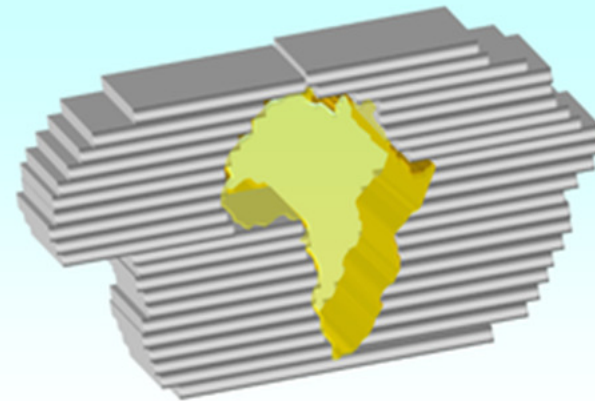


Is the provision of medical equipment enough? Addressing the need for adequate training and support to maximise the effectiveness of introducing modern equipment into the developing world

paRTner

A UK Africa Partnership
for Radiotherapy



Cancer situation in the developing world

- By 2017, the predicted death toll due to cancer in developing countries will be greater than 10 million.
- This will exceed the number of deaths caused by HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria combined.
- 150% increase in cancer deaths by 2020
- Majority of cancer patients require radiotherapy
- Africa has less than 10% of the radiotherapy provision it needs, and few trained workers
- Most patients die without treatment

How do we solve this problem?

- Developed countries such as the UK have considerable resources and expertise
- This can be applied to support developing cancer centres
- Building training expertise in the discipline locally leads to autonomy and sustainability

- The paRTner project is to instigate and develop a continuing voluntary partnership infrastructure of high quality training and support for radiotherapy professionals within developing countries

What is the paRTner Initiative?

- paRTner initiative is a consortium of UK hospitals and universities, including:

- UCL



- UCL Partners



- Royal Berkshire Hospital



What is paRTner doing to help change this situation?

Aim:

Instigate and develop a continuing infrastructure of high quality training and support for radiotherapy professionals in developing countries.

This is done in three main ways:

- Education
- Professional Mentoring
- Equipment

Education: Train the trainer approach

Short term

UK experts to train key healthcare workers in the use of modern equipment & protocols

Long term

Partner and support local trainers / universities

- Set up a training network
- Build local expertise
- Maximise number of trainees with reduced UK effort
- Build regional autonomy

Professional Mentoring

- Support the educational package with a partnership mentoring infrastructure
 - Build a network of voluntary UK experts
 - Site visits by UK expert partners
 - Phone / skype / email support
 - Provide cross-checks & back-up during new clinical protocols
- Facilitate an expert base network amongst supported regions
 - promotes cross talk and information sharing of common local problems and solutions
 - Builds autonomy
- Annual regional workshop/conference
 - Provide master classes and forum for discussion of local issues

Sourcing Equipment

- Work with overseas partner to identify need
 - Peripheral testing & maintenance equipment often not budgeted /underestimated
 - Audit their kit to identify what is missing
- Rapid equipment turnover in the UK
 - NHS medical equipment has a lifecycle much shorter than the actual lifetime (upgrades, changes in service delivery, maintenance agreements)
- Many NHS staff keen to engage with initiatives like paRTner
 - ensures that developing countries have access to good quality donated medical devices

Conclusions

- Modern cancer care is technology driven
 - requires expertise not available in developing world
- Therefore,
 - it is not only **essential to provide top quality equipment** to developing countries,
 - it is also **essential to provide a high level of education and support,**
 - which allows these countries to run self sufficient medical centres providing world class care.

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