



Reception

The Annual reception for diplomats, our consultants and referring doctors and our friends was held in June; this time in the beautiful surroundings of the Travellers' Club in Pall Mall.

We were pleased to welcome a number of dignitaries including HE Khalid Al-Duwaisan, Ambassador of Kuwait and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.

One of our consultants, Dr Charles Cox, FRCOG, gave a short address to update those present on the progress of the Trust



Lady Swinfen with Dr Tony Falconer, International Vice-President of the RCOG.



Lord Swinfen and HE Khalid Al-Duwaisan.

We are very sad to announce the death of Dr Jean Burton Brown, FRCOG.

She passed away on Tuesday 15th September 2009. She was aged a remarkable 101 years and two months.

Jean was a cousin of Lord Swinfen, and took a lively and informed interest in the work of the SCT, having travelled widely. She was active to the end, playing bridge, and painting and keeping up with friends.

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.



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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SAVING LIVES WITH TELEMEDICINE

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

In Perspective

In this Newsletter, we feature an article about a fundraising expedition to Mount Everest Base Camp and our picture caption indicates the extremes of temperature at Concordia as the Base is plunged into darkness. In another part of the globe, one small child is able to communicate from a remote place in the developing world via her Doctor, with a top medical Consultant and obtain the help she needs.

In our work over the last 10 years, we have grown – with the help of all who read this Newsletter – from a good idea in Bangladesh in 1999 to a virtual hospital covering much of the developing world in 2009.

STATISTICS

From 1 hospital link back in 1999 to over 160 in September 2009.

On average 900 messages a year over our links.

We have been able to help a large number of mothers and children particularly. For example:

In the last year there were over 40 gynaecological/obstetric referrals with 28 from Iraq alone.

Paediatric referrals in the same period totalled 63 with 12 coming from China and 3 from Yemen.

Trek to Everest Base Camp

Debbie (Sharon Checksfield's* sister) and her partner, Alan, recently completed a trek to the Everest Base Camp on behalf of the Trust, raising nearly £1,000 for which we are most grateful. Here is their story.

Everest, that magnificent 'wonder of the world'.

Alan and I undertook huge amounts of preparation, and over the months of our training, sweated and endured blood and blisters, but was worth every tear that was shed.

Once we had landed at Lukla 'airport' nine days of continuous effort followed. Trying to cope with ever-increasing altitude and its effects challenging our bodies physically, mentally and emotionally. We trekked through stunning Sherpa country. Our 'team' started 14 strong, sadly only 10 made it to Base camp. Alan and I had made it. We stood at her base and shared, not only with a piece of the famous 'apple pie' but also the euphoria with those that had reached the base of the highest point of the world, and those who had, and had yet, to take the ultimate climb. The whole camp was an ocean of colour, prayer flags and tents everywhere and then realisation hits... you have to walk back!!

Four days for the return walk as no acclimatisation days

needed. But we all had the biggest smiles on the way down, passing those on the way up the trail with a 'Namaste' greeting and some words of encouragement. What a fantastic journey; one to stay in our hearts forever.

A third world. Our reward...a fantastic visual and spiritual sojourn through the Himalayas with a better understanding of the arduous life that the Sherpa people accept as their lot. A third world race that materialistically don't have much but are the friendliest people who can't help you enough. They never stop smiling and laughing, wishing to make a memorable experience for all who are willing to undertake the challenge. Although theirs is a varied and sometimes harsh environment, they are so very, very proud of their mountains. Himalayas, thank you and we will be back.



*Sharon is the Part-time Researcher for the Trust

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.





Concordia Base, Antarctica



With a temperature of minus 70 degrees C, Dr Eric Lotz sends us these pictures of the full moon in August and the last of the daytime earlier in the year

CONGRATULATIONS

to Dr Mazin Al - Jadiri, Children's Welfare Hospital, Baghdad who received an award for the best poster (Paediatrics (Cancer)) at the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research Conference in Antalya.

...and also to The Lord (Roger) Swinfen on his election to the Board of Directors of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA); to Professor Karen Rheuban, one of our Consultants, on her appointment as President of the ATA; Dr Joe Kvedar, another of our Consultants, who was honoured by the ATA with its Prestigious Individual Leadership Award and Professor Crispian Scully CBE awarded the Most Outstanding Achievements in Dentistry Award at the 2009 UK National Dental Awards Ceremony; it would take much of this Newsletter to list Professor Scully's other previous awards!

India

Following a request for help from Mr Kaviratne, we have pleasure in supporting St Jude India Childcare Centres. Mr and Mrs Kaviratne gave the Swinfens lunch in London recently and told them about their Child Cancer Centres where children and their families live while the child is undergoing treatment in Mumbai. SCT will continue to work with them.

New Ophthalmic Device

Professor Yogesan Kanagasingam writes to tell us that a new device will be released to the market at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in San Francisco later in the year. It is a multipurpose ophthalmic imaging device that can be used for both anterior segment and retinal imaging. It is low cost (1/5th of the cost of existing fundus cameras and slit-lamp devices), easy-to-operate and portable such that it can be used by nurses and primary care providers for screening of diabetic retinopathy and other sight threatening disease.

Nurturing by email

A tiny orphan weighing only 5.3 kg, at age 16 months with a serious heart condition, was severely malnourished and had difficulty in holding her head up. One of our Consultants, over a period of time, was able to recommend treatment that allowed this small person to be prepared for surgery. Two quotes from the referring Doctor "Thank you so much for your assistance, it makes a big difference to us here". "Thank you for your advice, it is so reassuring that there are people like yourself just an e-mail away".

Basrah Conference

Dr Charles Cox, FRCOG, Consultant to the Trust, attended the International Medical Corps Obstetric and Gynaecological Conference at Basra General Hospital in Iraq. Lectures were shared with local Iraqi specialists and several difficult Gynaecology cases were seen by the team and further opinions obtained from the College luminaries via The Swinfen Charitable Trust expert panel.

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Leave a Legacy.

Just a thought. A gift by way of a legacy can benefit Charities enormously. In some instances, these can be linked to a specific request, such as supporting a particular hospital; for specific equipment, or to help people in a specific part of the world.

For more information:
www.remembercharity.org.uk

Student Elective

The Trust has been pleased to be involved in the placement of Omer Suhaib for his elective at the request of Professor Asif Zafar, Rawalpindi Medical College, Pakistan. This follows a successful placement in 2006 of Kate O'Dea at the Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi.

Cameroon



14 year old Michaelou fell from a tree in Cameroon and landed on a branch which penetrated his skull. Although he was treated with great care, he was not expected to live. However SCT Consultants were available to give advice and funds were raised locally to have him operated on by a Neurosurgeon and as our picture shows he is now apparently both physically and mentally very well. The dressing in the picture is not covering an unhealed wound, it is there for protection as he is a normal, active young boy!

Quote from the referring doctor Dr Hamish Tait: *'Many thanks for your help. It is hugely reassuring here in the 'bush' to know that expert help is readily available.'*

