



GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

www.almamata.net
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Get involved in Alma Mata, via info@almamata.net

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Happy New Year! We hope you had a relaxing festive season and are still keeping up with New Year's resolutions.

This jam-packed newsletter contains a number of fantastic opportunities to practice medicine in Africa.

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NEWS

MDM UK Launches Healthlink

MDM UK has launched a new online forum to improve access to healthcare services for migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees. The network will provide a platform for healthcare professionals, academics and students to exchange information and best practice to help marginalised people access health care.

All too often health professionals are relied upon to obtain the services that marginalised groups desperately need because of bureaucracy or language barriers. MDM UK's Director, Susan Wright says Healthlink can unite those with a common cause: "This group is nearly invisible, they live alongside us but are not able to visit a doctor or a dentist when they need them most. This network will unite professionals who are determined to change this, ensuring access today and urging the government to take steps to ensure access tomorrow."

<http://www.mdmuk.org.uk/campaign/mdmhealthlink.asp>

CAREERS

Alma Mata Global Health Careers Day – Success

Tickets for the AM Careers Day on 28th November sold out in advance, with doctors from throughout the UK attending to learn about careers options in global health. Speakers covered the major specialties and opportunities from short-term volunteering to long-term careers overseas.

Don't miss out on next year's careers day and our upcoming Global Health Conference – watch this space.

Career Center

The Global Health Career Center Network is the place to find global health professionals for your employment needs or to search for jobs:

<http://www.globalhealth.org/jobs/index.php3?offset=0>

EVENTS

Medact North West's Global Health Conference

This conference is to inspire health professionals to become interested in global health and it is also an opportunity for those already interested in global health to learn more about how to get involved. The conference will also highlight Medact North West's current campaign to improve the health of asylum seekers in the UK.

Saturday 27th February between 9am and 5.30pm

King's House Conference Centre, Sydney Street, Manchester, M1 7HB

£20 for health professionals, £10 for students

events.medactnw@gmail.com or medactnw@googlemail.com.

Climate Change and its impact on Women's and Children's Health

Date: 12 March 2010. Time: 13:30 – 16:30 GMT

The RCOG and RCPC are organising this event to discuss the impact of Climate Change on maternal and child health in the developed and the developing world. A panel of international speakers will discuss the issues via video conference at four venues simultaneously around the globe:

RCOG, London, UK

www.rcog.org.uk/events or 020 7772 6245

JOBS

Voluntary medical position - Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, as part of an exciting young charity which is supporting improvement and innovation in Paediatric care in a country where one in four children die before the age of 5.

Assignment Length: One year

Application Deadline: 31st January 2010

Starting – July 2010 (start date may be somewhat flexible)

Job Description: The Medical Coordinator (MC) will provide technical leadership and contribute to the development and implementation of ongoing and new project activities aimed at improving the quality of paediatric health care in Sierra Leone, starting at the country's only specialist paediatric facility, Ola During Children's Hospital (ODCH).

<http://www.welbodipartnership.blogspot.com/> and

www.welbodipartnership.org or email info@welbodipartnership.org

Temporary study physician in East Africa Jan – April 2010

A temporary vacancy exists for a suitably qualified physician to provide study leave cover assisting in the recruitment and care of children in ongoing studies on the management of severe malaria and severe febrile disease at Teule Hospital, Muheza, Tanzania.

The vacancy is from early January to late March/early April 2010 (3-4 months). The applicant must be a qualified, registered doctor preferably with some paediatric experience and an interest in infectious diseases/international health. They will gain valuable experience in the inpatient management of childhood illness in a resource limited setting, recognition and treatment of severe malaria in children and running GCP clinical trials.

The post holder will be provided with flight & travel insurance, accommodation, car & registration expenses plus a living allowance. Interested applicants should contact Dr Hugh Reyburn for more details (hugh.reyburn@lshtm.ac.uk) by December 4th 2009.

Volunteer Doctors Needed in Sierra Leone

The Kambia Appeal is a charity which has linked the Gloucestershire NHS Trust and Kambia, a town in a rural area of Sierra Leone since 1992.

www.kambia.org.uk

With a desperate shortage of trained healthcare professionals in Sierra Leone, the hospital in Kambia is in need of volunteer doctors to help train staff and provide service, for anywhere between two weeks and several years.

Nearly a decade after its civil war, Sierra Leone still has among the worst health indicators in the world. Yet, it is a fascinating and beautiful country with the most warm people you could wish to meet.

The current priority area in Kambia is maternal health and emergency obstetric care.

The Kambia Appeal is able to accommodate volunteers in Kambia and can help advise volunteers on raising funds to cover their transport, food and fuel costs.

If you are interested, please contact Richard Kerr-Wilson: rkerrwilson@aol.com

Doctor position in Uganda

Apach Hospital, Apach District.

Job description: The main work will be a mixture of clinical hospital based work and public health outreach for a minimum of 2 months. The hospital and the district often run outreach programme in rural communities. There is also a malaria research in this hospital.

Email almamatanewsletter@gmail.com for contacts to obtain more information.

ADVOCACY

Bring an end to the administrative detention of children

The last doctors' petition that Medical Justice co-ordinated attracted over 700 doctors' signatures. Signatures so far include ;

- * Lord Alderdice
- * Iona Heath, President, Royal College of General Practitioners
- * Sir Iain Chalmers
- * Sir Andy Haines
- * Professor Allyson Pollock

<http://gopetition.com/petitions/stop-the-administrative-detention-of-children-and-families.html>.

Join the push for the patent pool

How would a patent pool work?

The patent's for the three antiretrovirals recommended by the WHO are held by three different companies. This impedes the development of a single combined pill that would increase effectiveness, compliance and quality of life. The Push for the Pool is a campaign to support UNITAID to act as an independent patent holder, allowing researchers to use the existing patents to develop better, more affordable and more accessible HIV treatments whilst providing fair returns to the original three patent holders.

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/actions/stop_aids.html

EDUCATION

Global Health Council's 37th Annual International Conference on Global Health

Dateline 2010: Global Health Goals & Metrics

The landmark conference to mark the progress on all global health goals among all sectors within the global health community. Visit often for the latest conference news, program information, important deadlines and information to plan your conference participation

June 14-18, 2010

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

<http://www.dec.org.uk/>

ARTICLE

UK:Somaliland Internet-Based Medical Education

Even in some of the poorest and most conflict afflicted countries in sub Saharan Africa medical schools are trying against the odds to train the next generation of doctors. Medical education in Africa faces many challenges, one of the most severe is a lack of senior clinicians, who hampered by overwhelming clinical responsibilities are struggling to provide the clinical bedside teaching that is vital to creating good doctors.

There are many teaching links between the UK and African medical schools and these links have been praised in the Crisp Report as a means of offsetting the brain drain from Africa. Although valuable however, these links will always be limited the financial, environmental and time constraints of trying to fly large numbers of doctors from the UK to Africa to provide teaching. Therefore in response to this overwhelming need, following a recent such teaching trip to Somaliland an idea was formed to try and provide bedside teaching over the internet.

www.medicineafrica.com is a new website which has been specifically designed to deliver clinical case-based teaching to doctors and medical students online and in real-time and at a distance in Africa and other resource limited situations. It is currently being trialled through the Kings College THET Somaliland Partnership (KTSP) link and has been successful in providing regular long distance real time live text based teaching, supported by preloaded multimedia files and powerpoint lectures between UK tutors and Somaliland's junior doctors. In addition – the interns in Somaliland have taught medical students on the Kings International Health SSM on real life cases from their daily practice which was amazingly well received.

The site is designed around a social networking structure with the aim of providing a tool for the rapid expansion of teaching and collaboration from North – South, South – North and within Africa. Alma Mata members who enjoy teaching and would like to contribute would be welcomed as tutors when the site expands past the current trial period.

The screenshot displays the medicineafrica.com website interface. The top navigation bar includes the site name, a home link, the user's email (simonjameslittle@gmail.com), a logout option, and a 'Submit Cases' button. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Live Chat:** A chat window on the left shows a conversation between Simon Little and other participants. The chat history includes:
 - Simon Little: firstly in the the differential diagnosis of leg weakness - consider other causes in addition to Potts disease
 - Abdirahman Nour: trauma
 - Simon Little: use sensation (pin prick and joint position sense)
 - Abdirazak Baraco: MS, trauma, HIV spinal tumours
 - Abdirahman Nour: inflammatory processes like GBS
 - Simon Little: Excellent everybody - I will just try and list the important points before finishing
 - Abdirahman Nour: that is good tool to use ok
 - Simon Little: these are the important points to take away
 - No 1: Do not always assume Potts disease if leg
- Medical Case Files:** A central panel displays a medical case titled '3: Weak legs'. It includes a 'Medical History' section with a series of images (00, 01, 02, 03) and a large X-ray image of a spine. Below the X-ray is a 'description' link and a 'Download High Resolution' button.
- Navigation and Tools:** The top right features tabs for 'Medical History', 'Case Files', 'Examinations', 'Observations', and 'Laboratory Data'. The bottom left shows status messages: 'You are the owner of this meeting.' and 'This meeting has ended.'