



NEW LINKS FOR SWINFEN

Antarctica

We recently had a request to establish a link at the Franco/Italian base at Concordia. Dr Bonnardot said that he had been very impressed with the work of the Trust in his previous post in Tristan da Cunha and wished to take advantage of its facilities in Concordia. "After working awhile on Telemedicine issues,



Polar Night in Antarctica

I am deeply convinced that the Swinfen Charitable Trust is the most efficient system." Dr Laurent Bonnardot, on his request for a link for Concordia.

Guyana

We have been able to assist the University of Virginia with its Cervical Cancer Program in remote villages in Guyana, by providing a link with St Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Georgetown.



St Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Guyana

The Annual Reception

This was held in June, once again, courtesy of Sir Anthony Figgis, HM Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, at which a number of Consultants, friends of the Trust and other distinguished guests were present. Professor Thamer Hamdan gave an excellent presentation, covering the improving situation in Iraq from a medical perspective and drawing attention to the invaluable work of the Trust in support in contributing to the improving health status in the country from North to South.

Many Happy Returns!

Happy Birthday and many thanks to Jean Burton-Brown, FRCOG, who recently celebrated her 100th Birthday and said that she did not wish to have any presents but instead, for donations, to be made to The Swinfen Charitable Trust. This remarkable lady was also invited by the Royal College of Gynaecologists to address a room-full of post-graduate medicine students about her life as a gynaecologist, which included being the only woman Doctor in Thanet in the 1950s.

Acknowledgements: Once again, our thanks to Doug Choyce and DHL for their help in getting equipment to Madagascar. To The Union Advertising Agency for its continuing support and production of this Newsletter. To the University of Queensland for its support over the years, with our previous website.

We can't put a value on financial support. It's priceless. Please help us to help those in need.



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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

A Decade Helping Those In Need!

The Trust is now ten years old! In that time, it has extended its reach from the first link in Bangladesh, back in 1999, to over 130 hospitals in 36 countries (and rising). The Trust prides itself on the ability to be true to its aims and to deliver a much-needed service to those to whom it is vital.

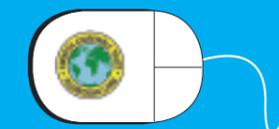
"This is a wonderful thing you are doing with the Telemedicine Links - it is great that there are people like yourselves who see the need and make it happen for low-resourced countries. Congratulations on your efforts - it will save many lives and give a higher quality service of medicine than any of these countries like Vanuatu, will ever be able to afford." Dr Margaret McAdam, who recently did an aid project in Vanuatu.

Our Newsletters hope to demonstrate, with a mixture of stories of endeavour, achievement and relief, just how important a role we play in many people's lives. The tremendous support that the Trust receives from its Consultants, must also be recognised, as without their continuing effort, we would not be able to bring relief of pain and suffering to the needy. We now have nearly 400 Consultants, covering approximately 150 specialties which means our ability to support those in need is ever increasing. We are proud to say that our service is enjoyed by a diverse patient profile, ranging from maternity care right through to the age of 110 years, our oldest patient to date!



Swinfen Charitable Trust News - Just One Click Away

We are delighted to unveil our new website, www.swinfencharitabletrust.org which we will continue to develop, so that it gives everyone up-to-date information on the work of the Trust.



Season's Greetings

As we approach our Christmas time, we would like to wish all our readers the very best now and in the New Year.

AIMS OF THE TRUST: TO ASSIST POOR, SICK AND DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD BY ESTABLISHING TELEMEDICINE LINKS BETWEEN HOSPITALS IN REMOTE PLACES AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AROUND THE GLOBE.





China's Sichuan Province Earthquake Disaster



Survivors in Search of Help after the Devastating Quake

Dr Rachel Pinniger and her team were involved in the rescue work following the devastating earthquake in Chengdu, Sichuan Province that struck on 12th May. She wrote "2.28pm is the time seared into the memory of many, when the colossal Sichuan earthquake struck." The area is home to 30 million people on the plains and 2 million in the mountains and contains much of the industrial base for the Sichuan Province. 5 million people were left homeless, 720,000 dead or missing, and more than 350,000 injured. Over 20,000 aftershocks were recorded some weeks later and still continue. Along with these, the torrential rains and landslides present a continuing hazard for those attempting to gain some form of normality back in their lives.

The Chinese government reacted fast and efficiently in unity with the army, Red Cross and volunteers, who helped out in the initial rescue and relief operations. Tent 'cities' were erected for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP camps) and temporary housing has been put in place for the majority of the homeless.

We were involved in helping to co-ordinate volunteer medical, rescue and relief teams, many of which came from across China and further afield. They supplied materials and assistance in response to requests from community and medical leaders as to what was required. Although not involved directly on the front line, we were glad to support and assist, as and when these requests came through. This took many forms but the knowledge and experience that the Trust provided and continues to provide, is invaluable. We are continually grateful to consultants who allow us to continue to provide this service, making their expertise available via the great work of the Swinfen Trust.

"We are so happy to be able to access the expertise available through the Swinfen Trust. Though we are not in a hospital situation at the moment, it is really helpful when people refer cases to me." Dr Rachel Pinniger.

Running Feat

Well done to Major Gareth Davies, husband of one of our Trustees, on his successful completion of the Neolithic Half-Marathon, which took place in May. Gareth's original aim was to run the Bath Half-Marathon in March but due to ill health, he was forced to pull out. Once he had recovered, it was time to take on the rolling hills of Salisbury Plain. His time of 1 hour 42 minutes would have been good for a flat course on tarmac, such as Bath; that he achieved this running a hilly cross-country course is even more commendable. His efforts raised a grand total of £974.

CONFERENCES

The Trust has been represented during the summer at the following Conferences by either Pat or Roger Swinfen, or both, at which they were invited to speak.

APRIL 2008 Roger spoke at the American Telemedicine Conference in Seattle and six weeks later attended the iCONS conference in Chicago, regarding telemedical support for the Iraqi Health Sector.

SEPTEMBER 2008 Roger & Pat were keynote speakers at the Paediatric Colloquium of the American Telemedicine Association mid-year meeting in Tampa, Florida. Also in September, Roger and Pat presented a paper at the Universitas 21 Health Sciences Meeting at the University of Virginia.

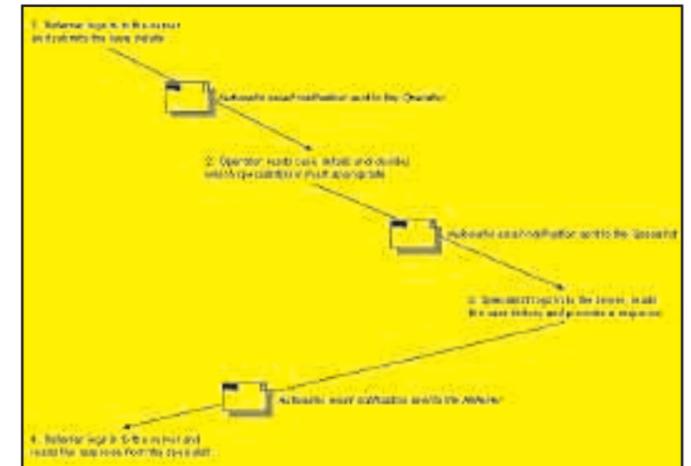
New AutoRouter System a Success

Professor Richard Wootton has also upgraded the AutoRouter to a new hybrid messaging system. The AutoRouter ran from July 2002 until August 2008 on a computer at the University of Queensland. It used ordinary email messages for communication, but the system became increasingly targeted by spam email. There were also difficulties in ensuring the confidentiality of patient information if referrers overlooked identifying details such as patient names on X-ray films.

The new system overcomes these problems and provides a secure archive of all case histories and the associated specialists' responses. The material is stored on a secure web server at a commercial data centre. Email is used for sending notification and acknowledgement messages only, i.e. these

messages contain no patient information.

The diagram below explains how the new system works.



Equipment for Madagascar

Many thanks to Brian Donaldson of the Kitchen Trust and Doug Choyce of DHL for coming to our rescue and delivering much needed Pulsair equipment to Dr Henry Nkumbe.



The Sound of Music

Congratulations also to Professor Anne Burdick, US Consultant Dermatologist and one of our Consultants, who sang at Canterbury Cathedral Choir Concert in August.

Awards Corner



Our congratulations go to those who received the following awards -

Lord and Lady Swinfen - The Norman Rowe International Education Foundation Award for humanitarian work with Telemedicine in the third world.

Professor James Ryan - The Award of Honorary Fellowship of The Royal Society of Medicine for humanitarian work. Our photograph shows Lord Swinfen and Professor Ryan with the President of The Royal Society of Medicine, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff.

