



INTERPLAST (UK)
ANNUAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES
FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2014

ANNUAL REPORT

At the outset, let me record our appreciation for the work and support over many years of Dr Ian Mair who sadly died a few months ago.

Glancing back over the last 12 months it appears that invitations to various countries have been plentiful but due to some of the accompanying demands and red tape of government bodies and the hospitals themselves our activities have been curtailed. In addition, our trip to Uganda in October 2013 was cancelled as Mr Viva was unwell.

However, we did engage in a surgical camp in May 2013 (see Chairperson's report July 2013) and in March 2014, this being the third mission we have undertaken at the Kashmir International Relief Fund (KIRF) Community Hospital in Jatlan, Kashmir. The 15 strong team consisted of 3 Surgeons, 2 Junior Doctors, 2 Anaesthetists, 4 Nurses, a Pharmacist, 2 Photographers and myself. Four of the team were from Denmark where KIRF have a strong support network. Another four on the team had been recruited by KIRF who also agreed to finance them. We therefore were only required to finance 7 team members. Our international team worked extremely well together and 94 operations were completed. Mr Viva encouraged the two younger Surgeons to perform the surgery whilst he saw the endless stream of patients in clinic, a total of over 400 with varying conditions, not all suitable for plastic surgery – but they came in the hope that our Doctors can cure anything and everything!

About 40% of the patients undergoing surgery had burn injuries and it was obvious that a major requirement was education of parents and children alike regarding prevention of burns which often occur in the home where open wood burning fires are used for cooking and heating. Zeenat Hussain, a member of our team, with a nursing/public health education background, is passionate about initiating a burns awareness programme to work in the community with the aim of reducing the unacceptable high number of patients suffering burn injuries.

She is applying for EU funding for a pilot scheme. Our Surgeons also performed reconstructive surgery for cleft lips, cleft palates, hypospadias and other congenital abnormalities.

The patients and their families are always extremely grateful for the gift of surgery as can be seen in the attached letter from the father of one patient (both pictured overleaf). We were also visited by a family bringing their beautiful two year old girl whose cleft lip was repaired on our first mission to Kashmir when she was just a few months old. What a joy it was to see Aysha again looking so well and happy.

Whenever we travel to Pakistan we are always indebted to Mr Javed Majid for his generous help and support and this occasion was no exception. Obtaining visas and dealing with Airport officials can be daunting but Javed is always on hand to smooth the way.

We have been greatly helped during the year with a few large donations from KIRF (over £6,566), St Bernadette's Primary School (£1,317), Catenian Association, Middlesbrough (£1,000) and St Hilda's Church, Hartlepool (£600). We are also expecting a sizeable donation following a fundraising dinner organised by Marzina Begum Ahmed in her father's restaurant in Ponteland recently. We are also very grateful for donations from Trustees, team members, friends and church groups. We continue to receive invitations to give presentations regarding the missions thus establishing further contacts and support. At our last AGM concerns were raised regarding our finances but the situation has been eased with the cancellation of our Ugandan trip in 2013, some generous donations, sponsorship by KIRF of 4 team members and help from our Danish team. Our future expenditure will include our next mission to Uganda in October 2014 for which the fares will total approximately £11,000 plus accommodation and visas.

We have been grateful to Javed for the storage space he has afforded us up until now but with the closure of Tall Trees we will need to find alternative storage for the drugs and dressings etc.

Our thanks also go to those Pharmaceutical companies, Chemists (Towlers, Kirkbymoorside, and Maguires, Marton), Norton Medical Centre and James Cook Hospital who have either donated medical supplies or provided them at cost price.

Interplast (UK), however, would not exist were it not for Mr Viva whose compassion and dedication has inspired many to become supporters and participants in this very rewarding work. Thanks to Mr David Otter who again has provided our annual accounts and to all our Trustees for continued support.

Marjorie Wheatley, Secretary.

27 June 2014