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Activity Report 2022 Fistula Group Programme

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GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (GFMER)





Most procedures are performed under local anaesthesia

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Editorial



MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY, A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE IN TANGUIÉTA AND IN THE FISTULA GROUP AND GFMER NETWORK

With the widespread availability of cellular networks, improved bandwidth in Africa and access to new technologies in the field of videoconferencing, a new era of medical practice is emerging, allowing teams to experiment with new forms of skill transmission, including in the very complex field of fistula surgery.

Thus, during our mission in April 2022 to Benin, Fistula Group has initiated a live training programme in Tanguiéta through videotransmission. This experiment is a new form of distance learning by medical specialistsof the hospital. Less costly in terms of travel, these "lives" are a training opportunity as they allow people to attend operations performed by world-renowned operators and interact with them in real time. Eventually, this facility will be able to facilitate telementoring, allowing an expert to give advice without being physically present in the operating room and provide real-time support for complex surgery.

In this context, the medical team of Tanguiéta was able to organise, in December "Les Premières Journées Scientifiques de Tanguiéta", a series of conferences, followed by live surgeries, which met with great success and will be repeated in 2023.

"THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY IS SHIFTING TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD".

The year 2022 also marks an important turning point in the operating methods for Tanguiéta, as GFMER has financed the purchase of the technical platform for laparoscopic surgery.

Scaling up of the Tanguiéta model

Through FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics), of which I have join the Committee at the end of 2021, we have a great opportunity to spread our good practices, in the spirit of the Tanguiéta model (treatment, training, research, prevention, reintegration of patients, awareness-raising of the population, etc.) and to extend our network in Frenchspeaking Africa in particular. We regularly share our experiences and expertise through remote meetings and, conversely, we build national skills through these networks by sending our partners into the field. This is the case in 2023 for the Dr Aholou, former GFMER fellow and now head of the maternity ward at the hospital

Saint Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta who will go to specialise for 6 weeks at the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa in 2023, invited by FIGO.

From the north of Benin, to the rest of the country, and then across national and sub-regional borders...

The centre of gravity is shifting and the question of duplicating environmental solutions is becoming more important.

This scaling up is taking place through the sharing of know-how, experience and the dissemination of research. The change of scale is taking place through the sharing of know-how, experience and the dissemination of research.

> C-H. Rochat Geneva, 3 March 2023

Overview 2022



April 2022 - St Jean de Dieu Hospital in Tanguiéta. Patients with obstetric fistula awaiting surgery.

with our partners, 286 patients operated on in 2022

Since 1993 and Dr Rochat's meeting with Brother Florent, the network has continued to expand.

These surgical workshops, which have made a lasting difference to patients' lives, have also also enabled :



On the one hand, for the teams in training, for the most part resident doctors, called D.E.S (doctors specialising in urology and/or gynaecology-obstetrics), to familiarise themselves with complex operating techniques.



On the other hand, to develop new surgical approaches and to form the basis for scientific publications.

BENIN

36 PATIENTS IN - 1 SURGICAL WORKSHOP AND - ROUTINE CARE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1 WORKSHOP IN BENIN

In April 2022 Dr Rochat and his team operated on 33 patients with severe obstetric fistulas and prolapse.

ROUTINE OPERATIONS

3 patients with fistulas or pro lapsus were treated throughout the year by Dr Aholou.

Overview 2022 /-

CAMEROON

19 PATIENTS IN 2 SURGICAL WORKSHOPS

In addition to these two workshops, the appointment in 2021 of Prof. Tebeu as Director General of CIESPAC (Centre Inter-États of Higher Education in Public Health of Central Africa) facilitates :

 → the establishment of the network of actors in the fight against fistula in Central Africa
 → Centralization of data for CIESPAC countries.

BURKINA FASO

109 PATIENTS IN ROUTINE

Since Tanguiéta is located on the edge of the area considered to be at risk by the Swiss and French authorities, transit between south-eastern Burkina and northern Benin has come to a halt for the time being. Under these conditions, it is therefore problematic to resume the cooperation with Sentinelles which allowed patients recruited in Burkina Faso to benefit from surgical workshops in Tanguiéta. The patients are therefore operated on in Ouagadougou and Fistula Group supports Dr Moussa Guiro in his operations.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

40 PATIENTS IN 1 WORKSHOP

Dr Moussa Guiro's team also participated in a surgical workshop for the management of 40 complex cases during a mission to Côte d'Ivoire.



Very close contact with patients and their carers at the Saint Camille Hospital in Ouagadougou.

-/ Overview 2022

MADAGASCAR

82 PATIENTS OPERATED ON

Dr Randria is responsible for fistula surgery for the SALFA hospitals. He He performs surgical campaigns throughout the year. Having reached retirement age in November 2019, he can nevertheless continue to manage and teach fistula surgery, thanks to the support of Fistula Group. The programme is currently supporting Dr. Martin's specialisation in urology as a way of planning for the future.

Madagascar - Review 20-21-22



SALFA's collaborations with public hospitals were intensified and Dr Randria, as the only itinerant repair surgeon, carried out these missions.

In addition, 5 public hospitals have benefited from these collaborations over the past 3 years. Dr Randria was able to perform other surgeries during these missions because these hospitals do not have surgeons.

Exchanges with other surgeons during the SALFA health facility missions were very beneficial. Dr Randria was also able to teach the paramedics how to provide pre-, perand post-operative care in order to offer a quality service and prevent relapses.

Currently, SALFA is looking for young surgeons to train but the requirement of FIGO standards is a major challenge. The English-speaking trainers of the Fistula Foundation have difficulty communicating with the SALFA surgeons who are rather French-speaking. On site, the lack of materials and supplies remains important. SALFA is very active in trying to raise funds for exchanges between surgeons, and to expand and equip its facilities, with the aim of becoming centres of excellence in obstetric fistula repair.

Dr Randria operating in Morafenobe

-/ Overview 2022

BURKINA FASO AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Patient management and training activities take place throughout the year, with 109 patients treated in 2022. A specific training course for theDES of urology and gynaecology took place from 21 November to 1 December 2022 at the Joseph KiZerbo University in Ouagadougou, for the theoretical part, and at the St Camille Hospital in Ouagadougou for the clinical practice. The aim was to train future gynaecology and urology specialists in the management of obstetric fistulas.
- The Fistula Group team in Burkina Faso also supervises doctors trained in the management of obstetric fistula in the different regions of Burkina Faso.
- As a prelude to the South-South Technical Cooperation Conference, a mission to provide surgical management of complex obstetric fistula cases was organised from 19 August to 10 September 2022. Dr Moussa Guiro's team went to Séguéla (about 500km from Abidjan) to organise the activity, take charge of the cases and train the doctors and paramedics at this site. About forty complex cases were treated and about ten doctors were trained.



Participants after a training on holistic management of obstetric fistulas delivered by the medical team of Dr. Moussa Guiro.



By WHO standards and given the complexity of the cases treated, the result is considered particularly satisfactory.

BENIN



Special mission to Cotonou in April 2022 with the presence of Dr Rochat





Mission in Tanguiéta in April 2022, team of doctors around Brother Florent

— The scholarship programme

"The scholarship programme that has been set up is now largely supported by the Inspir' foundation. It is long-term and covers several years.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE INSPIR' FOUNDATION

The Fistula Group programme focuses on reconstructive surgery, treatment of obstetric fistula and prolapse, improving the health care system, prevention, rehabilitation of patients, and most importantly, training and research. The "Tanguiéta Model" has created an efficient training centre for the surgical treatment of obstetrics in West Africa. In Tanquiéta, dozens of surgeons but also trainers of surgeons have passed through and followed surgical workshops. It was also in Tanquiéta that didactic material was developed. hospital generated The а "cascade effect" with the replication of "fistula treatment schools" in emerging countries. The training of African doctors developed by the Fistula Group is bearing fruit, as the majority of doctors in Africa are now treating fistula cases on a daily basis.

The scholarship programme set up, and now supported by the Inspir' Foundation, is longterm and lasts for several years (up to 6 years for surgeons). The programme is based on practical workshops/operational missions organised on a recurrent basis in these partner places, several times a year, in partnership with the Saint Camille and Paul VI hospitals in Ouagadougou, the SALFA hospitals (Groupement des Hôpitaux Luthériens de Madagascar) as well as CIESPAC and OCEAC for Central Africa.

It also aims to train more than a dozen doctors and nurses carefully selected for their skills but also their seriousness and motivation.

The scholarship holders are mainly from the Saint Jean de Dieu Hospital in Tanguiéta (Benin), a long-standing partner of the Fistula Group, but also from Madagascar, which is cruelly lacking in specialised surgeons, or from Congo or Cameroon.

—/ The scholarship / programme



Maurel M'Po is currently in her final year of medicine.



Dr. Stalin Adisso is in her third year of specialisation in gynecology and obstetrics.



Dr Martin, currently in his third year of specialisation in urological surgery.

IN BENIN

• Two fellows completed their specialisation:

- Dr Sosthène ADENIRAN, neurosurgeon, who returned to the hospital at the beginning of 2022

- Dr Roméo HAOUDOU, orthopaedic surgeon-traumatologist, who finished at the end of 2022.

• Dr Staline Adisso passed her second year specialisation exams in gynaecologyobstetrics. She recently participated in the first seminar of an inter-university diploma in gynaecological and breast oncology. This activity will take place over two years with two seminars each year.

Maurel M'Po is currently finalising his doctoral thesis in medicine.

IN SENEGAL

Dr Martin, who has been supported by the programme since 2020, is now in his third year of specialisation in urology.

Dr Martin Randriantsalama and Maurel M'Po both attended Dr Rochat's workshop in April 2022 in Tanguiéta.



Dr Martin, Dr Rochat, and Maurel M'Po during the April 2022 mission to Tanguiéta.

— Perennial actions

THE PARTNERS

Fistula Group has increased the number of cooperation agreements.



In Europe :

- The Artemedis Foundation, which paid for 50% of the 2020 operation in Tanguiéta - Sentinelles, with 12 years of collaboration in the treatment of fistulas in Burkina Faso.



In Africa :

to relay the work on the spot, promote the training of local doctors, and to organise the operating workshops
to inform the population and prepare the missions in advance.

This work is accomplished through :

- the Claudine Talon Foundation.

- local NGOs: ESSOR (Benin) - Sentinelles (Burkina Faso) - OCEAC and CIESPAC (Central Africa) - SALFA (Madagascar) - Engender Health (Guinea Conakry).

- local teaching hospitals.



ISOFS: International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons (Asia-Africa).

FIGO: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

FISTULA FOUNDATION (First in Africa but also in Asia).

UNFPA: United Nations lead agency for sexual and reproductive health.

WHO: Department of Reproductive Health.

OFWG: International Obstetric Fistula Working Group.

The involvement of parapublic institutions is important. The work with the Claudine Talon Foundation, the foundation of the First Lady of Benin, is emblematic of this.

Raising awareness among the authorities and the population is also an important part of the Fistula Group's joint work with international and local NGOs.

—/ Perennial actions /—



Bridget Asiamah (UNFPA) and Charles-Henry Rochat.

PERSPECTIVES -UNFPA / FIGO

On Monday 13 November 2022, Dr Rochat visited UNFPA headquarters to meet with Bridget Asiamah, technical specialist.

Fistula Group / GFMER and UNFPA have had close ties since 2003.

Dr Charles-Henry Rochat, who is currently a member of the FIGO Obstetric Fistula Committee, was to discuss the possibilities of cross-sectoral collaboration not only in Benin but also in Madagascar, where he had been mandated by UNFPA in 2008 and 2009 to conduct training missions.

Awareness and training

IMPROVING PRACTICE IN OBGYN - NYU, LONG ISLAND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



9.11.2022 - 13.11.2022

Since 2009, Dr. Charles-Henry Rochat has developed close ties with the Albert Einstein College in New York, which is part of Yeshiva University.

His title of Visiting Associate Professor has enabled him to take more than 10 gynaecologists in training at Albert Einstein to the field in Tanguiéta.

Dr Bogdan Grigorescu, who was one of them, accompanied him in 2008. Since then, they have maintained friendships that have brought them together in New York and Geneva.

Dr. Bogdan Grigorescu is currently in the Department of Urogynecology Re-Constructive at New York University Hospital on Long Island.

As part of the annual Gynecology Symposium, Dr. Rochat was invited to give a presentation on his more than 25 years of experience in obstetric fistula surgery.



Dr Bogdan Gregorescu and Dr Charles-Henry Rochat participating in the webinar.

Awareness and training

EVENING DEBATE: "THE PHILANTHROPY IN A WORLD IN CRISIS".



On the occasion of the publication of the fifth edition of the Philanthropy Network M a g a z i n e , L'AGEFI invited Dr. Rochat to the evening debate on the theme of "Philanthropy in a world in crisis".

Programme, Welcome by Raymond Loretan Chairman of the Board of Directors of L'Agefi and Genolier Foundation

Conference: "Who gives and how? What the tax incentives in the canton of Geneva have changed", by Giedre Lideikyte Huber and Marta Pittavino (University of Geneva).

Debate: "Philanthropy in a world in crisis: Vera Michalski-Hoffmann, René Lehmann (Mercy Ships), Dr Charles-Henry Rochat, Keyvan Ghavami (Credit Suisse), Moderation: Frédéric Lelièvre, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of L'Agefi.

<image>

Conclusion Raymond Loretan

16 Keyvan Ghavami, René Lehmann, Vera Michalski - Hoffmann, Dr Charles-Henry Rochat.

Awareness and training

FIRST EDITION OF THE SCIENTIFIC DAYS OF TANGUIÉTA



2.12.2022 - 3.12.2022

Fistula Group supported the first edition of the Tanguiéta Scientific Days which took place from 2 to 3 December 2022 at the Hôpital Saint Jean de Dieu in Tanguiéta. During the webinar, Dr Rochat presented the tips and tricks of vaginal surgery and Dr Aholou conducted a live session with excellent transmission.



—/ Review of press

Movember: the month when men grow moustaches

Date: 22 November 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOg-DQlf7Puc&t=23s

On the occasion of the publication of the magazine Philanthropy, L'Agefi met Dr Rochat. In addition to his work, he has been operating on women with obstetric fistulas in Africa for over 25 years with the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER).

A humanitarian action impossible without the financial help of donors, as he explains in this video.



Movember: the month when men grow moustaches

Date: 22 November 2022 Wordlradio.ch https://fistula-group.ch/movember-le-mois- orthe-men-grow-the-moustache/

https://www.worldradio.ch/listen-again/ mckay-interview/episode/charles-henry-rochat/?autoplay=1

Dr. Rochat was interviewed by Michael A. Mc Kay on the occasion of Movember, an opportunity to talk about men's health and obstetric fistula.

In case you don't know, Movember is a charity founded in Australia in 2003 to help research and prevent prostate cancer and other male health problems.



Breakdown of expenditure



SENDING EQUIPMENT TO BENIN

Benin has been the beneficiary of several consignments of equipment this year. In 1998, GFMER signed a collaboration protocol with the University Urology Department. of Cotonou (Benin). This partnership is still in force. The new head of department, Prof. Josue Avakoudjo, has requested the Fistula Group programme in 2022 for support in equipment. All of the defective endoscopy equipment was brought back to Switzerland for standard exchange with the company Anklin, which represents Storz Medical.

In addition, Fistula Group sent second-hand equipment with an estimated total value of CHF 30,000 for St Jean de Dieu Hospital in Tanguiéta (an electric operating table with leg rest, arm rest and accessories, an ultrasound machine and a stand-up scialytic), which is in addition t o the usual suture equipment, as well as video transmission equipment.

WORKSHOPS SURGICALS

CHF 155 700

BENIN: 2 CAMPAIGNS CAMEROON: 2 CAMPAIGNS BURKINA FASO: ANNUAL MADAGASCAR: ANNUAL

SCHOLARSHIPS

CHF 25 600

MAINLY IN BENIN AND SENEGAL

CHF 34 000

SHIPMENT OF SURGICAL MATERIAL, ENDOSCOPIC, UROLOGICAL, AND VIDEOTRANSMISSION

COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

CHF 23 200

EDITORIAL CONTENT WEBSITE DOC. COMMUNICATION BROCHURES INFORMATIVES FUNDRAISING

CHF 24 400

OPERATION

ALMOST 80% OF THE FUNDS RAISED ARE DIRECTLY INVESTED IN AFRICA

Acknowledgements /--

Fistula-Group would like to thank all the donors associated with the obstetric fistula programme who have made these actions possible:

TOPAZE Foundation Albatros Foundation Baur Foundation Rumsey Cartier Foundation the Genolier Foundation Fondation Fauvette Global Foundation for Life Sciences The Pharos Trust foundation Inspir' Foundation The faithful private donors.

The Foundation would also like to thank Medtronic and Anklin for their material support.



November 2022 Vangaindrano. Dr Randria's patient during a UNFPA campaign

Across the world





Switzerland

Headquarters of Fistula Group (Geneva) / GFMER and Presidium in Lausanne.



Benin

Tanguiéta Hospital and Faculty of Health Sciences (FSS)



New York (USA)

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a collaboration of over 10 years.



Detroit (USA)

Collaboration with Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, in particular Dr James Peabody, urologist and cochairman.

Guinea Conakry

Cooperation v i a AFOA (Association des Fistules Obstétricales d'Afrique) and Engender Health with Dr Jerôme Blanchot and Dr Jean-Marie Colas.



Burkina Faso

Collaboration with Dr. Moussa Guiro for operations performed in Ouagadougou.

Cameroon

Collaboration with Prof. Pierre-Marie Tébeu for operating missions in Yaoundé and Central Africa.

Congo Brazzaville

Headquarters of CIESPAC, a GFMER partner.



Madagascar

Collaboration with SALFA.

Fistula Group



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TO GIVE ALL WOMEN THEIR DIGNITY



Fistula Group, a GFMER programme Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research Public utility foundation

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