

## Global Anaesthesia Course, November 2023

### Course report

#### Context of the course

The Oxford Global Anaesthesia Course (formerly known as 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. The Global Anaesthesia course (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 this course 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, the course 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 2023

The Global Anaesthesia course was held between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019, based at the Mt Elgon Hotel in Mbale. It was accredited by the Royal College of Anaesthetists for 20 CPD points. 18 delegates attended, from Australia, Belgium, Canada, DR Congo, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the US and the UK. There was a spread of experience from trainees through to late-career consultants, several of whom had 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 Naomi Shamambo (Zambia), Dr Fred Bulamba 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 Adam Hewitt-Smith (Uganda Co-Director of the course) 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) 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)

“A fabulous opportunity.”

“All the sessions were excellent!”

“Exceeded expectations.”

“A very inspiring course!”

Course delegates, 2023



## Appendix 1: Course programme 2023

Mon	09:00	Welcome and housekeeping
Mon	09:15	The context of global surgery/anaesthesia
Mon	09:45	Anaesthesia in Uganda
Mon	10:15	Resources I: Oxygen
Mon	11:00	Coffee
Mon	11:30	Resources II: Ketamine
Mon	12:15	Clinical practice: Trauma and disasters
Mon	13:00	Lunch
Mon	14:00	Resources III: where there's no machine: drawover systems
Mon	15:15	Tea
Mon	15:45	Clinical practice: Unfamiliar pathologies
Mon	16:30	Hospital briefing
Tues	08:00	Hospital visits
Tues	13:00	Lunch
Tues	14:00	Resources IV: Procurement, volatiles
Tues	15:00	Resources V: Drawover machines
Tues	15:45	Tea
Tues	16:15	Clinical practice: Paediatric anaesthesia
Tues	17:00	The view from Zambia
Weds	08:30	Clinical practice: Airway challenges
Weds	09:15	Aid/ethics
Weds	10:15	Clinical practice: Obstetric anaesthesia
Weds	11:00	Coffee
Weds	11:30	Your health: physical wellbeing
Weds	12:15	Receiving visitors: how can visitors help/hinder?
Weds	13:00	Lunch
Weds	14:00	Resources VI: maintaining equipment, blood, cleaning and sterilisation
Weds	15:15	Issues in research in LMICs
Weds	16:00	Tea
Weds	16:30	Hospital debrief
Weds	17:00	The view from... India
Thurs	08:00	Hospital visits
Thurs	13:00	Lunch
Thurs	14:00	Clinical practice: Making difficult decisions
Thurs	15:15	Clinical practice: Critical care
Thurs	16:00	Tea
Thurs	16:30	Resources VII: Electrical and gas safety
Thurs	17:00	The view from...
Fri	09:30	Your health: psychological wellbeing
Fri	10:15	Case studies and FAQs
Fri	11:00	Coffee
Fri	11:30	Teaching and training: your skills and resources
Fri	12:30	Going as a trainee
Fri	13:00	Lunch
Fri	14:00	For those who go: planning and practicalities
Fri	15:00	Feedback and close





Dr Shamambo is a physician anaesthetist/intensivist from Lusaka, Zambia who was a pioneer of the Zambian Mmed programme. She has worked with Primary Trauma Care and is currently based in the UK.

### **Dr Elma Wong**

An NHS consultant anaesthetist at Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Birmingham Children's Hospital, Elma has worked for Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in the field since 2013. She has completed approximately 20 missions in various contexts; NOMA paediatric surgery in Nigeria, COVID management in Gaza, and over the years worked multiple times in conflict zones; Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Papua New Guinea and Iraq. She has also worked on a number of projects to promote anaesthesia education and training overseas; Ukraine ( David Nott Foundation), Ethiopia (CASIEF), Bangladesh (SAFE anaesthesia, Lifebox), Cameroon (Primary Trauma Course) and BASIC intensive care.

