UROLINK
BRITISH ASSOCIATION of UROLOGICAL SURGEONS

Christine Evans
MD FRCSEd
Retired Urologist North Wales
Ashmawy doing RPP in Mpilo
With Hassan Ashmawy in Bulawayo
November 2007
Bulawayo 2007
Mission Statement

- It can no longer be acceptable to ignore the health problems of those that do not have access to even basic medical care.

- Professor Geoffrey Chisholm (1989), one year before the start of Urolink
The aim is to train urologists from developing countries in modern urological techniques.

To provide with equipment and support to train themselves and for them to train their own trainees, also for these trainees to gain experience in the UK.

To advise UK trainees how to gain experience in developing countries.
Single speciality links

- Start small
- Get invitation to go
- Go for a short reconnaissance visit
- Decide what equipment is needed
- Get funding and equipment
- Return for first visit
- Get equipment and yourself over
- Operate, teach, learn, enjoy yourself, don’t offend, don’t patronise
- Promise to return.
- Medical insurance
thereafter

- Then expand,
- Take colleagues, trainees, students, nurses, anaesthetists.
- Find out what equipment is broken
- Take back for repair or to replace
- Check on your finances, beg, borrow or steal for the equipment firms / own hospital
- PS don’t take out of date drugs.
Essentials

- An ability to work in an unpredictable environment
  - Lack of water, light, electricity [power cuts]
- Poor antibiotic availability [take with you]
  - Take sutures /catheters etc
- Lack of money by the patients to pay for drugs be prepared to pay the patient for Xrays she/he needs
Achievements in UTH Lusaka

- Yearly visits for 8 years
- Marked improvement in hypospadias repair [Patrick Duffy GOSH]
- Good endoscopic equipment
- Video stack and camera [EU grant]
- 4 urologists and 4 trainees
- Membership of and visits to BAUS
- Proper equipment ITU with good analgesia
Downsides

- Poor morale with the nurses poorly paid
- Poor maintainance of equipment
- Few surgical trainees, prefer general practice
- Poor discipline on the wards
- Lack of transparency with money
- Disappearance of doctors to elsewhere
- HIV/AIDS hepatitis
Considerations

- Technicians to visit for periods to do repairs
- Increase salaries so less loss of staff for economic reasons
- Central area for collecting and sending reusable working equipment from Wales
VVF repair
The missing penis
COSECSA Mombasa 2007
Ethiopia
Prof Labib and the video stack