



GASLIDD Ghana 2018

The Gastroenterology Foundation of SSA once again visited Ghana and contributed to the 4th GASLIDD meeting in Accra with a pre-congress Endoscopy Workshop, the first of its kind. The South African Faculty supported this Gastro Foundation pilot endoscopy course with the intention of hosting similar courses in several SSA countries. The SA faculty included Professor's Sandie Thomson and Eduard Jonas from the University of Cape Town Gastroenterology Unit and Professor Chris Kassianides, Chairman of the GFSSA.

The initial meeting was held at the Minimally Invasive Centre, a Medico Surgical dedicated training building well equipped to run wet labs and laparoscopic workshops for both large and small - group teaching. It was housed on the grounds of Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, a 2000 bed hospital in the city of Accra.

Most of the 30 delegates attending the workshop were from Ghana. Three delegates in their first year of training attending from Sierra Leone had foregut endoscopy experience; one delegate from Zambia who had spent a year at an endoscopy centre in China was experienced in both foregut endoscopy and colonoscopy. The remaining delegates had limited or no experience in endoscopy.

There were several local gastroenterologist led by Dr Adwoa Adjei who were involved with the logistics of the organization and participated as Faculty. Dr Victor Etwire, a paediatric surgeon, gave the official welcome and was instrumental in setting up the wet lab specimens. The workshop began with selected presentations from the Best of the June 2018 ASGE postgraduate course interspersed with talks from the local and visiting faculty on basic principles of endoscopy skills training, scope handling and lesion recognition concentrating on colonoscopy. Dr Kenneth Tachi, a gastroenterologist in charge of the hospital's endoscopy unit, discussed the indications

and preparation for endoscopy focusing on colonoscopy. Another consultant, Dr Amoako Duah, gave a presentation on standardized electronic reporting. These were well received and led to the break out session in the endoscopy unit with an upper and a lower endoscopy room. The staff in the endoscopy unit were very accommodating and did well in what was generally a cramped internal reception area with limited resources for patient post-procedural recovery. The colonoscopy room had an older 260 colonoscopy with poor light intensity and a suboptimal monitor. The scope guide was not functional. There was no pulse oximetry in the room. There was a long turn around time because only one colonoscope was available. This led to a reduced number of cases for training.

This pilot venture was well received and led us to believe that this model is viable. It needs to be tailored to the local participants knowledge and current skills level. Going forward, we need to include better endoscopic equipment, resources and models to dovetail with the local facilities and maximize the benefit for the participants. This was however a very important initial venture which will prepare us for further meetings in SSA.

The endoscopy workshop was followed by a three day meeting hosted by AASLD Connect. Professor's Wendy Spearman and Mark Sonderup from UCT took part in this meeting which included presentations on SSA Guidance on screening and treatment of chronic viral Hepatitis B and C.

Our thanks to Olympus for their generous contribution to this meeting and for their ongoing commitment to host similar colonoscopy upskilling programs in other parts of SSA in 2019.

Sandie Thomson
Emeritus Professor
Groote Schuur Hospital



Left to right: Eduard Jonas, Chris Kassianides, Sandie Thomson



Left to right: Mary Afihene, Chris Kassianides, Victor Etwire, Adwoa Adjei