

Rwanda 2019

A visit was made to the Central University Teaching Hospital (CHUK) in Kigali, Rwanda by Kate Woodhead and Dot Chadwick to deliver a programme, not dissimilar to the one delivered last year but designed to appeal to nurses working in general theatres rather than the paediatric programme delivered in 2018. Other hospitals in Kigali were invited to send participants to ensure as many nurses from Operating Theatres, could benefit from the education as possible. Two hospitals were too short of staff to send anyone to the programme. We ended up with 14 delegates from three hospitals most from our host hospital and over the week, we lost a few delegates for several hours as they were called back to work. A number of student nurses were also sent on the course and whilst many of the topics would be too specific for them, they paid great attention, joined in with the question and answers and were fully engaged with the teaching and learning.

The key topics were a wide range but mostly covering patient and personal safety, infection prevention, perioperative care practice and the specifics of safe patient care. Some sessions tackled teamwork and the stress session was requested and enjoyed by all. A quiz was held at the end of the week to test learning and a small prize given – which was then shared among all the participants!



This was the second visit by FoAN to Rwanda and we were warmly welcomed back and shown great kindness and hospitality by the staff, Nursing Director and senior Theatre Nurses/ Management. We left many gifts including eye protection, which we also gave as we always do to every participant, but were also given to other hospitals and more for general theatres. We left Journals and posters from the Association of Perioperative Practice, an audit tool, pens, paper and other educational items. Each delegate was given a flash drive with their Certificate of attendance with the sessions copied to them.

A meeting with the Director of Nursing enabled us to feedback to the hospital our considerations and observations and to make a plan for 2020 which will encompass some of the rural hospitals in the country – whose staff get no input to operating theatre practice and yet who are on the front line in many instances. An audit of theatre practice will run in parallel in CHUK. The two programmes will run in parallel and will each have a local facilitator as well as a FoAN representative.

During the week, we facilitated a conversation between the delegates who wish to form an organisation or chapter of the local national nursing association to focus on the development and sharing of good perioperative practice. They were given a copy of the IFPN Start up Toolkit and a small gift of seed funding. They have a steering group appointed and each individual has jobs to do before they meet again – the date was already agreed. It bodes well for the organisation! We wish them well, knowing the enormous benefit of sharing knowledge of specialist practice.



The attached testimonial was given to FoAN as a token of appreciation from the delegates. Thank you to Dot for her continuing support, expertise and companionship during the week, it is much appreciated.

Kate Woodhead

November 2019

Kigali 1 November 2019

To Friends of African Nursing (FoAN)

Re: Appreciation letter

We, Trainees by FoAN (friend of Africa Nursing), we overwhelmed by joy in the way we have been together during this period of workshop in perioperative nursing.

We are appreciating the knowledge we got from this training and the way the training has been given.

We gained knowledge and skills in perioperative nursing which will be helpful in our profession, we ensure you the strength we got from this learning sessions will be used in improvement of quality of care to our patients.

We lent (sic) more on : Advocacy of our patient, handwashing, perioperative environment, team working, surgical counting, communication, sterilisation, pain management, risk management, surgical site infection prevention, stress management, patient records, drugs management, samples management, safety in surgery, leadership and so one.

We are going to share what we learned to our colleagues from our hospitals and other different health facilities in order to promote the quality of perioperative practices especially for venerable peoples like child and elderly patients.

Within pleasure, we appreciate your idea of supporting our creation of perioperative nursing chapter, we are going to work with Rwanda national council of nurses and midwife and we hope that with your support we can achieve our goal and we request a continuous support for perioperative chapter in the future.

We are recognizing your support, we know this your second time in Rwanda, that means a lot for us, it shows you are real friends of Africa nursing, especially friends of Rwanda.

We request the continuous training, cooperation and if possible we will come in the United Kingdom to learn more perioperative nursing practice. And we hope to be part of FoAN.

Thanks

Trainees. (4 signatures)

Nzindukiyimana Ruberwa Jean Claude

Gatete Fred

Sindayigaya Eric

Gasengayire Gilbert