

Tanzania - Spring 2005

Theory Update Programme

Diane Gilmour and I travelled with growing anticipation and excitement, to Tanzania in April.

46 Perioperative Nurses from 38 different hospitals were gathered in Dar es Salaam from all around Tanzania for the first visit to the country. We taught the Update course over a week, in a room kindly lent to us by Muhumbili Hospital. It was hot and very humid on the coast and we and the nurses had to concentrate hard to get all the work completed.



They loved the group work and made excellent written records and presentations back to the whole group. Group work was presented on infection control issues, recovery scenarios and stress management.

We were able to visit the theatres in Muhimbili, but Main Theatres (8) are in the midst of being refurbished and so they had de-canted to emergency theatres and were only functioning as an emergency theatre and in very cramped conditions.



Many clinical issues were raised over the week, and new topics discussed



We had excellent band of local helpers, Angela and others from Muhimbili, Sophie Ngahyoma from the Ministry who was good enough to spend time with us every day and sorted out many potential organisational issues. Mr Gulamhusein (Salama Pharmaceuticals/ J&J Professional Export distributor) who together with Sophie had organised all the domestic arrangements for hotels and food for the nurses and helped with local cash and business arrangements. We are most grateful for their local knowledge and attention to detail.

All travel, food, per diem and accommodation costs for all the delegates were covered by generous donations from supporters in UK. We are most grateful to Eschmann Ltd, Keymed Ltd and B Braun Medical Ltd for their support. The course evaluated very well and we are looking forward to the challenge of the next visit.