

# SAFE



*Many Mongolian children living in remote areas cannot reach hospitals for emergency treatment. Read more on page 3. Photo: Interplast.org.au / Woodrow Wilson*

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## *Welcome*

The principal stimulus for the formation of the charity Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide (SAWW) in 2012 was the sight of 'State of the Art' anaesthetic equipment, donated at great expense, lying unused and decaying in the store rooms of hospitals around the developing world. These donations of inappropriate equipment had been going on for years and were seemingly unstoppable.

Generally, the recipients had not been consulted as to which items of equipment they needed in their particular circumstances, rather they were told by outsiders what they were going to receive. All too often, this was 'top of the range' equipment that was designed for use in modern hospitals in wealthy countries. It was not designed for use in situations where, for example, the supplies of oxygen and electricity were unreliable and there was no easy access to trained engineers for essential servicing and maintenance.

Clearly those working in difficult or dangerous surroundings have special needs to enable them to overcome the additional problems they face in order to administer anaesthesia safely and reliably. The charity has set about meeting these needs in three ways; by supplying equipment that has been specifically designed to overcome the additional local difficulties, by providing the education to enable the recipients to use donated equipment safely and efficiently, and by supporting research into new equipment designed for use in difficult and dangerous situations.

All equipment donations from the charity are now followed up and trustees require evidence that it has proved effective before further donations are considered. Our thanks are due to our supporters for raising the money to make the donations possible – the trustees will ensure it continues to be spent effectively.

*Dr Roger Eltringham, Medical Director*

## *How you helped in 2017*

This year, supporters of SAWW have helped to improve anaesthesia and patient care in nine countries: Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Somaliland and Tanzania. SAWW donated anaesthesia machines, patient monitors, ventilators, oxygen concentrators and many other items of equipment to enable safe anaesthesia and surgery in difficult locations. In addition, SAWW provided sponsorship, training and text books to support anaesthetists working in some of the poorest regions of the world.

With your continuing support we look forward to achieving even more in 2018.



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Laerdal Penguin Suction Device



A baby benefiting from a donated CPAP machine in The Gambia. Photo: @humanityfirstuk



The urgently needed Helix ventilator being donated to the team from Alotau Hospital, Papua New Guinea. Photo: WFSA

## *Penguins that help babies breathe!*

It may look like a child's toy, but this little penguin-shaped suction device can save a baby's life by clearing their airways to help them breathe.

Nearly one million babies die at birth because they fail to start breathing and a similar number are disabled due to inadequate breathing at birth. New born babies cannot blow their nose or clear their own throats but a simple suction device can be used to clear their airways and prevent many deaths.

For many babies born in low-resource settings, even this basic intervention is not available. The reusable Penguin suction device has been designed for use in low-resource settings and is made from tough silicone. It can be easily cleaned and disinfected or autoclaved many times.

SAWW plans to donate Penguin suction devices to hospitals in need and will distribute a Penguin device to accompany the Baby CPAP machines that are supplied to hospitals in poor countries.

CPAP or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure is a relatively simple therapy to help premature and sick babies to

breathe. Babies with pneumonia, malaria, sepsis and premature babies, often do not survive and result in two and a half million deaths globally each year. CPAP can prevent many of these deaths, but it is usually unaffordable in low-income countries.

SAWW can supply a CPAP machine that is very inexpensive to run and generates its own oxygen, making it suitable for use in low-resourced hospitals. Thanks to donations from SAWW supporters, these CPAP devices have been donated to hospitals in The Gambia, Ghana, Somaliland, Tanzania and Uganda

We know that in many intensive care units CPAP machines are in constant use, saving hundreds of young lives every year. A CPAP machine costs £1700 to purchase, which in use over two years equates to less than £7 per life saved. The Penguin suction device costs just £5.

It costs so little to save a baby's life, so if you would like to help, please make a donation to SAWW. You can use the coupon on the back page of this newsletter or donate online. Thank you.

## *Ventilator for patients in PNG*

During a visit to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Dr David Wilkinson was moved by the plight of patients at Alotau Hospital. The hospital lacked a functional mechanical ventilator which meant that critically ill patients had to be hand-ventilated for hours or even days on end to be kept alive. One patient, who was now recovering, had been dedicatedly hand-ventilated by his family for an entire week.

Medical services in PNG are often limited by poor infrastructure, lack of basic medicines and scarcity of health workers. Dr Wilkinson contacted SAWW to help provide a suitable

device and the charity was able to donate a Helix Ventilator, which is economical to run and designed for use in low-resource hospitals.

Funding was provided jointly by SAWW, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and Dr Wilkinson himself.

The medical team at Alotau Hospital are hugely grateful for the new ventilator, which has proved invaluable in the Intensive Care Unit where it has helped to save the lives of patients with severe head injuries and acute bacterial meningitis.



## Reaching remote regions of Mongolia

One million Mongolians live too far from a hospital to access emergency surgery. Almost half of the population reside in rural areas and live a nomadic lifestyle, often hundreds of miles away from hospital care. As a result, many do not receive the surgery they need and thousands die or suffer long-term disability.

Professor Ganbold Lundeg at the Health Sciences University of Mongolia wants to change this by providing training and equipment to enable safe surgery in remote hospitals in rural Mongolia. He plans to equip 20 strategically located clinics, providing a network of facilities that can undertake essential and emergency surgeries, transforming health care for isolated rural communities.

SAWW has donated a portable anaesthesia machine to Prof Lundeg that is ideal for this purpose, as it can

function reliably without electricity and medical gases. It can be used in even the most basic conditions to enable emergency surgical procedures, such as lifesaving caesarean sections for mothers with complications in labour; or to treat injuries resulting from accidents and serious burns.

An appeal to supply more anaesthesia machines to Mongolia was launched by Jane Feinmann. On a visit to Mongolia, Jane had witnessed a nomad woman undergo an emergency Caesarean-section in a tent by torch light, thanks to the timely arrival of a surgical team with a portable anaesthesia machine. Each anaesthesia machine costs £3,100.

Donations can be made to SAWW and please indicate that your donation is for Mongolia, or visit Jane's dedicated website online [www.safeanaesthesiamongolia.co.uk](http://www.safeanaesthesiamongolia.co.uk)



Professor Ganbold Lundeg (right) and his team plan to transform surgical and anaesthesia care in isolated communities

### Some startling statistics

- ◆ Five billion people have no access to safe, affordable anaesthesia and surgery.
- ◆ Every two seconds, a person dies due to a condition that could be treated or managed with safe surgical care.
- ◆ Surgical care is essential to conquering some of the world's most urgent health challenges: fistula, road trauma injuries, cancer, congenital conditions, and burns.
- ◆ 800 women die everyday due to complications in childbirth. That is one mother dying every two minutes. 99% of these maternal deaths occur in developing countries.
- ◆ 8% of mothers die due to obstructed labour and no access to Caesarean sections or safe and appropriate surgical care.

## Monitoring patient safety

Mbale Regional Referral Hospital (RRH) serves over four million people in the east of Uganda. Care is provided to the region's poorest people at no cost, by staff that are paid government salaries barely high enough for their own families to survive.

The hospital provides emergency and elective surgical services to over 5000 patients every year. Over half are emergency caesarean sections to save the lives of mothers and their babies. The hospital also provides surgery for children and babies who weigh less than two kilograms.

Last year, a generous grant from the Kitchen Table Charities Trust enabled SAWW to supply three appropriate patient monitors to equip the operating theatres at Mbale RRH. Prior to the delivery of these monitors, patients had been undergoing surgical procedures with lower standards of care than would be acceptable in high resource hospitals such as those in the UK.

The monitors were installed in three out of four of the hospital's main operating theatres. A training package for the theatre staff was provided by a long-term volunteer from the UK. In addition to classroom training, one-to-one on the job training has taken place over the past six months.

One of donated monitors is used in the obstetric operating theatre, where between five and twelve emergency operations take place every day. These operations are conducted to save the lives of mothers and their babies who are sick or at risk. The monitors can rapidly detect changes in the vital signs of patients undergoing anaesthesia and allow caregivers to react more quickly.

Two monitors are in daily use in the hospital's main operating theatres where routine and emergency operations take place for both adults and children. The monitors continue to make a significant contribution to improvements in patient safety and standards of care.

Report by Dr Adam Hewitt-Smith, Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda.



Theatre staff at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital receiving training in the use of the new, donated equipment

## Fundraising

### SAWW Trustee to climb Mount Kilimanjaro



Mount Kilimanjaro rises through the clouds. Photo by Muhammad Mabdi Karim

SAWW's newest Trustee is Simon Brooks, who brings a wealth of experience to the Board as Senior Operating Department Practitioner at Benenden Hospital in Kent. Simon has won a travelling fellowship to Tanzania, where he intends to help with training at a local hospital and to raise funds for SAWW by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

With an elevation of 5,895 metres (19,341 feet) above sea level, Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free standing mountain in the world. Climbing this daunting peak will be a personal challenge for Simon and his fellow climbers from Benenden. They are already in training, with a trip to Wales to tackle Snowdonia and Cadair Idris.

Please support Simon's climb at The Big Give website: <https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/29043>  
Or at Simon's Just Giving crowdfunding website: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/benenden-groupkilimanjaro](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/benenden-groupkilimanjaro)  
Or make a donation using any of the methods below and indicate it is for Simon's Kilimanjaro Climb. Thank you.

### Special thanks

Thank you to everyone who has supported SAWW during the year. The fundraising of schools, church groups, Rotary clubs, Lions clubs and individuals have been splendid.

The village of Marden in Kent, where our HQ is based, and the surrounding localities, have been incredibly supportive of SAWW's work. Marden choir Antiphony have raised funds with their performances, concerts and quizzes. The Men's Breakfast Club and Marden Parish Church congregation have also supported the charity. Marden really is the village that just keeps giving!

Visitors to the *What Marden Does Best Show* in June (photo right) learnt how a charity based in the village actively helps poor people in some of the most remote and inhospitable regions of the world.



Pupils at Benenden School in Kent have raised nearly £7,000, which is enough to supply two portable anaesthesia machines to hospitals in need. An amazing achievement!

We also offer a special thank you to The Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust who have generously and consistently donated to SAWW for four consecutive years, and to the Kitchen Table Charities Trust. Your help has been invaluable.

If you would like to begin fundraising for SAWW please contact us or visit the fundraising pages of our website. Thank you.



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

**Your gift, no matter how big or small, will help to provide safe anaesthesia to people in need. Thank you.**

- Please make cheques payable to Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide. Send your cheque or postal order to the address below.
- Please visit our website to donate online [www.safe4all.org.uk](http://www.safe4all.org.uk) or find us on [www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk)
- To donate by online banking please make your payment to Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide. Sort code 60-60-08, Account No. 47161272. IBAN: GB06 NWBK 6060 0847 161272, BIC: NWBKGB2L
- Making a regular donation will help us to secure our support to those in need. To set up a regular payment by standing order, please contact us for a form.
- 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.
- We will never share your details with any third parties. We undertake to protect your data and to keep it safe.

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Tick for a receipt  Tick to receive our newsletter

**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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