

Africa Partners 2004 Trip to Ghana

Eight Mayo Clinic physicians, two nurses, an adolescent clinical psychologist, a computer engineer and two spouses traveled to Ghana from September 17-26, 2004 to present a continuing medical education conference in Kumasi on September 20-23. The group included Drs. Jeanne Allen, Stephen Ansell, David Byer, Bart Clarke, Tim Morgenthaler, Lewis Roberts, Raymond Shields, Irene Sia, and Steven Ytterberg, nurse anesthetist Marian Kwansa, cardiology nurse Brenda Boardman, computer engineer Lowell Noreen, attorney Opal Richards and equipment and supplies coordinator Jeannie Byer. This year the meeting was co-sponsored by The Navigators Africa Partners group, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.



CME Conference Session



**Brenda Boardman, RN
Basic Life Support Instructor**

The faculty for the conference included Mayo Clinic physicians, Ghanaian medical school faculty, several missionary physicians from West Africa, clinical psychologists, and nurses. Attendees at the conference included about 120 medical school faculty, residents, medical students, and nurses from Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, other Ghanaian medical school faculty, local practicing physicians, and a number of physicians and residents from other West African countries including Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Topics covered at the conference included advances in diagnosis and management of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, rickets, leukemias and lymphomas, hepatitis B, liver cirrhosis, lung diseases, chest x-ray interpretation, mental illness, local anesthesia, genomics and the use of computers in medical practice. With assistance from others in the team, Brenda Boardman, a nurse from Austin, Texas, taught many sessions of a brief course in basic life support to conference participants and groups of nurses from the teaching hospital. This course was very well received and appeared to meet a definite need.



Basic Life Support Course

This trip represented the third medical education conference trip sponsored by The Navigators Africa Partners. Our first trip to Jos University Teaching Hospital in Jos, Nigeria occurred in 2000, and was coordinated by Prof. Abraham O. Malu, a gastroenterologist and former Dean of the Jos University Medical School. The second conference in 2002 was held in Kumasi, Ghana, and was coordinated by Prof. T. C. Ankrah, past Chair of the Department of Medicine at Komfo Anokye. Local coordination of the 2004 trip in Kumasi was provided by Dr. George Bedu-Addo, the current Chair of the Department of Medicine at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Dr. Patrick Karikari, the Medical Director, Dr. Anthony Nsiah-Asare, the CEO, and Dr. Betty Norman of the Department of Medicine.

Trip participants and many family members and friends in Rochester and the U.S. contributed funds and time to purchase and package medications, medical supplies, and medical education materials, which were donated to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, local physicians and clinics, and several missionary medical clinics throughout West Africa. The materials used to teach the basic life support course were donated to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital for local physician and nurse instructors to use in teaching these skills to their colleagues and physicians and nurses in training.

Africa Partners was founded as a U.S. Navigator ministry in the mid-1980's. The medical arm of Africa Partners was initiated by Dr. Larry Ebert, a Navigator staff member and dentist in the Chicago area, to help build bridges to West African physicians and other health care providers. The goal of the group is to build relationships and provide resources to enable more effective delivery of health care. Earlier Africa Partners trips provided direct health care in underserved areas, and identified regions needing health clinics that could be staffed by Navigator missionary physicians. Over the years, a number of clinics have been developed and funded. This year, trip participants visited an ophthalmology clinic in Accra, Ghana started several years ago by Drs. James and Edith Clarke, and met with Drs. Orkurga and Keziah Malu, who founded Adoose Hospital in Jos, Nigeria, Dr. Felix Kohol, who is building a new clinic in Ouagadougou,

Burkina Faso, and Drs. Jeremie Agre, Anicet Adoubi, and Fataho Buraima, who are currently working in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Dr. Ebert died tragically in a car accident in 1996 in Ghana, while returning from the first planning trip for the new clinic in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Prof. Paul K. Nyame, Rector of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, provided significant logistical support for the meeting and has invited Africa Partners to continue to send teams of physicians, surgeons, and nurses to Ghana to hold yearly medical education conferences. Most West African countries do not currently have continuing education requirements for physician and nurses to maintain licensure, but these are being gradually implemented. Africa Partners anticipates continuing to help meet the medical educational needs of West African health care professionals in future years by sending teams and partnering with medical professional organizations in the U.S. and Europe.



Ghana CME Trip Team

Back Row: Irene Sia, Bart Clarke, Lewis Roberts, David Byer, Tim Morgenthaler, Steve Ytterberg
Front Row: Steve Ansell, Ray Shields, Opal Richards, Jeanne Allen, Marian Kwansa, Jeannie Byer, Brenda Boardman
Taking Picture: Lowell Noreen