

SMP HEALTH LINKS FORUM

12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Tara	Beattie	University of Strathclyde
Keith	Bohannon	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Ewan	Brown	NHS Lothian
Kathryn	Chipperfield	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Carol	Clements	University of Strathclyde
Sara	Davies	Scottish Government
Martyn	Edelsten	Edinburgh University
James	Garden	University of Edinburgh
Andy	Gibson	Mission Rabies
Nigel Harper	Harper	LUV +
David	Hope-Jones	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Alexandra	Letcher	Meningitis Research
Lesley-Anne	Long	mPowering Health
Laura	Macpherson	THET
Magnus	Maharg	Scottish Government
Mike	McKirdy	RCPS Glasgow
Mary	Millar	Meningitis Research
Richard	Montgomery	Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Alison	O'Connell	CBM UK
Siobhan	O'Connor	Napier University
Bernie	O'Hare	member
Francesca	Roberts	Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh
Denis	Robson	member
Richard	Simpson	MSP
Paula	Smith	University of Edinburgh
David	Stevenson	University of Edinburgh
Michael	Stitt	Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh
Ian	Walker	Johnson & Johnson
Katie	Walsh	The Union
Vicky	Young	University of Edinburgh

Apologies:

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Alastair	Ager	QMU
Charlie	Bevan	SMP
Christine	Campbell	University of Edinburgh
Heather	Cubie	University of Edinburgh
Murray	Duncanson	Sue Ryder
Stuart	Fergusson	RCPSG
Olivia	Giles	500 miles
Burnett	Lunan	member
John	O'Donoghue	Imperial College

#### ITEM ONE: M-HEALTH

**Lesley-Anne Long** joined us online from Washington DC to give a talk on mobile health (mHealth), [see presentation attached for more details](#).

Lesley-Anne spoke about the work of **mPowering Frontline Health Workers**, whose aim is ending preventable maternal and child deaths. They offer online training materials for health workers which are free to download and mobile-ready. Resources can be downloaded onto a mobile device, in a range of languages, and accessed without connectivity. This can be accessed through 'ORB' - a library of high quality, mobile-optimized training materials for frontline health workers.

Lesley encouraged SMP members to make use of this fantastic resource and to publicise it far and wide. Find out more about their work here: <http://mpoweringhealth.org/>

***Action 1: members to access training materials via [ORB](#)***

There was a discussion on how to engage with key stakeholders in Malawi, including the Government of Malawi.

***Action 2: SMP to share details of the new Health Strand Leader (see below)***

Emma Jipson Mabvumbe, [emabvumbe@yahoo.com](mailto:emabvumbe@yahoo.com)

There was a discussion on the possible inclusion of training material on traditional herbal medicine.

***Action 3: Lesley-Anne and Carol Clements to discuss directly.***

#### ITEM TWO: SCOTTISH GLOBAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

David Hope-Jones, from the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP), gave an update on the **Scottish Global Health Collaborative**: this new initiative, chaired and championed by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Scotland, will provide coordination and support for global health work across Scotland, as well as linking with global health work across the UK and internationally. Currently there are two main activities, setting up a website to represent the members of collaborative (led by SMP) and a mapping exercise is underway to map global health work all over Scotland (led by THET).

**Action 4: Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this survey and contribute to the global health mapping:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CFPM885>

Mike McKirdy, from the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Glasgow, spoke about how Wales are leading the way in this area at the moment. Wales is the first nation in the world to put in place a legislative link to the UN SDGs - the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG). In 2014 The Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales was ratified by all seven regional Health Boards and Trusts. The International Health Coordination Centre (IHCC) has been working to raise awareness of and support international health partnerships and global citizenship in Wales, including establishing a framework for volunteering. This initiative is the first of its kind and serves as an example for unified commitment and a model for ensuring sound governance, good practice and reciprocal and responsible international work. For more information please see link: <http://www.internationalhealth.wales.nhs.uk/international-health-partnerships>

### ITEM THREE: ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH

Michael Stitt (Head of Development) joined us to give a short overview of the work of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (RCSEd) The RCSEd is the oldest and largest of the UK surgical Royal Colleges, and one of the largest of all the UK medical Royal Colleges. Today it is a modern, thriving, global network of medical professionals with a membership of well over 23,000 professionals who live and work in more than 100 countries around the world. The RCSEd are keen to work together on Global Health issues as part of the Collaborative (see above) and also through the SMP Health Links Forum. For more information see link: <https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/the-college/about-us>

Denis Robson made the point that key national institutions such as the RCSEd and the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Glasgow, should look for more opportunities to work together.

### ITEM FOUR: UPDATE ON SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FUNDED HEALTH PROJECTS

The forum facilitated sharing and learning from four health projects in Malawi, all funded by the Scottish Government Malawi Development Programme (MDP):

**The Edinburgh Malawi Breast Cancer Project, NHS Scotland Lothian:** The project aims to achieve and demonstrate improvement in breast cancer treatment at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre through development of multi-disciplinary care and enhanced pathology. [See presentation from Ewan Brown for details.](#)

**Triage and treatment, training and engagement. A package for sustainable healthcare improvement in Malawi's primary health clinics, Meningitis Research Foundation:** The project will deliver a proven health package for early recognition, treatment and appropriate referral of severely ill children in community health centres, acceptable and ready for implementation across Malawi. [See presentation from Mary Millar & Alexandra Letcher for details.](#)

**Impact on Malaria, Maternal Health and the Prognosis for AIDS by Quality Assurance, Knowledge exchange and Training (IMMPAQKT), University of Strathclyde:** The objective of this project is to improve the health of the people of Malawi in the three key areas of malaria, maternal health and AIDS; by developing a programme for the quality assurance of traditional herbal medicines and by increasing the knowledge of the conventional medical profession in traditional medicine. [See presentation from Carol Clements for details.](#)

**Healthy Settings work in Chikhwawa, under the Scotland Chikhwawa Health Initiative, University of Strathclyde:** Improved health status can be addressed through the Healthy Settings approach. Healthy Settings not only addresses access to curative health services, but also environmental, sociological and economic determinants for health in the home, school and work environments using a community led approach. This can lead to substantial reductions in the burden on curative health services and reduce the morbidity and mortality of both communicable and non-communicable diseases in communities. See presentation from Tara Beattie and video link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2Abon4Bj8U>) for more details.

#### ITEM FIVE: AOB

- On Sep 9<sup>th</sup> a **successful symposium**, attended by over 100 participants, was held on Lilongwe on ‘reducing the burden of cervical cancer by introduction of thermal coagulation’. This was partnership between the University of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian and Nkhoma Hospital, as part of a project funded by Scottish Government. It was attended by the First Lady who opened the symposium and spoke about the need to work in partnership. This was covered in the Malawian media: <http://www.nyasatimes.com/first-lady-calls-efforts-curb-cervical-cancer-malawi/>
- The next meeting with the Government of Malawi **Strand Leaders** will take place in Malawi on Sep 19<sup>th</sup>. All members are encouraged to communicate onward to their partners in Malawi.
- The issues of **lack of access to vital drugs in Malawi** was raised by a member of the diaspora at a recent meeting of the Cross Party Group on Malawi at Scottish Parliament. The SMP have asked DFID for more information on what they are doing in this area.
- The **next meeting** of the SMP Health Links Forum will likely be in early 2017. Further information to follow.