

Anaesthesia in Developing Countries course, November 2019

Course report

Context of the course

The Oxford Anaesthesia in Developing Countries course (ADC) exists to improve the quality and sustainability of overseas work done by anaesthetists from the UK and other high-income countries. Many such clinicians have had excellent training and experience in their home systems but rightly perceive a gap between this background and the skills and knowledge they may need in a different setting. ADC (started in Oxford by Dr Mike Dobson in 1981) is a five-day course focused on meeting this need in a variety of ways. It remains the case that many anaesthetists travel to countries with very different resources, to work as part of clinical, teaching and research projects in a wide variety of contexts. Global awareness of urgent humanitarian needs and of the challenges to effective international assistance continues to grow. In addition, the burden of untreated surgical disease has recently become a hot topic of discussion among international agencies, particularly related to the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery whose findings were published in 2015.



Thus ADC, in common with only a handful of other centres worldwide, provides focused high-quality training both on clinical aspects of working in resource-poor settings and other challenges that the overseas health worker may face. Uniquely among these centres, ADC is delivered in Uganda. This affords opportunity for first-hand experience of an African healthcare setting and much-valued collaboration with faculty from a number of African countries.

November 2019 ADC

The course was held between the 18th and 22nd November 2019, based at the Mt Elgon Hotel in Mbale. It was accredited by the Royal College of Anaesthetists for 20 CPD points. 16 delegates attended, from Australia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Rwanda, Sweden, the US and the UK. There was a spread of experience from trainees through to mid-career consultants, several of whom had some prior experience working in low or middle income countries. Teaching was delivered in a variety of formats including lectures, seminars, interviews, panel discussions, hands-on skills sessions and hospital visits to CURE Hospital (an NGO hospital delivering predominantly paediatric neurosurgical care) and Mbale Regional Referral Hospital (a government referral hospital serving about 4 million people). As always there were also many opportunities to talk, network and reflect on learning informally 'around the edges' of the formal programme.



We were once again delighted to welcome an international faculty with representation from the UK, Zambia and Uganda. Details of faculty and their background are provided as an appendix, as is the detailed programme.



Drawover assembly

We are pleased to report that course feedback remains consistently positive; delegates unanimously stated that they would recommend the training to their colleagues and individual sessions were rated very highly. As always, particularly valuable were the opportunities to learn from and network with faculty anaesthetists from within Africa, who were able to explain a number of issues first hand and also discuss their experience of working with overseas volunteers. We are particularly grateful to Dr Hazel Mumpansa (Zambia), Dr Naomi Shamambo (Zambia), Dr Fred Musana and Dr Paul Ochieng (both from Mbale, Uganda), who gave up time to join us and teach.

We owe a great debt of thanks to those who make the course possible, in particular: Dr Sarah Hodges (Uganda) for organisation at Kampala, Dr Adam Hewitt-Smith who organised the conference facilities, hotel booking and hospital visits in Mbale, as well as teaching on the course itself, the whole faculty who work together to provide a unique and high-quality course; the Mt Elgon Hotel for their excellent facilities and welcome, the Oxford University Hospitals, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics and Nuffield Division of Clinical Neurosciences (OxSTAR), and Interface, for their continuing administrative support.

It is our aim to continue to provide high-calibre training to anaesthetists wishing to work overseas, and thus to improve the quality and sustainability of their work to the ultimate benefit of patients in the majority world.

Dr Hilary Edgcombe (Oxford Course Director)

“I have never been on such a great course.”

“It has been an invaluable experience!”

“Thank you so much for organising such a course! It has covered so much breadth in just one week.”

“One of the best courses I have been on.”

Course delegates, 2019



Appendix 1: Course programme 2019

Mon	0900	Welcome & housekeeping
	0915	The context: What is “Global Anaesthesia”?
	0945	Anaesthesia around the world
	1015	Resources I: Oxygen sources around the world
	1100	<i>Coffee</i>
	1130	Resources II: Using ketamine wisely
	1215	Clinical practice: Trauma and disasters
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>
	1400	Resources III: Where there’s no machine (drawover circuits)
	1530	Clinical practice: Unfamiliar pathologies
	1600	<i>Tea</i>
	1630	The view from... Uganda
	1700	Hospital briefing
Tue	0800	Hospital Visits I
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>
	1400	Resources IV: Procurement and New (old) volatiles
	1500	Resources V: Drawover machines
	1545	<i>Tea</i>
	1615	Clinical practice: Paediatrics
	1700	The view from... Zambia
Wed	AM	Hospital Visits II
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>
	1400	Resources V: Workshop: Equipment maintenance Blood Cleaning and sterilisation
	1530	Issues in research in LMICs
	1600	<i>Tea</i>
	1630	Hospital debrief
	1700	The view from... Rwanda
Thu	0830	Clinical practice: Airway challenges
	0915	Aid and ethics
	1015	Clinical practice: Obstetrics
	1100	<i>Coffee</i>
	1130	Physical health of the volunteer
	1215	Best practice for visitors
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>
	1400	Making difficult decisions
	1515	Clinical practice: Critical care
	1600	<i>Tea</i>
	1630	Resources VI: Electrical and gas safety
Fri	0930	Psychological health of the volunteer
	1015	Resources VII: New technologies
	1100	<i>Coffee</i>
	1130	Teaching and training: your skills and resources
	1230	Quiz
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>
	1400	Preparing to go: practicalities and considerations
	1500	Feedback and close



Dr Paul Ochieng (Mbale, Uganda)

Dr Ochieng is a physician anaesthetist based in Mbale, Uganda. He is a current AAU Anesthesia Scholar and works with international partners on workforce-related research. He coordinates visits to the CURE Hospital in Mbale as part of the ADC course.

Dr Naomi Shamambo (Lusaka, Zambia)

Dr Shamambo is an anaesthetist in Lusaka, Zambia with first-hand experience of the recently developed MMed programme. She also plays a key role in the Primary Trauma Care project in Lusaka.

