



[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA

Greetings!!!

This is the newsletter we intend to deliver every after four months to you, our special people, receive this with our love and gratitude for all you are to our hospital. We look forward to your feedback and more, may God bless you.

### AMERICAN DOCTORS

We received visiting doctors from the university of Connecticut USA from the month of January through February led by DR. Victoria Forbes for the first 2 weeks who was succeeded by Dr. Susan Levine for the next 2 weeks, DR. Kevin Dieckhaus, DR. Douglas Gerard and DR. David Hager. These were accompanied by resident students from various specialties like infectious diseases, cardiology, hematology, emergency medicine to mention but a few and these empowered our staff on medical ward through teaching on daily ward rounds especially on basic knowledge of how to use the ECG machine and its interpretation. The team as well donated thoracocentesis kits to medical ward.



### ADVANCING PAEDIATRIC CARE.

Dr. Jennifer Neubert, representative of TFU (Together for Uganda Germany), works in close collaboration with St. Francis Hospital Mutolere Administration and Dr. Louie Coda (USA). Dr. Coda has worked in paediatric department over many years. TFU has over a long period of time been involved in building and renovating hospital projects and buying expensive medical equipment. It is this group that pays the Saturday lunches for needy children/orphans. Funds for physiotherapy department were released as well. An additional CPAP machine and additional equipment will be obtained soon thanks to this group. Hopefully this year we can realise the training of a local paediatrician.





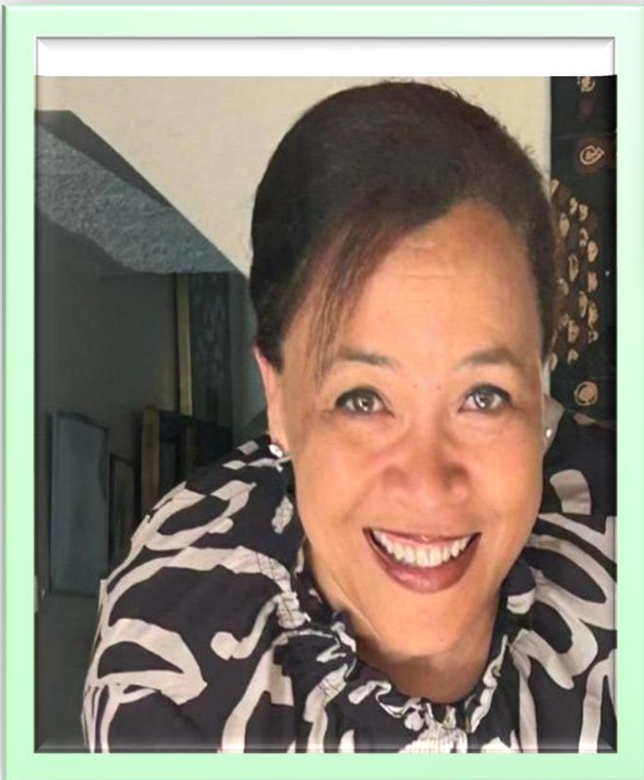
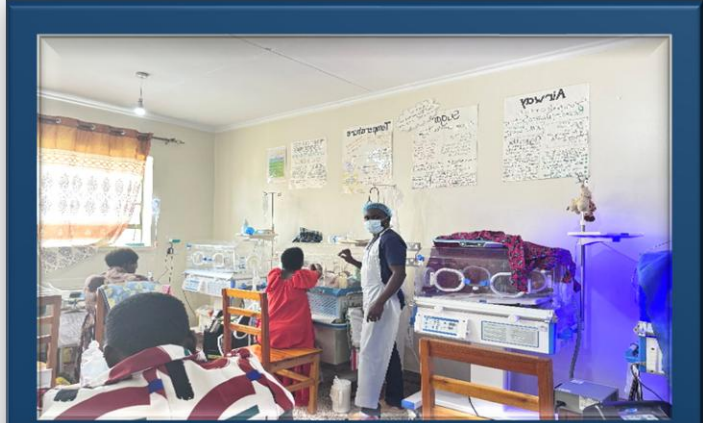
ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MUTOLERE NEWSLETTER

[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA



Dr. Louie Coda (USA)



Dr. Jeniffer Neubert (Germany).



[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA



### FRIENDS OF MUTOLERE – HOLLAND

Let us welcome the New Chairperson, Dr. Niels Jansen. Niels worked in Mutolere Hospital for 2 years together with his wife Katinka Crolla. During his time, he initiated the starting of our current INTENSIVE CARE UNIT. He organized for the comprehensive repairs of the solar system which is now in its final stages. We thank **Mrs. Katinka Mijnheer** for a job well-done when she was the chairperson together with her board members. Projects accomplished during Katinka's chairmanship include: specialized professionals volunteer work in the hospital (surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, laparoscopic surgery experts, theatre professionals, physiotherapists and many others)

Staff development: FFM sponsored staff for specialized courses that included, a surgeon, a gynecologist, anesthetist, physiotherapist, dentist, and clinical officer. The Operating theatre was extensively renovated and expanded as well as two staff quarters renovated medical internships for Dutch medical students. Supervision of Breda funded projects. Friends of Mutolere – Holland has approved a sponsorship for a pediatrician for Mutolere Hospital.



### UROLOGY CAMP VISIT

March 23rd-28th, a team of urologists from Switzerland, Patrick Mauer and Thomas Gasser, visited Mutolere Hospital to teach transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) during a camp. They were joined by Dr. Baalam Nkunda, Forat Sadry (radiologist), and Dieter Braun (anaesthesiologist).

The team trained Dr. Manzi John, the local surgeon at Mutolere Hospital who was also joined by Bikorwomuhangi Martin (Rushoroza Hospital) and Dr. Muhangi Bosco (Kisoro District Health Officer).

A total of 30 patients were screened during the visit and out of these, 11 patients successfully underwent surgery.

This initiative marked a key step toward establishing urological services at Mutolere Hospital.

The hospital now seeks further training for Dr. Manzi John to sustain these specialized services after training and acquisition of equipment's which the hospital lacks. .



## ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MUTOLERE NEWSLETTER

[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA



Dr. Balaam teaching Dr. Manzi and Dr. Martin how to perform a Transurethral Resection of the prostate with Dr. Patrick and Prof Thomas supervising the procedure



The Urology Camp Team at St. Francis Hospital Mutolere administration block.



Dr. Patrick Mauer and Prof. Thomas Gasser from Switzerland demonstrating a trans vesical open prostatectomy to Dr. Manzi John, the local surgeon





[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA

## CT-SCAN SERVICES AT MUTOLERE HOSPITAL.

Mutolere Hospital has recently acquired CT scan services, significantly enhanced diagnostic accuracy and enabling more precise clinical decision-making for requesting doctors. The majority of CT scans are performed on patients from the surgical ward, particularly those with head injuries. According to Joseph Tumushime, the hospital's radiographer, this development represents a major opportunity for both Mutolere and the wider Kisoro region. However, challenges remain, particularly the high maintenance the service costs of the CT scanner and the limited ability of some patients to afford.



Radiographer Joseph Tumushime and the Local Surgeon, Dr. Manzi John pose near the Computed Tomography Scanner



## LIFE SAVING TRAUMA- NEUROSURGICAL SERVICES.

Thanks to our new CT scan, Mutolere Hospital can now better diagnose head injuries like epidural and subdural hematomas. This has helped us perform important surgeries such as craniotomies and burr hole procedures, saving many lives. However, there are still challenges. The surgeries take a long time—about 3 to 4 hours—because we are using an outdated manual drill. Patients also arrive late, which makes treatment harder. Dr. Manzi John says that getting an electric drill, upgrading the ICU (which is managed by Dr. Sil), and educating the community about head injuries can really improve care.

Many patients with serious conditions stay at Mutolere because they cannot afford to be referred to Mbarara, the next big hospital. Dr. Peter Remst, a visiting Dutch surgeon with experience in war surgery, often guides our team. He has also encouraged international neurosurgeons like Dr. Tsegazeab from Ethiopia and Dr. Zora, a neurosurgical resident from the Netherlands, to help the local surgeon improve neurosurgical decisions.



Dr. Mugenyi, Dr. Ainembabazi and Dr. Manzi with scrub nurse Mathius performing a Craniotomy.



## The MEWU program

The MEWU (Midwife exchange with Uganda) was conceived about 7 years ago out of a desire to improve midwifery services through collaboration and learning from hospitals in the first world. It thus involves exchange visits between health workers (midwives and doctors) from Mutolere hospital and Germany (initially Hanover and now Hamburg due to logistical challenges). At the start the approach was to straight away facilitate some Mutolere hospital midwives to visit Germany for study tours and benchmarking to improve midwifery practice while our counterparts from Germany would visit Mutolere hospital for mentoring and onsite knowledge sharing but this immediately faced challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down the entire world. Out of this we learnt a new coping mechanism which was the use of online platforms to share knowledge, a practice that many other people have since adopted.

At the end of the successive COVID-19 pandemics, we managed to arrange the first exchange visits. A team from Germany led by Prof. Rudiger Klapdor visited the hospital and later two midwives and a gynaecologist visited Germany. Mutolere hospital team has visited Germany three times so far and we hope this will continue.



Through the MWEU project, we

- i. Hold online discussions on common obstetric problems every two weeks and improve our knowledge on how to manage them which improves hospital outcomes but also impacts on processes in the lower-level health facilities that send referrals to Mutolere hospital.
- ii. Discuss information on current management protocols thereby seeing how we can adopt the same protocols to suit our circumstances. As such we have developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are easy to practice in the hospital and collaborating health centres
- iii. Conduct onsite hands-on training for midwives to improve/refresh their knowledge and skills
- iv. Improve communication among the health workers at the hospital and collaborating lower-level facilities which fosters bonding among the participating health workers with the aim of improving team work instead of blame games in midst of adverse outcomes
- v. Train our staff to act very fast and with precision when faced with an emergency
- vi. Have also provided IT materials (smart phones, laptops, laminators and occasionally data) to enable midwives join the zoom meetings and also do research to remain relevant and competitive in order to offer quality midwifery/obstetric care.

Therefore, the midwifery exchange program with Uganda (MEWU) aims to impart knowledge, competencies and skills to the midwife/doctor that is practicing midwifery and desires to have safe hands required for this day and era. It



[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA

enables the participants also attain CME (Continuous Medical Education) credit units required for renewal of the practicing licenses. At the last visit to Albertinen Krankenhaus hospital in Hamburg, Germany, we had high level consultative meetings with a charity at the hospital with the aim of analysing the gains from the project and seeing how it could continue to receive support. We hope to receive visitors from the above hospital later this year or next year.

## SUSTAIN FOR LIFE AND FRIENDS FOR FRIENDS

Mark Blaser visited us and he was introduced to Dr. Manzi. We discussed many positive possibilities for future collaborations. Together with Dr. Manzi discussions continue for the continuation of plastic surgery camps. They donated a vehicle, Landcruiser hard top for outreach activities and financed the construction of the hospital canteen.

The out- patients Department was renovated and is now in use, this was done with financial support from Friends for Friends, Germany. The OPD was given a new look. The renovations included, putting a terrazzo floor, repairs of the roof, ceiling and painting. Windows were repaired and painted. Some doors were too old, these were removed and replaced with new ones. We thank Friends for Friends for this great support. Other projects by Friends for Friends Include: Some laboratory equipment. Financial support and a lot of masks during Covid 19 pandemic. Newborn clothes especially caps. We have now forwarded a project proposal for hospital equipment.





[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA

## MUTOLERE HOSPITAL ANNUAL SURGERY CAMPS

Mutolere hospital annual plastic surgery camps aim at bringing reconstructive surgical services to the poor and most vulnerable people with neglected deformities in a health system that has for decades prioritized mainly preventive health services and care for those with communicable diseases. Because deformities are not life threatening, affected persons have been ignored by their family members and ostracized by society which adversely affects their self esteem and contribution to society. Consequently, affected persons are often confined to their homes for fear of appearing in public and cause embarrassment to the family. The idea to offer to these vulnerable persons who have often lost hope and yet are not aware of where to find remedy was first discussed by **Massimo Gini**, Chairperson of Sustain for Life (SFL) Board of Trustees. He subsequently asked Marco Blaser, a Swiss who is one of the Trustees of SFL, find means and ways of handling this challenge. It is through these interactions that Dr. Volker Wedler, a Swiss plastic surgeon offering reconstructive surgeries in many resources constrained settings was approached. He willingly accepted to take up the responsibility and as they say, the rest is history





## ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MUTOLERE NEWSLETTER

[mutolere@ucmb.co.ug](mailto:mutolere@ucmb.co.ug)

P.O. BOX26,  
KISORO-UGANDA



We thank you for your support and we hope that with this newsletter we can count on your continuous encouragement and donations in order to maintain St. Francis Hospital Mutolere serving the people.



Compiled by Hafashimana Innocent  
[innocenthafashimana806@gmail.com](mailto:innocenthafashimana806@gmail.com)