



Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (UK) & BSAMS visit to Sudan

22-28 October 2011

The SDU (UK&I) in its meeting in London on the 2nd and 3rd October 2010 hosted an important and historic event in its continued efforts to help improve the health services in Sudan. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in UK (AoMRC), the Sudan Government, represented by Federal Minister of Health, and the Sudan Medical Board of Specialisation (SMBS).

The meeting also saw the birth of the British-Sudanese Medical Academy of Specialties, (B-SAMS), which is an academic independent body which works under the auspices of the SDU. It is formed of the chairs of the 14 Sudanese Medical Specialties in UK and Ireland and R&D (Research & Development) and governance leads. The remit of this body is purely academic function which involves coordinating and facilitating the future work between UK and the Sudan.

The common themes from the 4 workshops were; the needs for exchange programmes for all specialities were identified opportunities for clinical fellowship, short term placements and the Medical Training Initiatives, institutional development for SMSB (training of trainers, curricula, Faculty office development etc). The innovative initiatives of the TAPP programme and the MTI were identified as examples of good practice and opportunity for implementation were explored with many officials. The WHO representative expressed his interest on the SDU TAPP (Training and Accreditation Partnership Programme) and confirmed his support and commitment to implement it in Sudan by having the Diaspora professionals as technical consultant in areas of needs.



A Working Party (WP) was formed from the relevant bodies to oversee the implementation of the MOU and to provide adequate supervision and coordination of the activities specified on the MOU.



Social events took place involved an invitation by the British Ambassador for a reception at his house and invited the British Council and other British officials. There was also an invitation from the WHO and the EU. These visits were very useful in understanding the commitments of these organizations to the mission agenda

Social Visits included Dinner and Cultural Music, Nile Cruise, Private dinner parties and a visit to Omdurman Market and the AlKhalifa House in Omdurman.

A closing ceremony chaired by the Minister of the FMOH and under Secretary of State and other officials to agree the recommendations of the visits and workshops. This was followed by a press conference and open discussion.

Overall the visit was successful and very positive both for our distinguished guests and our colleagues in Sudan.



The Working party was formed of:

- The AoMRCs appointed representatives from its International Forum
- BSAMS
- SDU – UK & Ireland
- RCN (Royal College of Nursing)
- Appropriate experts

From Sudan:

- SMSB (Sudan Medical Specialisation Board)
- FMOH (Federal Ministry of Health)
- SOUTH Sudan MOH
- SMC (Sudan Medical Council)

The working party was invited to Sudan by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH); the Undersecretary of Health for the FMOH Dr Isameldin Abdella and the visit took place from the 22nd to the 28th October 2011. The FMOH and the SMSB identified four areas of collaboration; Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Public Health and Nursing and Midwifery.

The FMOH emphasized that this visit will also be an opportunity to explore areas for collaboration on all other specialities and health issues, so the mission was formed from representatives of these areas of needs. It is also to explore their needs and aspiration for the healthcare delivery, the medical and nursing capacity and quality assurance for the health related training in Sudan.

The Working Party representatives consisted of:

- **Dr Michael Pelly, Consultant General/ Stroke Physician, Vice Chair of International Forum of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**
- **Prof. Zulfiqar Mirza, Consultant Emergency Medicine, College of Emergency Medicine**
- **Prof. Frank Dobbs, Prof. General Practice, RCGP**
- **Dr Huda Hassan Chair BSAMS and Sudan Health Consultancy, Faculty Regional Adviser for Public Health**
- **Dr Nassif Mansour, Sudan Doctors Union and RCGP**

The purpose of the visit was to identify initiatives that could be developed in cooperation between the International Forum of Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Sudanese partners to support the development of Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Public Health in the Republic of the Sudan.

This visit was extremely well planned and a task force for each areas of needs was established and the coordination team was made of Dr Muna Ibrahim Abdel Aziz, Dr Sara Osman and Dr Hala Abuzaid who were responsible for the organisation of the visit and contributed to the workshops and work programme.

The mission included visits to the Federal Ministry of Health, State Ministry of Health, Sudan Medical Specialisation Board, FMOH Directorate Human Resource Development, Public Health Institute, CPD (Continuous Professional Development) and Academy of Health Sciences. There was also an opportunity to visit and meet with the WHO office in Sudan, the British Ambassador and the EU officials.



The format of each day included a visit to one of the organisations with a tour and briefing, followed by a workshop discussion on the four areas identified for collaboration. All the sessions were followed by open and honest discussions, where several recommendations were made.

On the day of arrival the FMOH Officials invited the Working Party for dinner at the Alfatih Tower for the Opening Ceremony addressed by the Undersecretary Dr Isameldeen Abdella who gave a very positive talk on his expectation of the visit and acknowledged the role the SDU, the BSAMS and the Diaspora in UK.

The first day of the mission was the official visit to meet the Under secretary of State Dr Isameldeen Abdella followed by a visit to the Federal Minister Dr Alsadig Gassmalla and Dr Igbal Ahmed Albashir State Minister of health in Khartoum State. The Federal Minister identified the areas of collaboration and acknowledged the role of the Royal Colleges in postgraduate medical education which was in place since the seventies. He particularly commended the SDU and BSAMS for all their excellent work.

The group visited University of Khartoum Medical School and met the Dean of the Medical School and Heads of departments. There was an opportunity to visit the Medical School Museum and the group was impressed with the long history of the British Sudanese relationship.

At the SMSB Dr Michael Pelly introduced the group and shared the aim and objectives of this visit which to identify areas of collaboration between the Royal Colleges and the SMSB. Prof Osman Taha the Chair of the Board gave a presentation on the history of medical training and the future plans of Sudan Medical Specialisation Board for the training of doctors in Sudan, this was followed by a presentation from Dr Huda Hassan the BSAMS Chair described the BSAMS initiative and the challenges which face this collaboration.



Dr Nassif Mansour Chair of the SDU gave a talk describing the great role of the SDU since 2005 and being actively involved in improving training and health services.



The team visited the SMC (Sudan Medical Council) and Prof Zein Karrar gave a presentation of the future role of the Sudan Medical Council and his expectations of the support from the AoMRC and BSAMS in the UK and Ireland.

On each day there was a workshop dedicated to one of the priority themes; Nursing and Midwifery, Emergency Medicine, Public health and Family Medicine. There was very good participation from the medical schools; Dean of the Alahfad and the Academy of Science University, and both the Undersecretary and the state Minister of Health attended the public health workshop.