

# SAFE



Safe  
Anaesthesia  
Worldwide



Photo Credit: Evangelos Petatos EU/ECHIO

Read about our recent visit to Myanmar—Burma, on page 2

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## Welcome

Since the last newsletter there has been a great upsurge in activity in all three aspects of the work of Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide (SAWW).

In addition to the wide range of equipment requested by the Myanmar Society of Anaesthetists (read more on page 2), equipment has been distributed to meet the most urgent requests. These have included portable anaesthetic machines to Somalia and Zambia, and CPAP machines to treat children with respiratory failure in Ghana and Tanzania. In addition SAWW helped the charity Maternal Childhealth Advocacy International (MCAI) to provide an oxygen generator to deliver a reliable supply of oxygen at Phebe Hospital, Liberia during the Ebola crisis.

Teaching programs have been supported by lectures, demonstrations and the donation of text books to Ghana, Myanmar and Malaysia. Our active research program includes studies to improve pain relief for women in labour, the introduction of containers to store oxygen at low pressure, introduction of a portable ventilator, further development of the portable capnograph and a new paediatric ventilator. We were delighted to receive an award for innovation from the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) for the third consecutive year.

*Dr Roger Eltringham, Medical Director*

## Combined study with the University of Malaysia

SAWW has been invited by Prof Chan Yoo Kuen, Head of the Anaesthesia Department at the University of Malaysia to co-operate in a study comparing the effectiveness of

sevoflurane administered by an analgesic vaporizer (Diamedica UK Ltd) with the more traditional combination of nitrous oxide and oxygen (entonox) to provide pain relief for women in labour.

In low-income countries medical gases are prohibitively expensive and there is often no pain relief at all for women during childbirth. This alternative could ensure cost-effective pain relief is available to prevent women suffering in poor areas of the world.

Dr Roger Eltringham and Robert Neighbour visited the University in February to assess the progress of the trial and to give presentations to the Department of Anaesthesia. The trial is proceeding satisfactorily and it is hoped that the findings can be presented at the World Congress of Anaesthesia in Hong Kong next year.



*Dr Eltringham with Sister Lailavati, Senior Midwife co-ordinating the research project in Kuala Lumpur*

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- Dr Roger Eltringham, Chair and Medical Director
- Carol Newman, Secretary



SAWW and Diamedica donated a Glostavent anaesthetic machine to the Thanlyin General Hospital, Yangon, Myanmar, for use in the operating theatre and for teaching purposes.



A Lifebox oximeter being presented to the Thanlyin Hospital, in the presence of incoming MSA President Prof. Kyi Kyi Sann



Visiting anaesthetists, Dr Roger Eltringham, Dr Amanda Barac and Dr David Pescod, with Diamedica engineer Robert Neighbour, at Thanlyin General Hospital meeting with local consultant anaesthetists in Myanmar.

## Safe anaesthesia in Myanmar

SAWW recently had the opportunity to help the anaesthesia service in Myanmar. Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, has been under military rule for many years, and until recently remained very isolated from the rest of the world.

SAWW was invited, along with members of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, by the Myanmar Society of Anaesthesiologists to assist in the planning and delivery of their 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care held in Yangon on Feb 6-7 2015.

The President of the Society, Professor Tin Myint, requested that the charity take responsibility for introducing a wide variety of subjects that would be of general interest to all members but particularly to anaesthetists from the more peripheral and inaccessible regions of the country.

The SAWW lecturing team consisted of anaesthetists Ric Lawes, Kynn Wynn and Roger Eltringham, together with engineer Robert Neighbour. Together they provided the following activities:

- A day-long equipment workshop, during which the use, care and maintenance of new equipment was demonstrated.
- A session in which frequently asked questions about equipment were answered by a panel.
- An interview with the Myanmar Radio and TV service explaining the improvements being introduced.
- Lectures on: Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide; Restoring the culture of thrift; Postoperative Neuro Behavioural Disturbances; A Review of Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA); Public Relations in Anaesthesia; and Respiratory Failure in Infants and Young Children.

In addition to the contributions to the academic program, SAWW also

donated a range of equipment (see below) requested by the Myanmar Society of Anaesthetists. This included a Glostavent anaesthetic machine that was delivered to the Thanlyin Hospital in the periphery of the city where it was badly needed in the operating theatre. It is also a very convenient location for teaching purposes.

The meeting was attended by over two hundred delegates from Myanmar and neighbouring countries after which Prof Tin Myint summarized his feelings of appreciation in the following words “*My gratitude to you for our 11<sup>th</sup> Congress is beyond my ability to describe – I would like to have continuous support from you*”.

Our thanks to all our supporters who made this possible and to Diamedica (UK ) Ltd who generously assisted SAWW with training and provision of equipment.

### Donations to Myanmar:

- A Glostavent anaesthetic machine, to provide safe, reliable anaesthesia in low-resource settings
- A portable anaesthetic machine that is suitable for work in remote hospitals or following disasters
- 2 Lifebox pulse oximeters for monitoring oxygenation during anaesthesia
- 3 syringe pumps for the administration of TIVA
- A selection of anaesthesia textbooks
- A CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) generator for the treatment of respiratory failure in infants and young children



## SOS Somaliland

Poverty is a daily reality in Somaliland. Many people go without even basic necessities. Although peaceful since its independence in 1994, Somaliland is still struggling to rebuild the healthcare system destroyed during the civil war.

A colleague recently visited the country and reported to us on the conditions there and the urgent need for safe anaesthesia. Subsequently an appeal for help from the Al-Hyatt Hospital in the city of Borama has made us determined to raise funds for an anaesthetic machine for the hospital.

Al-Hayatt Hospital serves a population of approximately 250,000 people. It has a total of 82 beds, 3 operating rooms, and only one fully functioning anaesthetic machine.

There is no reliable supply of medical oxygen. At times the hospital has been without medical oxygen for as long as 6 months. As a result, patients suffer and lives are lost unnecessarily.

SAWW wants to equip the hospital with a reliable anaesthetic machine that has been specially designed to work in difficult conditions and remote locations. A Glostavent anaesthetic machine generates its own oxygen supply from atmospheric air, a free resource that will never run out. It can function without electricity or oxygen, if necessary, ensuring the safety of patients at all times, as well as saving money.

All the equipment we supply is reliable, safe and economical, as well as being easy to operate and maintain.

We can install the equipment and quickly train local staff to use it and keep it in good working order. We also provide ongoing support to ensure the hospital continues to have a reliable anaesthetic service.

To achieve our goal, SAWW needs to raise a total of £15,000. This is a considerable sum, but we calculate that new anaesthetic machine will enable the hospital to carry out in the region of 600 to 1,000 low-cost operations each year, for a minimum of 5 years, and more likely as long as 10 years.

To support us please consider making a donation using the coupon on the back of this newsletter or online via our website [www.safe4all.org.uk](http://www.safe4all.org.uk). To donate £10 NOW simply text **SAWW10 £10** to 70070. Thank you.

Anaesthesia is not a luxury, but an essential component in the full range of elective and emergency surgical procedures. The aim of SAWW is to make anaesthesia available to everyone who needs it.

A recent publication by the World Bank Group stated that basic surgical operations are among the most cost-effective health interventions in developing countries and that greater access to surgical care could avert 1.5 million deaths a year.

**Please donate what you can. Every donation helps and just £10 can make a difference. Thank you.**



*A midwife cares for a mother and child at the Edna Adan University Hospital in Hargesia, Somaliland*

### *A few key facts:*

- *Anaesthesia is vital for surgical procedures that could prevent 1.5 million deaths a year*
- *Somaliland has one of the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the world*
- *Many hospitals in Somaliland were destroyed in the civil war*
- *The Al-Hyatt Hospital serves a quarter of a million people, but lacks reliable oxygen supplies and anaesthesia*



*Somaliland has made important improvements in education, health and infrastructure, but its economy is far from developed. Due to its lack of recognition as an independent region, it struggles to gain access to foreign aid. Photo credit: European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO)*

## Fundraising

It is entirely due to the generous support we have received that we are able to take such an active role in the promotion of Safe Anaesthesia in many countries. Numerous presentations have been made to audiences ranging from churches, Probus clubs, and Rotary to Mothers' Unions, business forums and rugby clubs. After hearing, often for the first time, of the plight of those who have no anaesthetic service, many were clearly shocked and expressed a determination to provide some practical help.

Schools in particular have shown great energy and initiative in fundraising projects. Several individual schools have raised enough money (£3000) to purchase a portable anaesthetic machine for use in remote areas and disasters. They have subsequently become very involved in following the results of their hard work.

It is no exaggeration to say that, as a direct result of their exposure to the problems described, several students have opted for a career in medicine or a related profession. At their request SAWW now provides tutorials entitled 'Improving Interview Technique' to help those contemplating such a career.

### Fundraising Talks

SAWW Medical Director, Dr Roger Eltringham is available to give illustrated talks to groups who wish to raise funds. Contact us at [info@safe4all.org.uk](mailto:info@safe4all.org.uk) or phone 07527506969.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped SAWW so far. If you would like to help us raise funds please visit the fundraising pages of our website for a range of ideas and helpful guidance. [www.safe4all.org.uk](http://www.safe4all.org.uk)

If you shop online then you can easily help to raise funds for SAWW by using the [EasyFundraising.org.uk](http://EasyFundraising.org.uk) or [GiveAsYouLive.com](http://GiveAsYouLive.com) websites. Remember you can sell your unwanted items to fundraise for us on [Ebayforcharity.com](http://Ebayforcharity.com).



*Making a donation couldn't be easier, here's how...*

**Please help by making a donation today.** Your gift, no matter how big or small, will be gratefully received and used to provide safe anaesthesia to people in need.

- Please make cheques payable to Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide. Send your cheque or postal order to the address below.
- To donate by online banking please make your payment to Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide. Our Bank: NatWest, Sort code 60-60-08, Our account number: 47161272. (IBAN: GB06 NWBK 6060 0847 161272, BIC: NWBKGB2L)
- To make a regular payment by standing order, please contact us for a donation form or you can download the form from the Support Us page of the website [www.safe4all.org.uk](http://www.safe4all.org.uk)

However you donate, if you are a UK tax payer your gift will be worth more to us if you sign the Gift Aid Declaration below and return it to us with your donation. Thank you.

**Yes, I want to help save lives. Please accept my donation of £** \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Tick for a receipt

### Gift Aid Declaration (for eligible UK tax payers only)

*I am a UK tax payer and I would like Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide to reclaim tax on all donations that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please ensure you provide your full name and home address above. In order to claim Gift Aid you must pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains at least equal to the amount of tax that we will reclaim on your donations. Please notify us if circumstances change.

**Return to: Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide, White Lyon House, Marden, Kent, TN12 9DR, UK.**

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