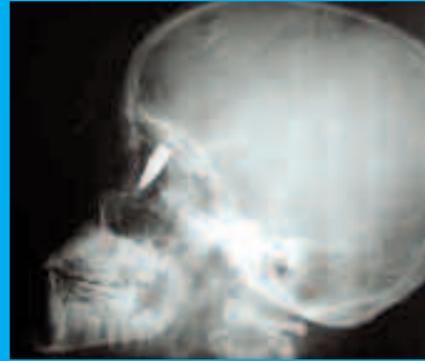




Headache

A CT scan of a seven-year-old boy, complaining of a headache, showed that he had been exposed to a bullet that had mysteriously lodged itself above his left eye. The young patient was treated at the Basra University Medical College in Southern Iraq.



Martin Tanner

Running for help!

Martin Tanner, a manager at ADM and the Trust's IT support, ran a half marathon in Portsmouth raising over £600 for the Trust.

Heather Payton raised significant funds for the Trust in the 2006 London Marathon, and she also ran again in 2007.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr Khalid Nasir Mayah, the famous neurosurgeon in Basra who more recently was the Manager of the Al-Sader Teaching Hospital. Dr Nasir Mayah, who was the referring doctor at the hospital when our link started in March 2004, was killed in a hostile act in March 2008.

Trouble spots

Our thoughts are always with our friends who work in various 'hot spots' around the world. These people continue to provide much needed care in dangerous and difficult conditions. Readers will know that our 127 links worldwide include the countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, Cambodia, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, and Sudan.

Madagascar

Antsirabe escaped much of the damage caused by the recent cyclone that left thousands in the north of the island without food or shelter. However we understand from Brian Donaldson, who runs the Kitchen Table Charity, that the hospital is in urgent need of eye equipment. The Trust is doing all it can to fulfil this need for the hospital, which recently celebrated its 100th year birthday.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Doug Choyce and his team at DHL for delivering the consignment to Dr Greene in Guinea. Thanks also to The Union Advertising Agency in Edinburgh for the continuing support in producing the newsletters.

Help us to help those in need? Please make a donation.



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Registered Charity Number 1077879

SAVING LIVES WITH TELEMEDICINE

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

Completing the circle

In our newsletters we try to reflect the reality of life and the lives of those whom the Trust seeks to help. There are many touching and remarkable stories in the large number of emails and letters that the Trust receives and there is always an underlying theme. **Courage, example and selflessness from the doctors involved; cries for help, needs to be satisfied and questions to be answered from patients; advice, support and encouragement from the consultants. This is what the Trust is all about.**

The F word!

Finance! We could all do more if we had more money and the same applies to charities. With greater financial support, the Trust could more effectively meet the ever-increasing demands of those most in need.

Donations from individuals and organisations alike are always extremely welcome and needed. Please consider this and see details of how you can help at the end of the Newsletter.

HELPING HANDS

Sharon Checksfield provides assistance with the Trust's research. Sharon is a busy, young working mother with two children. She works for the Trust four days a week, and we are delighted to have her with us.

News from Hindu Kush

Maureen Lines heads up a remarkable organisation called the Hindu Kush Conservation Association. This British based charity pays for a medical project in addition to the infrastructure of Pakistan NGO.

Maureen is an emergency medical technician who qualified in NYC back in the early eighties after spending some time in the Hindu Kush. Since then she has worked for the people for over 20 years and opened up a number of dispensaries, referring patients to the Trust as she believes it does a fantastic job.

Maureen says that in remote areas it is impossible to get proper diagnosis and assessment of patients. Maureen is kept busy with many other



Maureen with dog

projects including building retaining walls, repairing bridges, writing for the Pakistan press and she is also the author of several books. We think she does a fantastic job too!





U21/SCT Consortium

The Consortium has recently produced a brochure to outline its strategy and plans for the next few years. For more information on this and U21 projects see www.universitas21.com/sct.html

Development consultant, Sarah Catliff, has been working for the Trust and Universitas 21 Consortium since July 2007. This partnership was formed, over a year ago, to support education and the delivery of medical knowledge to those in need. Sarah has a history of being involved with the transfer of knowledge as she has been running a fundraising campaign for the Bodleian Library at

the University of Oxford. Sarah aims to help build the relationship and profile of the partnership and to devise a fund raising strategy for the consortium

If you have any comments you'd like to share or fundraising ideas, please email them to sarah.catliff@freshfunding.com

CONFERENCES

Roger Swinfen attended the American Telemedicine Association Conference in Seattle in April 2008.

Search for instruments

Dr Bob Greene, who recently moved from Kabul, wrote to us from his new residence in Guinea with a request for more instruments to help him in his work. He had gone shopping to Conakry, the capital of Guinea, and had spent several hours sorting through dusty and rusty instruments in gloomy medical equipment shops trying to pick out some prized items before trying to bargain with merchants for each purchase.

With the help of DHL, the Trust is hoping to send Dr Greene a consignment of osteotomes, mallets and a number of other items.



Calendar of hope

Rhoda Muhmood wrote to us from Kuwait, asking us to mention the Calendar of Hope. This calendar is produced in Kuwait and the proceeds go to support those in need in that country.

ACADEMIA

A recent paper entitled 'Supporting Hospital Doctors in the Middle East' has been circulated by the Swinfens. The requests for more papers continue - please see the Trust's website for more information on published papers.

Ethiopia

We are delighted to have recently established a link with Mekelle Hospital in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia. This is our first link in the North of the country and we are grateful to Prem Edwards for putting the hospital in touch with us. We look forward to supporting Mekelle and a long association.

Baghdad Medical Conference

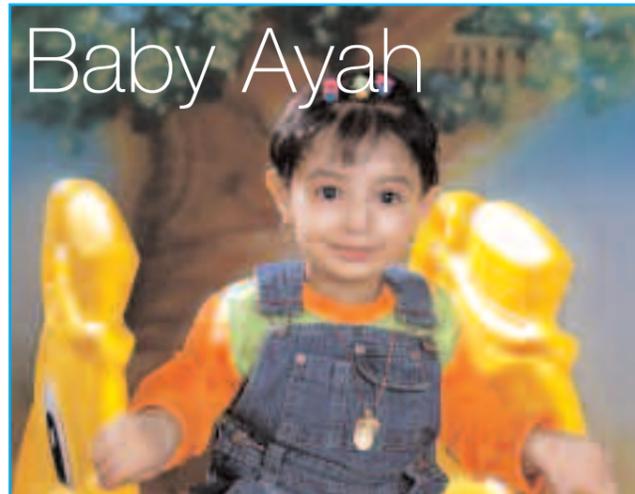
This Conference, held in January 2008, was the first of its kind. Representatives of the Medical Alliance for Iraq (MAI) and International Medical Corps (IMC), who are working with the Trust, were both in attendance and another Consultant from the Trust was involved in speaking.



Guyana

The Trust is awaiting the green light from the University of Virginia to set up a Telemedicine Link in Guyana. Prof. Karen Rheuben, of the University of Virginia, is busy recruiting more specialists for the Trust. Prof. John Casteen, from the same University, and his wife have recently visited London to meet with the Swinfens.

Baby Ayah



We thought readers would be interested to see an up-to-date photograph of Baby Ayah, who featured on our Christmas card. After entering the world with the assistance and advice from the Trust's Consultants, as reported in our spring 2006 newsletter, she has now been joined by a baby sister called Fatima.

WE NEVER CLOSE!

The Trust heard from many Consultants who were working on Christmas Day, including Dr Jasper van der Westhuyzen and Dr Kim Hinshaw. Kim broke the Trust's record for a response to a case by replying within fifteen minutes. In total, our Consultants were involved in four ongoing cases over the Christmas period.

News from Nepal - the world gets smaller

We have recently heard from Tshering Lama, who is working on a PhD research project on telemedicine in Nepal, whilst at Northumbria University.

Tshering got our Belfast Consultant, Dr Victor Patterson who was also over in Nepal, to conduct lectures at hospitals on telemedicine from a doctor's perspective. Together they have both completed a 10-day trek with Dr Jane Patterson

where they were able to visit some of the rural health centres. This

trek coincided with a visit by Prof Richard Wootton, Director of Online Health at The University of Queensland, who was the guest speaker at a workshop organised by Tshering, with the Nick Simons Institute, to discuss the development of telemedicine in Nepal.

