



Newsletter

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This Newsletter is circulated through the internet, and through all WOC Regional Secretaries in the hope that they will be able to download and distribute it to those "concerned" who may not be connected through the "Net." It is addressed to all interested in orthopaedic surgery, particularly those who work in areas of the world with great need, and very limited resources.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of SICOT will be held in the city of Rome, between September 7th and 10th, 2016.

On the first day of the SICOT Meeting, specialist societies present instructional course lectures and demonstrations on their special areas. But WOC, having no special expertise, (?) will address the differences and difficulties of orthopaedic practice with limited resources, fundamentally contradicting the presumption that treatment depends upon tools, - and that without them treatment is not possible. That (incorrect) thought may be held at a great distance; but not with the patient before you!

The WOC “Instructional” session will begin with the foundation of growth and repair, upon which all recovery stands or falls (literally). There will follow papers from experts who know the work from their breadth of personal experience and practical ingenuity. They will pass on the invented tricks of this art, based on the principles of anatomy, biology and mechanics. Finally the future will be suggested in terms of practical help, “*on site*” and at the operating table, evaluating the essential nature of surgical tools, both ancient and modern.

This is an attempt to fill the modern Gap in current training seen in many “western” departments of orthopaedics. Few can prepare the young surgeons for “general orthopaedics” in their own countries. Modern pressure to “*lead the field*” demands a degree of specialisation in areas of pathology of disappearing frequency. Of course that is a *negative* statement, but modern surgical science does not require multiple units devoted exclusively to conjoined twins.! (&c &c).

PROGRAM for WOC @ SICOT – (probably October 7th 2016)

1. **Osteogenesis;** “Embryo to Fracture”; the basis of growth and healing.
Michael Laurence
- 2 **Service and Training**, with limited Resources; (reference to spinal Tb.)
Anil Jain
3. **Injury to the child’s arm** - “wrist to elbow”; critical assessment of practices, including the unnecessary and dangerous. **Fergal Monsell**
4. **Problems confronting the Young Surgeon**, with limited resources.
Vijay Khariwal
5. **Plating vs Nailing** in limb fractures. “Changes in implant design” in relation to surgical infrastructure. **Arindam Bannerjee**
6. **Paediatric Problems.** *Aspirations* for practical assistance for the Third World.
David. Jones

This session is the first Instruction in the construction of inexpensive bridges over the gap in worldwide training. The suggested solution lies in surgical apprenticeship.

Those in need of this support are very unlikely to be able to attend a great meeting like SICOT, for reasons that are both economic and the pressure from their home hospitals with its endless line of waiting patients.

In other International contexts, world experts have described Africa as the **Continent of Ingenuity**, without which progress cannot occur. We know more about the science of surgery, but less about how to pay for it.

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In sequence to an item in **NL No 186**, (of March 2016), we reproduce below the group photo from Indore, to demonstrate the support for **Deven Taneja's** April 2016 Course, on **operating theatre technology** – another vital rung in the ladder of surgical treatment, together with a link to a western hospital department of mechanics. These are steps towards the care, repair and maintenance of tools, and the sterile environment of their use.



Also in the pipeline - **WOC(uk) Annual Meeting** is to be held at Moor Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, Warwick's on Saturday, June 4th 2016. The following papers will be presented, starting with the regional reports of WOC(uk) activities in the following countries.

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| Malawi, | Steve Mannon |
| Cambodia, | Dalton Boot. |
| Ghana | Paul Ofori-Atta. |
| Ethiopia | Laurence Wicks |
| Tanzania | Magdi Greis |
| Palawan | Louis Deliss |
| Bangladesh | Geoffrey Walker. |

Fellowship reports will be given by James Berwin, Ashish Kalraiya and Ross Coomber, -- recipients of grants from WOC(uk)

Keynote Speech. “The Unit of Hope`” James Fernandes
The Challenges of Orthopaedics in the Developing World Tim Beacon
The Experience of a company representative in Nepal. Jon Warner
Plastic Surgery Training in Zimbabwe. Faith Muchemwa

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The LANCET Commission on Global Surgery

The Fifth Annual Conference on **Global Surgical Frontiers** was held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Friday April 15th, 2016.

With the keen support from **WHO** (referred to in **NL No 186**, q.v.) The **LANCET Commission** published its report one year ago, inviting recapitulation on its analysis, conclusions and responses for the future of the world’s under-resourced parts. The Lancet’s graphic cartoon of the globe and its distribution of surgical services, was much in evidence. It serves as a salutary warning of a nearly scandalous situation under which (neglected) common and simple injury can destroy a working life. The greater part of the world’s poorest communities are tragically deprived.

Of course, those are rough words to use on a situation to be pitied rather than criticised, but this Conference, the fifth of an annual series, demonstrates the wide and continuing interest and concern for the subject.

The audience was clearly divided between those already active in the “field”, junior hospital doctors fascinated by a subject, (hardly referred to

in Medical School Curricula,) and humanitarian activists, both religious and secular.

Professor Chris Lavy (*for the Royal College dept. of International affairs*) introduced an erudite faculty of experts from near and far, involved with organised trauma service and international surgical needs. They brought the thoughts of groups committed to the needy. They are constantly engaged chairing international bodies on the subject. It is small wonder therefore that the speeches were polished, profound and polysyllabic, conveying the whole World's opinion.

A dozen NGOs briefly described their efforts in this field. These ranged from MSF, THET, DFID, CURE, BEIT, the ICRF, the G4 Alliance and the Irish Royal College of Surgeons. But also there are numerous smaller groups of collaborative trainees eager to both play their philanthropic part and to enhance their own education in the provision of care.

Laurence Wicks gave a sparkling performance in rhyming verse, on the glorious achievements (and enjoyment) of both the young and old members of WOC(uk), for the halt and the lame of Southern Africa. His infectious enthusiasm lifted the spirit of the packed hall. It is small wonder therefore that the speeches were polished, profound and polysyllabic.. The audience will have never heard so many huge words, with which it would be impossible to disagree. We have all the details; but no solution.!

Inevitably there was an element of repetition in the statistics of broken and bent bodies. It is appropriate that future hopes and promises be presented. The energy of the audience was palpable and at the breaks

between sections, a queue formed at the WOC desk to enlist in the adventure.

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Perhaps the most powerful of the set piece presentations was from **Zambia**, by Professor **Emmanuel Makasa**, His wide contact through COSECSA and WOC has done much to strengthen the educational programs from sub-Saharan Africa. It was a joy to converse with him in the company of **Malcolm Swann**, who lives yet in Lusaka, and under whose tutelage Emmanuel had qualified and been trained, The sense of dedicated pleasure between the two men epitomises the progress that Zambia has enjoyed over the recent decades. Prof Makasa, as Secretary-General of the **Zambian Surgical Society** and the **Zambian Medical Association**, has been instrumental in many recent modifications in the method and emphasis of surgical training through sub-Saharan Africa. He has advisory connections with WHO and UN in Geneva.

Among the presentations in the final sections were **Declan Magee, Mike McKirdy, Robert Lane and Walter Johnson**. These men and women of communal concern were accosted by the final question from **Louis Deliss** (with Palawan connections). He asked - what help could and would the WHO be able to offer in support of the many of this day's constructive requests and suggestions. In turn it emerged from every speaker, that WHO, with all its apparent influence and publicity, actually has no funds with which to offer assistance, nor any leverage on the International stage.! This realistic statement disappointed, but did not surprise this excellent meeting.

The **LANCET Commission** is left with dependence on the generosity of the great philanthropic organisations, to stem the tide of desperation in sub-Saharan Africa and the equivalent parts of every other continent. But concern quite quickly can become depression at the magnitude of the global need for surgical treatment of everyday accidents, which surgical skill is able inexpensively to cure.!

It is hoped that those bodies responsible for the establishment of W.H.O. might be moved by the energy generated by this 21st Century “slow motion car crash”.

Philanthropy will not cease; but recognition and appreciation would not go amiss.

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Meanwhile; our periodic, regular correspondent from Yangon, Myanmar – Professor Alain Patel – writes this month: --

"the Yangon Medical University Rector is an excellent orthopaedic surgeon - Prof **ZAW WAY SOE**, the father of the spinal hospital in Yangon. We are happy to record that all the orthopaedic hospitals in Myanmar are running well and extremely busy. New professors have been appointed to head new orthopaedic departments and young surgeons are well served and supported. We have new appointees from Myanmar and from France at the Children's hospitals in Yangon, and in Mandalay a new French surgeon is teaching and demonstrating.

The spinal unit is housed within the orthopaedic hospital in Yangon and the emergency department in Yangon General Hospital is running well with good young teams. Similar regional organisations are expanding.

Voila, the present situation in April 2016. My next trip will be in October

sincerely
Alain Patel.

(Thank you, Alain. Greetings and best wishes, M.L.)