



Uganda



Pediatric Surgery Camp 2016



Dr. Stellah Rumanda and
Dr. Sr. Margaret Ajiko

Dr. Sister Mary Margaret Ajiko

Pediatric Surgeon

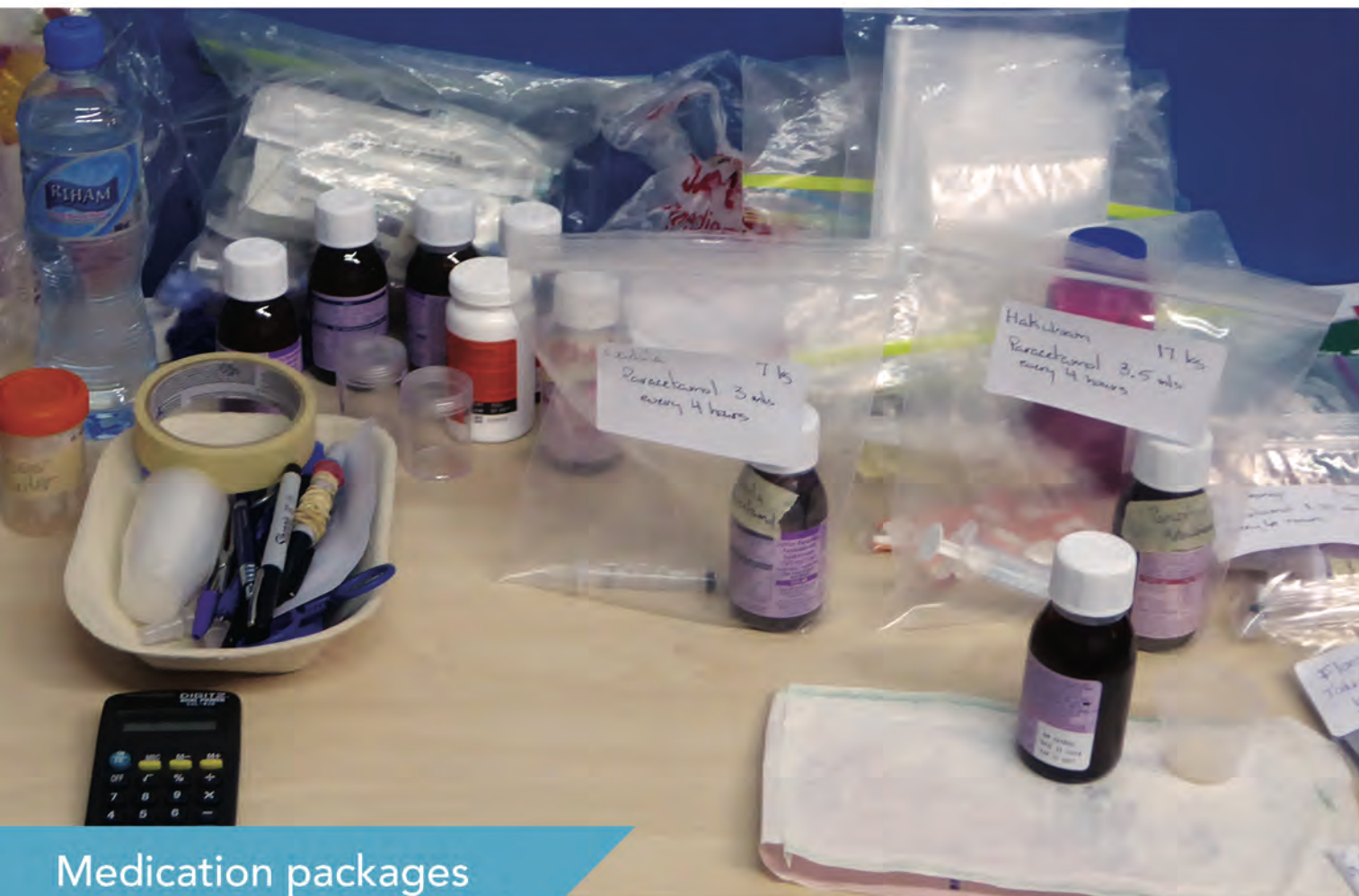
The pediatric surgery camp was sponsored by BC Children's Hospital, and we had teams from UBC and Mulago Hospital who worked tirelessly to make the camp a success. This year's surgical camp was a unique one, unlike the past surgical camp where our children came from the Teso sub-region comprising of 8 districts with a population of about 2 million people. This year we had children coming from different parts of the country, that is the north, east, west, south and central Uganda, I think I will not be wrong if I named it a "National Surgical camp". This literally means that there is a high burden of surgical pediatric cases, particularly children with complex complications like imperforated anus, and Hirschsprung's disease, being bounced from one hospital to another. As soon as doctors learnt that we were holding a paediatric camp in Soroti, they just referred children to us for surgery, and we could not turn away any child, the desperation on the faces of the mothers tell it all. They have moved from one health unit to another, and children are marginalized because they cannot complain.

We operated on about 95 children, we then continued operating on those who missed surgery during the camp, and our grand total was 120 children. More than half of the children who were operated on had congenital hernias; this makes hernia the most common congenital condition in children.

Children with urology conditions were not operated on, because we did not have urologists on our team. Their parents keep calling me, I know that Damian did his best to have one come but none came due to reasons beyond us.

Camps are great because we can manage many patients within a short time, cases that would otherwise take many months to access treatment or miss surgery. In camp skills are imparted, sharing of great ideas, partnerships are strengthened, we meet new friends and have the opportunity to do research and travel to different parts of the globe. I thank all our sponsors, I am grateful to all our friends who worked tirelessly to make it happen. Opapero Damian, I sincerely thank you so much for your great contribution and wise leadership, webale!

I thank Dr. Emmanuel and team of Soroti, everyone did their best, thank you, God bless.



Medication packages prepared for each child

Cheryl Baldwin

Post Anaesthetic Recovery Room Nurse

As you can appreciate pain management following an operation is important. Through generous donations we took pain medications with us to Uganda and purchased extra once there. While providing care for a child in the Recovery Room my colleague, Jen, and I would assemble small packages with the appropriate doses of pain medication to be given over the next 48 hours. Working through interpreters we would give the mother or father these medication packages with instructions on how much and how frequently they were to administer these drugs to their child. By giving this responsibility to the parent it increased their involvement in caring for their child and gave us confidence that the child would receive regular medication to assist in their comfort level. Many of the children we provided care for came from humble living situations and there often were no funds available for the family to purchase simple medications. Being able to assist families and children in this basic care is so valuable. Thank you for your donations and support.



Our Camp Banner

Dr. Denis Kakaire Quincy

Anesthesia Resident

It was a great experience for me being part of the camp. I am a resident in anesthesia and it was a good learning experience with the different cases and different people I interacted with. It also helped improve my knowledge in various sectors and it was a good thing to know that I had a chance to give back to the community. The team-work was awesome among the different cadres which made work so easy despite the large volume of cases. I would gladly join the next camp when the opportunity shows up.

Thank you.



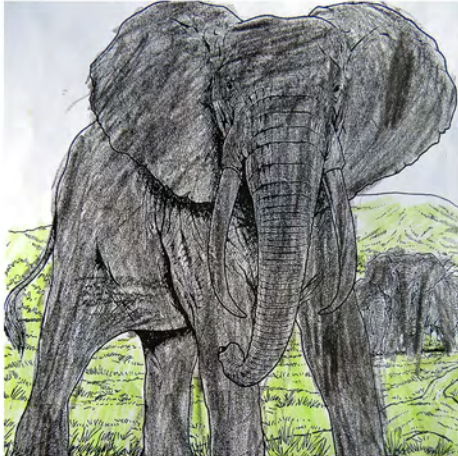
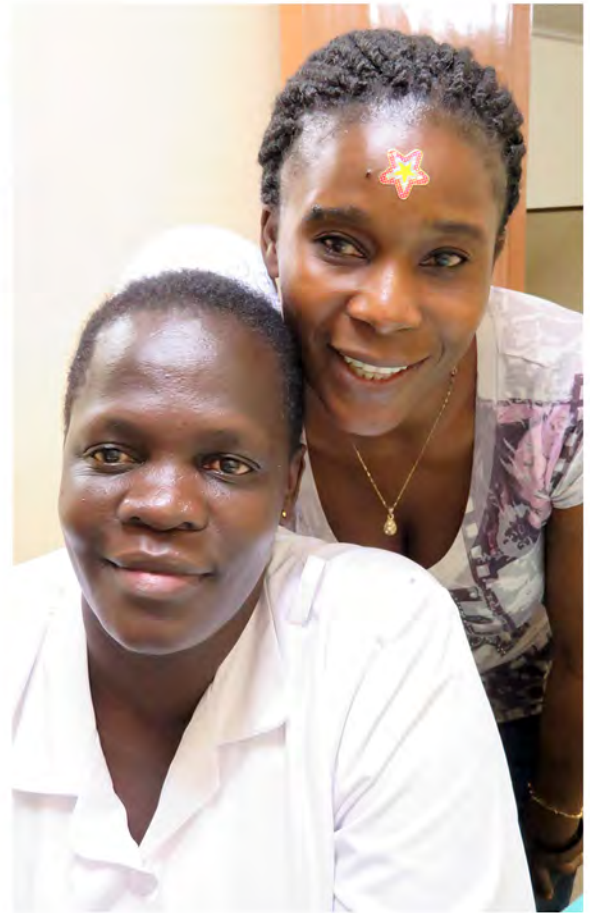
Dr. Emmanuel and the
Soroti team

Dr. Emmanuel Batiibwe

Director, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital

It's been a month since you left. I vividly recall your commitment to surgically help these Ugandan children attain a better quality of life at no cost to the families. Your lead team was amazing in so many ways. My appreciation to the all collaborators. Personally I was gratified by the outcome of the paediatric surgical camp. May God reward you abundantly for this gesture.

Many blessings!





Dr. Jonathan Stacey and
Dr. Eleanor Reimer

Dr. Jonathan Stacey

Pediatric Anesthesia Fellow

I participated in the 2016 Ugandan Pediatric Surgical Camp as a Pediatric Anesthesia Fellow from British Columbia Children's Hospital. From the outset it was clear that the relationships that have been fostered between Ugandan and Canadian health providers since these camps commenced would enable far higher levels of care to be provided to far more children than would otherwise be possible.

The majority of patients were children of less than 6 years of age whose surgical conditions were often associated both with markedly impaired quality of life and significant social stigma. Some were even smaller; tiny babies with life-threatening conditions. Teaching was a two-way process; whilst I was able to impart a little knowledge to the Ugandan anesthesia residents who joined us both in Soroti and Naguru, I learnt far more from the patience, courage and gratitude of the patients and their families.

The camp was tremendously satisfying not only in terms of the number of children we were able to successfully treat, but also in the further strengthening of understanding between local and Canadian providers and the clear progress being made in Ugandan pediatric surgical care as a result. I have no doubt this fortnight will likely be the highlight of my Fellowship year, and cannot extend adequate thanks to all those donors who made it possible.



Dr. Nyeti Janet receives a painting from patient

Dr. Nteyi Janet

Anesthesiologist

As a freshly graduated anesthesiologist, my role is to fill in the gaps and be an intermediary between the local and visiting participants. It's one that gives me great pleasure as I get to watch knowledge, skills and care passed on from generation to generation. Using experience from my recent past, I always tell our residents that in addition to helping the children, camps are an opportunity for them to learn from the high turnover of patients. The recurrent comment after: "I will never be the same again." A few words about the pediatric surgical camp: 2 weeks of friendships working for the greater good of the pediatric population in Uganda.

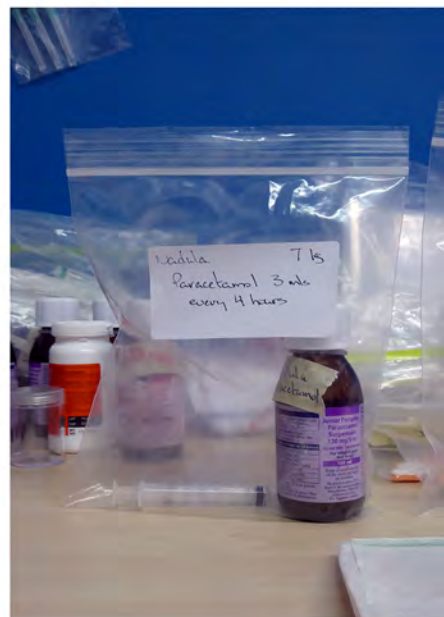


The Ward Team: Onuaki Felix, Elasu Valentine, Damian Duffy, Dr. Obwapus John Robert, Dr. Morulem Ekolonerio

Onuaki Felix

Ward Nurse

The report as at 2016 paediatric camp in Soroti. It was a bright Saturday morning when a team of 14 left for the camp on Soroti, these were later joined by others due to their tight schedules. This lasted one week. In the team, I was a ward nurse with my colleague Sr. Ann with whom we managed the ward despite the challenges of few beds and due to the overwhelming population during the camp. With the team work and the selfless work, we managed to do surgery on many patients. These were herniotomy, hernia repair, colostomy, colostomy reversal, colostomy closure, PSARPs, and hydrocelectomy. During my stay, there, I realised that there are so many difficult to reach Ugandans who are victims of many conditions without help. My biggest happiness was the fact that we managed to help over 90 needy Ugandans who were financially handicapped. During this time as well, dolls (thanks to the volunteers), stickers, hand tags, and medicines like paracetamol tabs and syrups, ibuprofen syrup etc, were donated to the patients. A big heartfelt and sincere appreciation goes to our dear donors for their big hearts, and may this be over and over again. I will not forget everyone who managed to make this a reality that's the team because without you, surgery wouldn't have happened. Thank you.





Sister Anne, Dr. Mary Nebukenya and Dr. Kisa

Dr. Phyllis Kisa

Surgeon

I was a surgeon on the camp, but for only a few days of the last week.

The camp continues to strengthen our collaboration with UBC. It also helped identify the next persons to be considered for short fellowships in Anesthesia.

I run a table catering to minor procedures only (hernias, hydroceles, cryptorchidism and other lumps). Did not learn anything new in terms of patient care as I operated on straight forward day cases. Our junior residents on the other hand benefitted by mentorship in Anesthesia and surgery. We decided to work a more moderate pace so as not to break ourselves physically. The team had had a grueling week prior!!!!

I was happy that the smaller day cases were done. We prioritized them for the last week. These children usually wait longer for surgery because we usually operate on more urgent cases and these tend to be postponed a lot.

The intravenous anaesthetics and other pain medications came in handy and continue to do so well after the camp is done. I can never get gloves my size here. These became more so with the camp.

A lot of thanks go to all persons that contributed to this trip and continued collaborations. Cheers.



Anesthesia Assistant
Trevor in the theatre

Trevor Coelho

Anaesthesia Assistant

Hi there My name is Trevor Coelho. I was a member of the 2016 pediatric surgery team that went to Soroti and Kampala, Uganda. I participated as an Anesthesia Assistant helping anesthesiologists put children to sleep for their surgeries. The team this year was amazing. We were able to come together, in a very short time, to make an efficient, safe and supporting OR environment. This collaboration is what enabled us to provide a high level of care for all the children that received surgery. There was a wide range of patients this year. We did surgeries to fix hernias and anal rectal malformations, as well as, to remove tumors. Something I took away from the camp was how to deliver safe anesthesia in a low resource setting and to be brave in the face of adversity. Achievements I am most happy with during this camp were unity, collaborating with local professionals, and providing life changing surgeries to children in need. I would like to personally thank everyone that donated so we could go to Uganda this year. It's hard to see whay you have allowed us to do but I assure you we have changed the lives of many children in need. Without your support, these kids would continue to suffer with their diseases well into adulthood... which some would not make. Thank you for your support

