

SAFE



Getting to grips with new anaesthesia equipment in Somaliland (see page 2)

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Welcome

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Sir Nicholas Fenn GCMG on 18 September 2016. Sir Nicholas, or Nick as he preferred to be called, was appointed honorary president of Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide at the inaugural meeting on 16 March 2011. Despite a busy schedule, Nick readily agreed to help the charity become established and always found time to give full support, advice and encouragement. As the work of the charity expanded to include less familiar parts of the world his experience of matters of international diplomacy was especially appreciated and helped establish contacts in unfamiliar territory. His contribution will be greatly missed but certainly not forgotten.

Dr Roger Eltringham, Medical Director

Bursting with babies!

Almost 10,000 babies are born at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital (Mbale RRH) in Uganda every year. This is nearly double the number born in an average hospital in the UK. The neonatal unit at Mbale cares for tiny babies who have been born prematurely and need intensive care. The unit is sometimes full to bursting with 40 babies in only 10 beds.

Premature babies are prone to infections and their immature lungs often fail to work effectively. These babies may struggle to survive, especially in low-resourced hospitals in poor countries.

SAWW has assisted the work at Mbale neonatal unit by donating equipment that helps babies with breathing difficulties. The equipment, consisting of an oxygen concentrator, flow splitter and CPAP device (delivers continuous positive airway pressure therapy) was specially chosen to be cost-effective in low resource settings and will not use up the hospital's tight budget.

Thanks to an incredible team of dedicated nursing staff working with Dr Adam Hewitt-Smith and Dr Kathy Burgoine, the mortality rate in the neonatal unit has fallen from 52% to 14%. A tremendous

achievement that is saving around 80 tiny lives each month.

SAWW also provided three patient monitors that were badly needed for the operating theatres at Mbale RRH. The hospital provides surgical services to over 7500 patients every year, more than half of these are emergency caesarean sections to save the lives of mothers and babies. The new patient monitors will enable the early detection and swift action in the event of complications during anaesthesia and surgery and improve patient safety.



New born babies being cared for at Mbale neonatal unit and receiving CPAP treatment to help them breathe

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- Dr Roger Eltringham Chair and Medical Director
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Dr Ylva Konsburg (left) and Dr Roger Eltringham (right) receive innovation awards from Dr Paul Clyburn, President of the AAGBI

Prize-winning Innovations

Innovations supported by SAWW won two awards at this year's Winter Scientific Meeting of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) in January.

The entry entitled 'A new oxygen reservoir for difficult environments' by Robert Neighbour and Roger Eltringham won first prize. Their submission described how oxygen, prepared by an oxygen concentrator, can now be stored in low pressure containers ready for use. This enables anaesthesia to proceed safely and without delay even when conventional oxygen supplies are not available.

A second entry, also supported by SAWW, and entitled 'The Solox™ System' by David Peel and colleagues, won the runner up prize. They described how oxygen can be produced from atmospheric air using solar energy to drive an oxygen concentrator. It has great potential for improving safety in those countries with financial problems but plenty of sunshine.

This is the 5th consecutive year that submissions supported by SAWW have received national awards. The winners kindly donated prize money totalling £3000 to SAWW.

Oxygen facts

- Oxygen is an essential medicine. It is needed for anaesthesia and for oxygen therapy
- Oxygen is used to treat many forms of lung and heart disease, severe bleeding, emergency medicine, resuscitation and life threatening complications in childbirth.
- At least 1.5 million children hospitalised with pneumonia will need oxygen treatment
- Oxygen is not available in many health facilities in low resource settings. As a result millions of patients do not get the treatment they need
- Oxygen therapy can make the difference between life and death for the most vulnerable patients

Solox™ System

Over the past twelve months SAWW has continued its support for the exciting new enterprise known as the Solox™ project, which was initiated by Dr David Peel and first reported in our previous newsletter.

During the subsequent twelve months the Solox™ project has made considerable progress. Solar panels have been erected in a field near the Ashdown Forest and the electricity produced has been shown to be capable of powering an oxygen concentrator. In this way solar power is able to provide an alternative source of oxygen for use in isolated hospitals in poor countries whenever conventional methods fail.

When used in combination with the oxygen storage and compressor system recently introduced by Diamedica, it was demonstrated that the oxygen produced can then be stored under pressures sufficient for use with a standard anaesthetic machine. Arrangements are now being made for further testing to be carried out in a University department in a part of the world with sufficient sunshine to ensure adequate production of oxygen throughout the year.

An inaugural meeting was held in December 2016 and a committee formed to administer Solox™ under the chairmanship of Dr Peel. SAWW recognizes the importance of this research towards improving the anaesthesia services in less affluent countries and looks forward to working closely with the Solox project.

Donations should be made via Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide and be sent to White Lyon House at Marden, Tonbridge Kent TN12 9DR. If Those wishing to donate specifically to the Solox project are asked to express this at the time the donation is made so that the necessary arrangements can be made.



Low resource hospitals often have to rely on oxygen cylinders that are expensive, difficult to transport and run out

Equipped for Life

We have previously reported on a project to provide anaesthesia machines to the Al-Hyatt Hospital in Somaliland. Building on this success, SAWW joined forces with partners from Kenya, the UK and Australia to hold the first Safe Anaesthesia for Somaliland conference, or SANSOM.

In January, more than 30 anaesthesia providers from across Somaliland converged on the Edna Adan University Hospital in Hargeisa for a Continuing Medical Education (CME) course. This was the first CME course for anaesthesia in the country's history—a momentous occasion indeed!

The CME course was run by Dr Mark Newton and his colleagues from Kijabe Hospital, Kenya, with local trainers at the Edna Adan University Hospital. The theme was *Anaesthesia for the Mother and Paediatric Surgical Patient in Somaliland* and practical workshops focused on neonatal care and resuscitation with a sophisticated simulation manikin. Participants also received training in the keeping of patient records.

Many of those who attended received kits of equipment that will enable them to deliver safe anaesthesia in remote and poorly resourced hospitals. These kits included a portable

anaesthesia machine, oxygen concentrators, laryngoscope sets and other essential items.

The equipment was supplied by Diamedica and MD Robert Neighbour held classes on how to use and care for the new kit. Subsequently Robert went on a 4 day road trip, visiting hospitals around the country to help install equipment and ensure anaesthesia staff were confident in using it.

SAWW contributed 10 Lifebox pulse oximeters for monitoring patients and also donated one entire kit of anaesthesia equipment to Mohamed Abdi Abdiladhi at Gargaar Hospital in Hargeisa. Mohamed is dedicated to his profession and a valuable asset to the Somaliland health system. He told us: *"I will practise anaesthesia until I retire - or until I die."*

Our thanks to Maidstone Lions who generously supported this project and to everyone who contributed. Many more hospitals in Somaliland have been identified that are in need of basic equipment for anaesthesia and intensive care.

If you would like to help, please consider making a donation now or begin your fundraising effort today.



Anaesthesia equipment donated by SAWW and Maidstone Lions was gratefully received at Gargaar Hospital

Transformation in Somaliland

- Decades of violent conflict largely destroyed the health services in Somaliland
- The country faces massive challenges but is making significant progress
- Five years ago there were no anaesthesia technicians in the country. Now more than 30 have graduated from new training programmes
- The first SANSOM anaesthesia refresher course was held in Somaliland in January 2017
- 8 kits of anaesthesia equipment that can function in low resource hospitals have been distributed, thanks to the DAK Foundation and SAWW

World Congress in Hong Kong

The World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) held in Hong Kong in September 2016 was attended by a global audience of some 9000 delegates. SAWW has delighted to be given a stand at this major event to promote our charity's work.

SAWW also hosted a reception during the WCA. The reception was attended by delegates from many countries and included an illustrated talk on the work of SAWW and a display of innovative equipment now available for use in difficult situations.

Many of those attending learned of the work of SAWW for the first time. This resulted in several generous donations and practical offers of help, as well as invitations to give presentations on the recent advances in equipment, now available for those working in difficult situations in isolated communities in Asian and Pacific region countries.

We would like to thank Diamedica (UK) Ltd for their assistance with this event and for kindly sponsoring the SAWW reception.



Our stand at the WCA 2016 in Hong Kong brought SAWW to the attention of anaesthetists from all around the globe

Fundraising

During the course of 2016 presentations were made to various schools in Kent about the activities of SAWW. In response several made imaginative efforts to raise money to great effect. Thank you to the many schools, local groups, clubs and individuals who have raised funds for SAWW. You provide the mainstay of our funding and support without which SAWW's lifesaving work could not take place.

In October, SAWW attended the District Rotary Conference in the South East held in Eastbourne, where there was a keen interest in our work. Several Rotary groups have made generous donations towards vital items of equipment. Most recently Tonbridge Rotary donated £4000 to provide more crucial CPAP machines to support babies with breathing difficulties.



These machines are already being used to great effect in hospitals in more than 30 low income countries around the world.

Trustee Colin Whittle presents SAWW's work at the South East District Rotary Conference in Eastbourne in October

Please support Jon's marathon effort

Biomedical engineer Jon Meek is running his first ever marathon in Edinburgh in May to raise funds for SAWW.

Jon told us: "My work takes me to hospitals in poor countries and I have witnessed at first hand the difficult conditions and inadequate equipment in many locations. I know SAWW is doing amazing work to change this and that they spend funds wisely, that is why I want to help them."



Please show your support by sponsoring Jon on his EveryClick website www.everyclick.com/jonmeek or send your donation directly to us. Thank you.

Fundraising Talks and Events

SAWW Founder and Medical Director, Dr Roger Eltringham is available to give illustrated talks to groups who wish to raise funds. There is no charge for talks but we would appreciate a donation to cover our costs. Contact us at info@safe4all.org.uk or phone 07527506969.



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

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. **THANKYOU**

Yes, I want to help save lives. Please accept my donation of £_____

Name _____ Address _____

_____ 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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