

GouCam Collaboration



February 24 2008

Capacity building in West-Cameroon

Groene Hart hospital, the Netherlands will take part in a collaborative effort to bring capacity and efficiency in Njissé Hospital, West Cameroon. This intervention will comprise of a bidirectional exchange of knowledge and expertise. Our goal is to create a self-sustaining, efficient hospital.



Staff members of The protestant hospital of Njisse are happy and ready to receive doctors, experts and students to take part in this developmental aid.

In June 2007, Sabine Fonderson (a medical doctor from the Netherlands), approached this rural hospital located in west Cameroon, Foumban to take part in an exchange program. There was (and still is) a demand for medical students in the Netherlands to take part in developmental projects. Due to the local contacts, she was able to establish collaborations with 3 other hospitals in Cameroon. These hospitals would receive medical students, supervise their work and more importantly educate them on local diseases and health care. Upon her return to the Netherlands, she was contacted by Dr. Versteegh (Pediatrics, Groene Hart hospital) to inquire on possibilities to outsource knowledge and expertise to a hospital in Cameroon. At a later time, Dr. Scholtens (Surgeon, Groene Hart hospital) was interested in performing reconstructive surgery in Cameroon. After a few meetings, it was decided

upon to expand the project and establish a collaborative effort at an organizational level instead of at an individual level. Mr. Verbeek (Chairman, Groene Hart hospital) has since agreed to this initiative.

Vision of GouCam Collaboration (GCC)



Developmental aid offered to rural hospitals in third-world countries is a concept that has been around for many years. In many cases, hospitals from western countries

will donate equipment. In addition, doctors will spend a few weeks to months performing operations and/or treating patients. Such efforts have saved lives. However, in many cases, hospitals are still not able to function without the interventions and donations from their western partner hospitals.

The GC collaboration will provide managerial, medical and developmental expertise to rural hospital in West Cameroon. The objective will be to help build the already existing infrastructure of this hospital so that it will be self-sufficient and self-reliant in the years to come.

Njissé hospital



Njissé protestant hospital is situated in Fouban, a western province of Cameroon. This town is home to over 120,000 inhabitants. The hospital was created in 1926 by a Swiss missionary doctor (Dr. Debarge) and is part of five evangelic hospitals in Cameroon. Ten health centers are annexed to this hospital, making it a referral hospital in Fouban.

The hospital has over 53 personnel, including 2 resident doctors and 3 permanent surgery assistances. With over 120 hospital beds, it has 9 medical departments, including gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatrics, surgery, and ophthalmology. Other clinical services include radiology (electrocardiography and echography), prenatal consultation and outreach programs. In an event of electricity outfall, the hospital is able to function on its generators.

Fact finding Mission

Between May and August 2008, a team of medical experts will embark on the first phase of this collaborative effort. The aim of this fact-finding mission will be to assess the concrete needs of the health-care in Njissé hospital. One of the primary activities will be to make direct contact with the hospital, the Dutch embassy in Yaounde and with local religious and political authorities. Based on these contacts, a protocol will be developed. This will provide structure and consistency to this project. Both parties will know what roles they play and they will be opportunity to evaluate the progression of the project at different time points. The second phase of this collaborative effort will consist of sending doctors, managers, equipments and (medical)-students.

Facts and figures: Cameroon vs The netherlands



| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Population 2007 (millions) | 18.0 | 16.4 |
| Surface area (km ²) | 475.4 | 41.52 |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) | 46.1 | 79 |
| Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births) | 87.0 | 4 |
| HIV Prevalence (% population ages 15-49) | 5.4 | 0.2 |

GCC team

The Netherlands

dr. S. Fonderson

Email

sabinefonderson@ashia.org

Dr. F. Versteegh

Dr. R. Scholtens

Dr. K. Evers

Dr. H. Huisseling

Mr. D.J. Verbeek

Cameroon

dr. S.J. Chretien
