

Job Description: OOP Opportunity Ethiopia

Background

The emerging role of anaesthesia providers within Ethiopia is expanding. Increasing demand for surgical workload means there is a need for not only increased numbers of providers, but in order to provide a safe surgical service, there is a need for increasing numbers of advanced level providers, and for continuing education programs in order to develop training to meet the needs of the country. With a population just under 100 million, currently there are only 51 physician anaesthesia providers, 350 nurse anaesthetists and 400 BSc anaesthesia providers. This equates to only 0.05 anaesthesia providers per 100,000 population (1).

Location



Bahir Dar is a city in the North West of Ethiopia, in the Amhara region, with a population of around 300,000, yet its healthcare facilities serve a large geographical area comprising around 8 million people.

Bahir Dar is located on the 'Northern Tourist Route' in Ethiopia and boasts palm lined streets, the largest lake in the country with its numerous historical monasteries and the Blue Nile Falls. It is a 40 minute flight from Addis Ababa with airline and road links to other sites of interest within the country.

Employer

A partnership has been developed between Bahir dar University (BDU), Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital (FHRH), The University of Aberdeen (UoA), UoA charity The Soapbox Collaborative and NHS Grampian, beginning in 2014. This partnership has supported numerous areas including quality improvement, collaborative research, student and staff exchange schemes and medical school elective placements.

Bahir Dar University was established in 1963 and began offering anaesthesia training programs in the last 3 years. The department of Anaesthesia at Bahir Dar University currently offers 3 & 4 year BSc Anaesthesia programs with ongoing expansions. In the future BDU hope to be able to provide further training programs within the department e.g. anaesthesiology residency program (4 years). In addition, neighbouring Debre Tabor University anaesthesia students undertake clinical attachments with BDU and there may be opportunities for collaboration with nearby universities and hospitals.



Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital (FHRH) is a major referral hospital with a high surgical caseload and variety of cases. FHRH has 8 operating tables and a 8 bed ICU. It sees in excess of 5000 surgeries per year and around 6000 deliveries. FHRH also provides mentorship to a cluster of district general hospitals and BDU anaesthetists are occasionally involved in supporting anaesthesia providers at these sites and development of anaesthesia services in the community.

BDU's Tebebe Ghion Hospital opened in November 2018 and BDU anaesthetists work across both sites. This hospital provides around 400 beds, a 9 bed ICU, 11 operating theatres, PACU unit, day case surgery unit, pre-op assessment services, labour unit and emergency department. The site will also provide the main training site for health sciences including anaesthesia and has comprehensive on-site facilities under development.



There are currently 15 BSc level anaesthesia providers at FHRH, and 10 providers (MSc & BSc levels) and an anaesthesiologist at BDU. Further expansion is ongoing with a number of posts currently advertised.

The on-site medical school building at FHRH offers teaching classrooms and facilities, and a simulation facility and clinical skills lab for anaesthesia training is almost complete.

The Post

The Aberdeen-Bahir Dar Partnership offers this opportunity for placements of 6m+ in Bahir Dar to help support anaesthesia services and deliver training programs in anaesthesia. Placement within this programme and partnership would support BDU with provision of anaesthesia provider training, development of training programmes, development of the anaesthesia service at both FHH and the new Tebebe Ghion Hospital as it further expands services and anaesthesia involvement across specialties.

The post-holder would be placed across both sites, both are which are in the city, and would spend time in the operating rooms and ICU, and would be allocated teaching topics through discussion with BDU head of department. There would be opportunities to be involved in audit and quality improvement projects, service development and teaching activities.

Further information and full induction would be provided as well as assistance with planning and logistics e.g. travel, accommodation, visas, clinical registration. You will be allocated a supervisor both in the UK and in Bahir Dar.

For further information, contact:

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1. World federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologist. Anaesthesiology Workforce Map. http://www.wfsahq.org/component/wfsa_worldmap/countrynew/Ethiopia