

## Rwanda 2018

Dot Chadwick and Kate Woodhead spent a week at the University Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda delivering education to ten theatre nurses following the installation of the refurbished operating room for children at the hospital. Working with Kids OR ( [www.kidsOR.org](http://www.kidsOR.org)) who planned, equipped and installed the new paediatric theatre, Friends of African Nursing's role ( [www.foan.org.uk](http://www.foan.org.uk)) is to ensure that the staff were trained on the new equipment and provide an uplift to their perioperative knowledge base. The ten delegates have never had any input to their specialist area of practice and there were many different topics on our programme. We all worked hard to ensure that the level of information was appropriate and beneficial. We undertook many clinical topics on patient safety, teamwork, infection prevention and the practical application of theory such as the surgical count. We were able to share knowledge on the clinical decontamination of instruments and management of instrument trolleys and the mayo table. They were a great group of students – although we worked them hard. They enjoyed the group work and learning from each other. We made a visit on two occasions to the new paediatric theatre and were able to see it working. We went to main theatres for an extensive tour. We made a visit to the King Faisal Hospital, a local private hospital where we had a look at the operating theatres with one of our delegates and the theatre manager – exchanging ideas as we visited.



We are very grateful to all the staff of the operating theatres at the University Hospital for their forbearance – having taken a number of their few colleagues out for training. The Theatre manager , Mediatrix Batangana undertook a great deal of organisation to set up the programme and get nursing buy-in for the education – many thanks for your help.



Dot and I had a wonderful week with very kind and friendly people at the hotel and hospital. We hope to have left behind, more than the text books and eye protection which we took for the delegates and operating theatres, some useful knowledge for the development of their patient care in the operating theatres.



Evaluation of the education at the end of the week included comments in response to, What have you enjoyed? “The facilitators updated and even taught us things as far as patient safety is concerned” and “I learnt how and when counting should be done”” I learnt how to communicate with the team in case of any incidence”. “ Another delegate wrote” Practice in theatre gave us a vast view of how things should be done.” In response to the question ‘what will you do differently?’ participants wrote “Emphasise on patient safety using surgical safety checklist” “ first be a change maker for myself, colleagues and patients” “ I will be a good advocate for the patient and I am able to give this course to other nurses” “ I will reduce error and incidents” and finally “ I will help my teammates to increase patient safety in different ways as follows:- maximise sterility in any operation, use of better solutions in disinfecting and inform my teammates of their roles while in theatre.”

Thanks very much to Dot for her wisdom and calm attitude to everything! We had fun and have also set up the generic programme now with a few tweaks for all the remaining teams to work with as they travel to different countries to deliver the same programme.

Kate Woodhead October 2018.