



ALWAYS ON HAND TO HELP

An article appeared recently in Gulf News on <http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/09/03/12/10294092.html>

'No place is too remote or baffling for the telemedicine system that has helped doctors in Antarctica and solved unusual cases. In its 10th year of operation, the system, run by the UK-based Swinfen Charitable Trust (SCT), links up with the Oasis Hospital in Al Ain.' By Carolina D'Souza.

Our picture shows Dr. Jacqueline.C.Hill, MBChB, MRCOG, PhD, Director of Physician Training, Education and Research at the Oasis Hospital, Al Ain, UAE, one of our more recent links. Jacqui works for Cure International and has referred to us in the past from Kabul.



Dr Jacquellne Hill

Special Treatment

A THREE-YEAR-OLD Iraqi girl, blinded and disfigured in a terrorist bombing that killed her mother, will travel to Britain within weeks for treatment funded by Sunday Times readers who have raised more than £100,000.

Their generosity means that Shams Kareem, who is called a 'blind angel' by her impoverished father, will be provided with specialist care to improve her life.

Yassir Abou-Rayyah, a surgeon at the world-renowned Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, has been so touched by the girl's plight that he has offered to waive his fees.

'Her picture is so sad; the story of the whole country is so sad,' he said

Two of our consultants, Dr Ian Murdoch, (Ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital) and Professor John Langdon (Maxillo - Facial and plastic surgeon) were involved when the case was referred to SCT in January this year. (It should be made clear that SCT did not receive any of the funds raised - Ed)

We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

The trust is indebted to Mrs Letitia Green of Charlottesville, Virginia, who has made a gift of a digital microscope to SCT. This is scheduled to go to a medical colleague of Dr Ray Pinniger, also working on the Tibetan Plateau.

Nepal

Oliver Ross, one of our paediatric consultants, writes to tell us that he has recently returned from a visit to Western Nepal - learning and teaching - as well as fact-finding. While there he was in contact with Dr Mark Zimmerman of the Nick Simons Institute, one of our referring doctors.

Congratulations

Dr Faiz Alwaely, Basra has been accepted for post-graduate training at the Royal Free Hospital in London.



Registered Charity Number 1077879

SAVING LIVES WITH TELEMEDICINE

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

Doing all the good we can.

As we move into a new year, we are seeing an increasing awareness of the work we do, as witnessed by the request that the Swinfens attend a conference at The United Nations in February 2009 (A report is featured elsewhere); an article in the Washington Post in November and; the heartfelt messages that are received by the Directors on a regular basis which are also testament to the invaluable help given by our Consultants to those who would otherwise suffer more.

The increasing use of the Internet that now touches almost every aspect of our lives, allows the 'virtual hospital' that we run to fit very comfortably into this age of enhanced technology. Our patients, wherever they are in the world, can receive the instant and expert attention of our Consultants, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

A recent 'round robin' to our Consultants made us appreciate the value of communication in many of the replies that were received, giving and receiving news.

We are pleased with the development of the website and if you have not visited it recently, please do so (www.swinfencharitabletrust.org). We have been able to provide details and photographs of many of the remote hospitals that we serve. Always looking for more and if any reader has more information for the website, please get in touch. On our News page, for example, there are

New Trustee



We are delighted to welcome Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO, CMG as a new Trustee. Sir Anthony, lately H.M's Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and former Ambassador to Austria will be well known to many of our readers and brings the Trust a wealth of experience.

Project HOPE

Following the UN Meeting in New York, the Swinfens and Professor K. Rheuban met with Kendra Davenport, Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving of Project HOPE. It is envisaged that a group formed by the University of Virginia, Project HOPE and SCT will work together on suitable projects in the Developing world. So far Mexico, India and China have been areas that have been mentioned. Planning is already underway. (For more detail on Project Hope, please visit www.projecthope.org)

details of some of the organisations with whom we work closely, as well as information on media events and training provided, particularly in Iraq.

Acknowledgements: The Union Advertising Agency, for its continuing support and production of this newsletter.

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



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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.





Run for Swinfen

Martin Tanner of ADM Computing, our IT support company, has run the Great South Run for the second time for the Trust and has raised £450. Well done, Martin and thank you.

Australian Bush Fires

We are sad to learn of at least three deaths of close friends and relatives of colleagues at the University of Melbourne, in the recent dreadful fires in Victoria, Australia.

Delivering the Goods



the handover at the Serena Hotel Nairobi.

Charlie Mayo, husband of Arabella, one of our Trustees, recently visited Kenya to deliver a Laptop and camera to Mr Leonard Akwany for use at the Ombek Childrens' Dispensary.

Windsor Dialogues & Follow Up UN Meeting in New York

At the intervention of Jon Linkous of the American Telemedicine Association, the Swinfens were invited to participate in a High Level Working session on 8th/9th December 2008 at Windsor Castle, on 'Age of Connectivity: Cities, Magnet for Hope' Windsor Health Dialogue series. As a result of attending and speaking at that meeting, they were then invited to attend 'Harmonious Cities: Music, Technology, Culture and Health', High Level Working Session in support of United Nations Programs: World Urban Forum 'From China to Brazil' held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on February 3rd 2009. They have now been invited to be panel members at the next session of the Windsor Health Dialogues to be held at Windsor Castle in early May this year.

Professor Karen Rheuban of the University of Virginia also attended the New York Meeting on behalf of the U21/SCT consortium.

UK CONFERENCE

The Swinfens attended the 'Rethinking Global Health, Political and Practical challenges from Foreign and Security Policy' at Chatham House on 10th/11th March at which various topics were discussed, including leadership and power in the Global Health Agenda and understanding the role of health in helping countries in post-conflict environments. It was hoped that the involvement of SCT would be a critical part of this support. We await developments to report on later. British, U.S, Norwegian, Japanese, South African and Thai politicians and the U.S/British military and many NGOs were among the attendees.

Tackling Child Cancer in India

We have accepted an application from Mr Kaviratne of the St. Jude India Child Care Centres, to provide support for their child cancer cases who have been discharged from hospital. We have put them in touch with a Prosthesis Orthopaedic Surgeon in Mumbai, recommended by our consultants at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

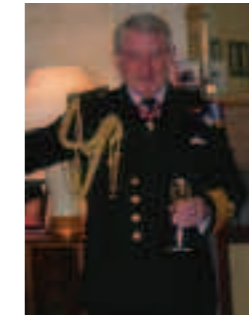
Surgeon Vice Admiral Ian Jenkins. CB CVO FRCS

JOHN WESLEY'S RULE

It is with great sadness, that we record the death at the age of 63, of one of our long-standing Consultants and friend of the Trust who died in February this year whilst in office as Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle.

The Swinfens attended the funeral at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The First Reading was by Michael Jenkins, Ian and Liz's son. We think it deserves a place in the Newsletter as it describes the way Ian lived. He was of enormous help to SCT, gathering in consultants for the Trust and responding to many cases over the last ten years. He was a good friend and will be sorely missed. Our sympathies are with his wife Liz and their family.



*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."*

That was the way Ian conducted his life, right up to the day he died.

Thank you for your kind words...

"We are so proud to read about your wonderful project in Washington Post, and wish you prosperity. The people here appreciate so much this charity and they hope that you will be able to help in solving medical problems by providing more and more facilities including clinical attachments in advanced health centers or training courses on recent approaches to deal with medical difficulties."

DOCTOR IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

"Your work gives many of us in the third world hope based on pure human desire to give help to those who need it and bridge the artificial gap between nations."

DOCTOR IN YEMEN

"I think what was written is not expressing the moral benefit of feeling that someone is sitting in front of you dedicated his time to serve you nor the actual benefit of what could be a consultation with a proper answer (that will) affect the management and relief the treating physician (is able to give) especially in our setting in Iraq that even the communication between Iraqi doctors inside the country."

DOCTOR IN BAGHDAD

"Thank you for this great idea, helping ill and sick ones through the Internet, may God help you to do it for a long time!"

RAINER PASSLAC, GERMANY

Writing Success

A new book entitled 'Telehealth in the Developing World' has been published by RSM Press, details of which are available at <http://www.rsmppress.co.uk/bkwooton8.htm>.

A chapter written by the Swinfens, Richard Wootton and

Peter Brooks entitled 'A low-cost international e-referral network' is included. Lord CRISP says in the foreword 'Who can fail to be impressed by the SWINFEN CHARITABLE TRUST and its journey? It has pioneered the use of the simplest of modern electronic technology to ensure that people working in isolation in poor countries can benefit from the opinions of specialists in the richest countries.'

