

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we usher in the New Year let me add my voice to the sentiments of hope and new aspirations being expressed. I wish you and yours the very best of health and trust you will find the inspiration to carry your New Year's resolutions through.

The main focus of our association this year will be to re-double our efforts at helping in whatever way we can to improve the precarious medical personnel shortage back home.

To achieve this, a number of key decisions and initiatives are planned or are underway.

1. MIDA GHANA III

It is our intention to extend our involvement with this project. The intention is to be able to offer short-term transfer of skills throughout the year to supplement the pre existing arrangement of placements during August to September. As before special emphasis will be placed in staffing Tamale Teaching Hospital. I will be meeting with Mr. Hans Eijkhout, Director of MIDA Ghana towards the end of January for further discussions on this as well as finalising the Memorandum of Understanding between the GDDA and MIDA. Members who require further information on how to go on a MIDA Ghana Placement should contact our Secretary, Mr. Kedjanyi.

2. M.O.U with Cocoa Clinic Ghana

The Vice-President and myself held preliminary discussions with the Director of Cocoa Clinic in London, in November 2009 regarding similar arrangements as with MIDA with this outfit. I also called on the Director, Dr. Osei during my latest visit to Ghana in December. Cocoa Clinic will furnish GDDA with their needs assessment and after that members will be contacted with the terms of this placement. So keep watching this space!

3. Collaboration with MOTEC

Recognising the dearth of Orthopaedic services in Ghana I have had preliminary chat with Dr. Ofori Atta to see whether the scope of MOTEC could be widened to include at least the Tamale Teaching Hospital (to service the Northern Region) and Cape Coast (to cover Central and Western region).

4. Tripartite Seminars

I had initial discussions with the Rector of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons regarding this conference/seminars. This conference is a collaborative effort between our North American colleagues; the Ghana Medical Association, and the GDDA and is proposed to take place this August/ September to form part

of the revision programme for the candidates of the Postgraduate programme as well as for CPD purposes. Further details will be announced in due course.

As you can see this is going to be a busy year hopefully with something for everyone so you may make your plans accordingly.

May I wish you all a very happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

Yours Sincerely

Sam Debrah

President GDDA