placements to deliver technical advice, teaching, training, distance mentoring and on the job support to their counterparts in the global south.

King's Zambia Partnership

The King's - Zambia Partnership builds on the successes of a 10-year partnership between Guy's & St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT), the Ndola Teaching Hospital (NTH), a 760-bed provincial tertiary referral hospital, and the Arthur Davison Children's Hospital (ADCH), a 260-bed provincial tertiary referral paediatric hospital, both of which are situated in the Copperbelt Province in the North West of Zambia.

GSTT remains an active partner within the new King's-Zambia partnership, providing continuity and support. However, a new phase of the partnership began last June, when KGHP staff held a workshop with Heads of Department at NTH and ADCH to determine the future direction and priorities for the partnership, where the development of surgical skills was identified as a priority.

Context

Ndola is the main city in the Copperbelt province in northern Zambia and functions as the second tertiary centre outside of the capital, Lusaka. Ndola has also recently become a major site for the national specialist training programme in Zambia. In addition, under the National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthetic Plan (NSOAP) there is a desire to develop and expand the current nascent laparoscopic service at Ndola Teaching Hospital alongside other developments in the department of surgery. At the request of the general surgical consultants in Ndola, KGHP will start to support the department of surgery with a programme of laparoscopic training support. We are therefore looking to recruit two consultant laparoscopic surgeons with an interest in teaching/training for several short (1-2 week) visits over the next three years to help support and develop the existing services. Although funding is only available for two volunteers at present, we would aim to develop the project to involve other members of the multidisciplinary theatre team in due course.

Experience

There are five consultants currently trained in laparoscopic cholecystectomy and ten trainees (Registrar equivalent) within the department at Ndola Teaching Hospital. Between March 2019 and March 2020, 14 laparoscopic cholecystectomies were performed with one conversion to open. The surgeons describe the gallbladder operations that they do as challenging as the patients who undergo operations have usually had severe symptoms for a long time. The surgeons are keen to improve their skills with these but to also expand their skills in due course to other areas of laparoscopic surgery.

Equipment

There are two general surgical laparoscopic stacks, both of which have been donated from other sources in the past and are based in the general surgical elective theatres on the first floor of the hospital. One is a WISAP and the other a ConMed (see photos).



At the time of the February 2020 visit, there was no lead to connect the diathermy machine to the laparoscopic hook, but this has since been donated by the partnership. There is no laparoscopic stack in either of the emergency theatres on the ground floor of the hospital. It was also noted that the urologists have been donated a Storz stack that works well.

At the time of the February 2020 visit, the theatres at NTH were undergoing renovation and therefore it was not possible to see the operations happening or to view other areas of theatre practice or equipment.

Aim

KGHP will support surgical teams at NTH in developing their laparoscopic surgical skills to enable them to effectively manage patients who require this specialist procedure.

Proposed activities and timing

December 2020 – May 2021	A series of virtual meetings between the UK team and NTH team to establish detail of issues and proposed trips.
March -May 2021	One week visit to NTH. NTH surgeons to have lined up a laparoscopic cholecystectomy week with laparoscopic cholecystectomy for four days with time for feedback on day 5.
October 2021	Return trip to further develop and support training and practices
Late 2021 /2022	Proposed partnership visit to KHP Trusts for surgical team to observe UK practices.
2022-3	Further 1-2-week visits, aiming for 2 visits per year.

Skills and experience

Qualifications:

You must have a relevant professional qualification

Experience:

You will need to have at least 5 years of experience within your discipline.

Personal Characteristics:

Hardworking, enthusiastic, creative and solution focused. Possesses excellent interpersonal skills, feels confident working within a multicultural team. Skilled at multitasking, prioritising, and working independently with minimal supervision. Believes in the value of partnership working and is sensitive to the challenging nature of health care delivery in a resource scarce environment

Expectations

As part of your affiliation with KGHP, you will be actively encouraged to document your trip through various media. KGHP are keen to promote your activities via our social media channels and through a variety of internal and external media. We therefore rely on your content to enable this to take place. You will be encouraged to keep a personal reflective journey to document your experiences and to log mutual benefit.

Our offer to you

You will have the opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team and contribute to improving health outcomes for a population in need. In addition, there is strong evidence that health partnerships like ours don't only benefit people in low-resource settings. They also bring real benefit to NHS staff and services as well as citizens in our partner countries. Among others, these benefits include the opportunity to develop:

- Leadership skills
- Skills in interdisciplinary team working

- Knowledge and skills in innovation and quality improvement
- Clinical and teaching experience
- Cross-cultural experience and experience of managing diversity
- Personal resilience and efficiency – including an enhanced ability to stay calm and make good quality decisions

Volunteers on short term trips and longer placements will receive additional support which is listed below. Please note these are not applicable to all placements, so please make sure you clarify any expectations with the London team:

- Pre-departure and in-country induction
- Cost of return flights to and from initial post is covered by KGHP
- Daily living allowance expensed by KGHP
- Cost of visa, residency permits, and professional registration covered by KGHP
- Cost of vaccinations and antimalarials covered by KGHP
- Enrolment onto King's College London Travel Insurance policy
- Medical indemnity cover
- Cost of accommodation covered by KGHP

Application

All volunteer roles are appointed following an application and interview process, scheduled for a few days after the application deadline. If you are interested in applying, please submit a C.V. and a cover letter to KGHP@kcl.ac.uk. Please name the subject of your email clearly with “**Volunteer Application for Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeon**”. The deadline for applications is 23:59 at 05/11/2020.

Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.