

Reflections on Six Years Experience in Knowledge Transfer – SMA UK&I

Dr Babikir Ismail

Introduction:

- Historical Sudanese medical links to UK since 1924.
- Post-graduate studies until mid 1970's – local masters.
- Politics related immigration late 1970's & early 1990's.
- Sudan now is the 3rd. Country providing doctors to UK (ahead of us is India and Pakistan only).
- June 2009: consultatory meeting in London to explore practicality of forming SMA UK&I.
- Launch in December 2009.
- Foundation meeting March 2010 in London.

Objectives (1)

- 1. To place emphases on the purely professional no political activities
- 2. To work towards the creation of professional and social links among members
- 3. To provide advice and support for health service and medical and health education in Sudan and contribute to the transfer of modern technology, expertise and scientific updates to Sudan through cooperation with professional bodies and health authorities in the country.
- 4. To encourage relevant research and publication

Objectives (2)

- 5. To support the training of medical students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) by creating networks of cooperation with the U.K. and Irish institutions.
- 6. To organize health convoys to Sudan to contribute to the practical training of doctors and health workers and provide medical services for patients with more focus on the less developed regions in Sudan.
- 7. To work to maintain the recognition of the Sudanese Bachelors of Medicine by NARIC and other British and Irish institutes.
- 8. To cooperate with similar organizations inside and outside Sudan.
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Objectives (3)

- 9. To establish a comprehensive body that will encompass all the Sudanese health professionals living in the U.K. and Ireland in order to iron out differences and professional arrogance by fusion in multi-disciplinary teams thereby setting a good example of communication and liaison for health services in the Sudan.
- 10. To work to create good links with similar U.K. and Irish institutions to serve the Sudan, U.K. and Ireland.

Materials and Methods:

- I will use inspection tools to investigate how much has been achieved in the last six years of the published objectives of the Sudanese Medical Association.
- I will take the advantage of being present from the early moments of conception of the Sudanese Medical Association as a non-profit organization. Also I have a lot of achieved personal material which I am going to use mainly, together with press release and bulletin published by SMA UK & I together with the website of the Sudanese Medical Association: www.sma-ukandireland.org
- The methodology will focus on each objective and then see what has been achieved so far.

Results

- To place emphases on the purely professional no political activities:
- This as you could see is mean rather than objective but it was put as the 1st objective.
- This reflects the current environment of polarization of medical Sudanese community inside and outside the Sudan. Organizations are classified as either pro-government or pro-opposition. The latter also is divided into organized and non-organized opposition. The organized opposition is further divided into armed and civil.
- Unfortunately, each organization will be classified according to the political affiliation of members. It is needed to have one politically active member to receive a full classification for your organization. Non-politically active members will be generally classified as pro-government. There is no way to avoid being classified.
- SMA UK & I was classified as pro-government. This has been reflected in low recruitment of members. Examining the literature of SMA UK & I and activity log there was no evidence of any political agenda for SMA UK&I.

2. To work towards the creation of professional and social links among members

- SMA UK&I has provided a lot of professional support for Sudanese doctors in UK through provision of attachment for at least 70 Sudanese doctors, and introducing them for UK systems. Some of them now are either senior trainee levels or young consultants.
- SMA UK & I has also provided training for junior doctors in UK and the Sudan. Workshops on introduction to the NHS, interview skills, training on basic techniques through the SMA Juniors office. Some social activities were also carried out.
- None of these activities were politically influenced.







3. To provide advice and support for health service and medical and health education in Sudan and contribute to the transfer of modern technology,.

- Six conferences were held in Sudan, one conference in London, and one in Republic of Ireland.
- In each conference we set a central theme which is covered by plenary sessions and we also run parallel, pre or post conference workshops which cover a variety of issues. So far 2000 participants who attended our conferences and 1200 participants of our workshops. The workshops are aimed to provide face to face training with hands experience and are designed specifically to benefit doctors in training, and other allied health professionals.

- Topics covered in the conferences included: family medicine, emergency medicine, ICU medicine, quality, research, laboratory accreditation, oncology, specialist nursing, haemophiliac care, and medical ethics and professionalism. The workshops were very extensive and topics included: research methodology, cardiology, audit, physiotherapy, X-ray interpretation, interview skills, MRCP exam preparation, pleural disease. 15 – 20 expatriates from UK and Ireland have joined these conferences and delivered high quality training and knowledge transfer.





جهاز تنظيم شؤون
السودانيين العاملين بالخارج

وزارة مجلس الوزراء

جهاز تنظيم شؤون السودانيين بالخارج

برنامج نقل المعرفة والتقانة (SPAKTEN)

والجمعية الطبية السودانية بالمملكة المتحدة وإيرلندا

وإدارة التطوير المهني المستمر



المؤتمر الطبي التدريبي الرابع

الزمان : ١٣ - ١٥ ديسمبر ٢٠١٣م

المكان : مركز التدريب والتطوير المهني المستمر



Research & Publications

- 4. To encourage relevant research and publication: this is an area where we are still working on to and we will start by documenting and publishing all the work done by SMA UK &I. This paper is an effort in the field.

Accreditation

- 5. To support the training of medical students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) by creating networks of cooperation with the U.K. and Irish institutions. We have a protocol of collaboration with SMSB to train medical and allied health professionals in Sudan. The two last international conferences in Sudan were held in collaboration with SMSB and most of the beneficiaries include post-graduate doctors who are studying in the council.

Health Convoys

- 6. To organize health convoys to Sudan to contribute to the practical training of doctors and health workers and provide medical services for patients with more focus on the less developed regions in Sudan.
- This area had less attention than training and knowledge transfer. We have done two activities outside Khartoum: a conference on oncology was done in Aljazeera University in Medani in collaboration with St James Hospital in Dublin. Also we organized a convoy to Sennar University and we also trained nurses in Sennar and Singa specialist hospitals on variety of issues including wound care, BLS and ALS, care of patients in acute medicine and ER department. WE signed a collaboration protocol with the ministry of health in sennar State.

Sennar Convoy 2012



8. To cooperate with similar organizations inside and outside Sudan – Visit of SMC President to GMC in March 2016



To establish a comprehensive body that will encompass all the Sudanese health professionals living in the U.K. and Ireland

Manchester May 2016

Leadership Training



10. To work to create good links with similar U.K. and Irish institutions to serve the Sudan, U.K. and Ireland.

- We have delivered in knowledge transfer through our training conferences.
- We helped to establish direct links with GMC and we are now working to liaise with Royal Colleges and Academy of the Royal Colleges to improve training in Sudan.
- We have established links with Irish Medical Council and Irish health Authorities. Sudanese doctors are about 10% of all doctors in the Republic of Ireland.

Discussion:

- Sudanese medical community in UK & Ireland and elsewhere are very polarized and divided on political issues. This community need to learn that any work done collectively will benefit people in Sudan and have a great impact on the training and health systems. Polarization will lead to division and loss of interest especially by new generations who are on the rise
- We need to do more on social activities and programmes and get linking medical community with Sudanese community in UK and Ireland. Young doctors and allied health professionals need to get more involved in social and professional activities to consolidate efforts for Sudan. Two marriages came out of professional and social interactions in the last six years.

Discussion: (continued)

- The amount of knowledge transferred in the last six years was huge but probably to follow up implementation on the ground back in Sudan and monitor the impact of that on the practice was not and probably need huge resources and bigger input from us. This can be a future recommendation. Networking and linking organization with outside world need to be an immediate benefit of these programmes. We have established a link for nuclear and radioisotope Centre in Gezira University with St James' Hospital in Dublin and there were visiting professionals who benefited from this programme.

SMA - International
We are now looking to
expand our network
and recruit members
from outside UK &
Ireland (under
negotiations).

