



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

MOORFIELDS LIONS KORLE BU TRUST

LIONS INTERNATIONAL EYE CENTRE

KORLE BU, GHANA

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

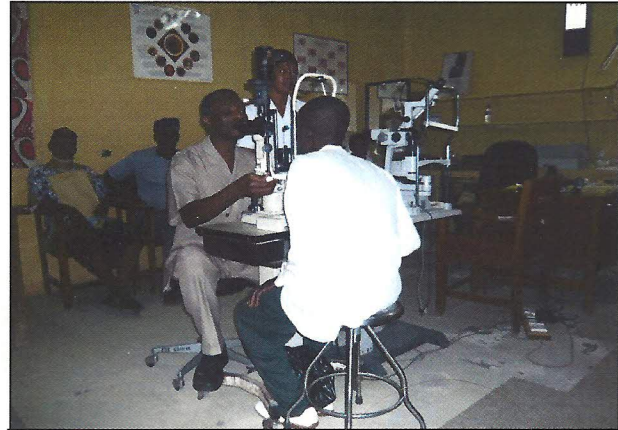


Moorfields Eye Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

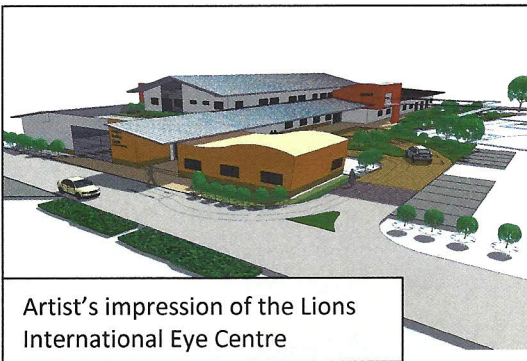
What Our Eye Centre Is All About

There are 2.6 million people in West Africa who desperately need the services we will provide at our very own **Lions International Eye Centre**, Korle Bu, Ghana. What better way is there to fulfil our Lions' mission for the sight-impaired. Lions' objective is to **eradicate preventable/reversible blindness throughout the world**. With your help, fellow Lions, we will achieve this miracle in service for one of the poorest regions of the world.

To explain why we are needed, I cannot do better than repeat once again the words of Dr Stephen Akafo, past head of the Ophthalmology Department at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana, who explains, *"People are needlessly going blind in Ghana and across West Africa because there are not enough eye specialists who are able to perform safe and sight-restoring operations when needed, and the facilities and expertise are not available here to address complex problems. Currently there are no real opportunities to develop skills through continuing medical education or training in specific aspects of eye care here in West Africa."* Our project will make huge headway in addressing these shortcomings, and in improving eye care facilities for the whole of the West Africa region.



Dr Stephen Akafo works in the appalling conditions of the current Korle Bu Eye Department



Artist's impression of the Lions International Eye Centre

The time is fast approaching when the doors will open on the **Lions International Eye Centre**, and just inside the entrance will be a "donor wall" thanking all the major donors to the project. This wall will be headed with a message of thanks to donors from Moorfields, LCIF and Lions of MD105, with the logos of all three organisations in prominent display. This is a fitting accolade to our position in bringing about this wonderful project, and we now turn our attention to the plans and actions necessary to live up to this accolade, and to ensure the success of the Centre once operative.

Providing for the Future

Korle Bu is one of the largest teaching hospitals in West Africa, and the basic costs of running the eye department will be met by the Ghana Ministry of Health through their normal hospital funding system. Furthermore, our agreement with Korle Bu for the running of the **Lions International Eye Centre** in due course allows for us to retain the vast majority of the funds raised from private patients, medicines, spectacle dispensing, etc, to plough back into the running and development of the centre. This will enable us to meet a large part of the additional cost of running the **Lions International Eye Centre** in conjunction with the eye department. Through a partnership with Vision Aid Overseas, we have already taken over the spectacle dispensing at Korle Bu, and the funds being raised are being put aside for our future use. Further such income generators will be developed as we go along.

Whilst no commitments has been made to any parties at any time as to the level of support we Lions of MD105 would give in the future, our ongoing support was a condition of the original Sightfirst grant application made the MD. In any case, this is our very own MD Sightfirst Project, and experience shows that clubs throughout the MD will be more than willing to be involved. To this end, a resolution was put to the MD Convention in May 2014 asking the convention to confirm its ongoing support for appeals as they emerge. The resolution was passed unanimously. The areas for our ongoing support are:-

Provision of further equipment

Whilst the funding to date (total of £3M) allows for sufficient equipment to operate the centre to a reasonable standard, inevitably as plans mature there have been further items of equipment identified that will increase the efficiency and the capacity of the facility. The list currently contains items ranging from £450 to £18,500, and currently totals around £100,000. Clubs are invited to fund specific items, or to give general donations for equipment, as they see fit. A list of equipment is attached. If you wish to sponsor a specific item, please contact Past International Director Howard Lee on lionhowardlee@sky.com and donations may be made to your District Treasurer or the MD Charities Treasurer Lion Tom Berry or by BACS to LCI MD105 Charity Trust, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00025001, at CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ. If sending a donation by BACS, please send an e-mail to liontom.berry@yahoo.com.

Sponsorship of trainees

The most significant activity to be provided by the **Lions International Eye Centre**, over and above the current activity at Korle Bu, will be to train ophthalmologists in the sub-specialities that are particularly relevant to their work in West Africa (e.g. small incision cataract surgery, lid surgery, trabeculectomy and paediatric eye surgery). There is, of course, a cost associated with attending the courses that our facility will provide, which cost has yet to be refined. However, current calculations show that the variable cost of each student attending a course is around £850. There will, inevitably, be some trainees who cannot afford such cost, and some clubs may well wish to sponsor a student or two. Full details are still being worked out, and will be reported in due course.

Fund to support poorer patients

Whilst the Ghana health system provides free treatment for all, medicines and spectacles have to be paid for by the patients, and inevitably there are poorer patients who cannot afford this. It is intended to maintain a fund to assist such poorer patients, to which clubs will be asked to contribute. Once again, full details are still being worked out, and will be reported in due course.

The Progress to Date

Liaison in Ghana

We are now activating agreements made some years ago with organisations in Ghana, such as Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH), West African College of Surgeons, Ghana Government, Ghana Ministry of Health, Ghana Lions, etc. Unfortunately, many of these organisations have had personnel changes over the last few years, and activation is requiring some considerable re-negotiation. However, plans are well advanced on how the centre will be operated, once the doors are opened, and Moorfields has agreed to second a hospital manager to the project for at least six months to set up the necessary systems, train the local staff, and recruit and train a local manager to take over in due course (under our control). We continue to receive the active support of the President of Ghana, His Excellency Mr John Dramani Mahama, and expect to have the pleasure of his company at an Opening Ceremony next year.



PID Howard Lee and PDG Max Mongia with His Excellency Mr John Mahana at the stone-laying ceremony at Korle Bu

Building



Construction work is nearing completion, but is still moving painfully slowly. PCC Chris Iles (an engineer) and Norman Bruce (from Moorfields Estates Department) are visiting on a regular basis to chase progress and report back on actions necessary to speed things up. The current estimate on completion date is Spring 2015, and once the building is finished, we will need around eight weeks to fit and equip the unit, ready for the doors to open.

Equipment

All equipment necessary to "start business", as included in the original funding agreements, has been bought and shipped to Ghana, and is ready for installation as soon as the building is finished. As discussed above, there are some further items of equipment which have been identified as important and will be added, subject to available funds.

Pilot Courses

Both Moorfields and Korle Bu are teaching hospitals, and a very important part of our project is to provide training for ophthalmologists from all over West Africa. This will improve both the quality and the quantity of eye services throughout the region. One of the challenges with this kind of activity is to keep the trainees using their new skills in the region, instead of leaving for more developed countries, where they can earn much more money. To meet this challenge, Ian Murdoch (senior ophthalmologist at Moorfields, and research fellow at the Institute of Ophthalmology) has developed a modular training system. Students should have basic eye surgical skills before coming on their first course. Then two -week courses will be run in different sub-specialities over a number of years. Each student must attend one course, then go home and use the new skills for a period of up to a year, making full reports, before being certified in that skill by the West Africa College of Surgeons. Once certified in that skill, they can attend another course in another skill, and so on. In this way, it will take each one quite some time to become fully qualified, during which time they are serving the West Africa region.

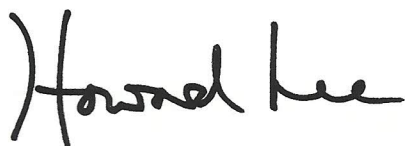
Ours is a very new way of training surgeons, and therefore it needs to be fully tested. We have run a series of pilot courses in Ghana, in cataract surgery, in trabeculectomy (a surgical procedure used in the treatment of glaucoma to relieve intraocular pressure by removing part of the eye's trabecular meshwork and adjacent structures), in lid surgery, and in pediatric eye surgery. This was followed by a five-day consensus meeting in London, and several subsequent meetings in Ghana, for all interested parties from all over the world, to draw together the experience and plan out the training programmes that we will use. We have all learned a lot about how to run the courses, what the pre-course standard of the students is likely to be, and what outcomes can be expected. The results have been truly exciting.

Fundraising

The funding agreement for this project committed LCIF to providing US\$1.5 million, and MD105 to providing US\$500,000 (from our Campaign Sightfirst II fundraising), and the MD commitment to fundraising has been met. Moorfields committed to providing the remaining £2 million, and their fundraising is complete. The Moorfields' Board has underwritten a further £250,000 in order to guarantee success. All funds have been drawn down from the contributors to meet the commitments of the Trust.

Knight of the Blind

All those involved believe that the **Lions International Eye Centre, Korle Bu**, will be a huge success, and bring a vast improvement in sight services to the West Africa region. This is, and will continue to be, a fascinating and fantastic project through which the Lions of MD105, and the Lions of Ghana, can fulfil one of our major objectives, that being to act as "Knights of the Blind". Progress since inception has been painfully slow at times, but we now look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour begin to emerge.



PID Howard Lee
Chairman
Moorfields Lions Korle Bu Trust



**"Alone we can do
so little.
Together we can
do so much"**

Helen Keller

Additional Medical Equipment Required

10-Sep-14

ADBDDescription	Quantity	Unit Purchase	Total Purchase	Manufacturer	Model
LUMINAIRE, examination, ceiling, adjustable, 1000 lux	1	1,074	1,074	Daray	SL180LED
Worth 4 Dot Test	1	126	126	Evans Instruments	4129305 + 6907001
MIRROR, optical glass, 700H 400W	22	160	3,520	Evans Instruments	401
SNELLEN; Rotating Panel, Test type	22	450	9,900	Evans Instruments	913
Frisby	0	-	-	FOC	
Tonometer, applanation, fixed	4	100	400	Haag Streit	
Kay pictures	1	45	45	Kay Pictures	KPT3M
Crowded Logmar test	1	83	83	Kay Pictures	KPTCR
Occluding Glasses	2	42	84	Kay Pictures	Glasses
RETINOSCOPE	4	587	2,348	Keeler	2406-L-1000
TEST TYPE, near vision	24	37	890	Keeler	2205-P-1022
TEST, Stereoscopic, as spec'd	3	175	525	Keeler / K-Med	25406-L-1000
TROLLEY PATIENT, height adjustable 780/580mm, adjustable backrest, 600-920H 2110W 770D	3	825	2,475	Medi Plinth	PT02H
CHAIR, treatment, reclining, height adjustable	9	446	4,016	Meditelle	Milton
LEA PAEDIATRIC ACUITY TEST PUZZLE	1	43	43	Optical Marketplace	OMP2645
PRISMS, SET	1	170	170	Optical Marketplace	SGR-957-BP
McClure Reading Test	1	50	50	Sussex Vision	SNT-323-M
Bagolini Bar	1	230	230	Sussex Vision	SGR-957-BP
Trial lenses, Frames	7	57	399	Sussex Vision	SGR-262-X
TEST, Colour, Ishihara	19	103	1,949	Sussex Vision	SGR-227-I24
Trial lenses, Case	7	305	2,132	Sussex Vision	SGR-206-C
Slitman Opaque Occulder	1	54	54	Sussex Vision	SDW-511-E / 443400
STEAM STERILISER 101E-1/EN285 steam generator 1 door.	1	18,541	18,541	Matachana	78045+78260.9
TABLE, 1.3 Linear meters of wall working table with anti-splash frame, x60x90cm	2	541	1,081	Matachana	76060.3
TABLE, 2.1 Linear meters central work table x60x90cm	2	873	1,747	Matachana	76060.5
TABLE, central working table with 2 drawers 188x88x90cm	1	1,389	1,389	Matachana	75110
TABLE, 2.6 linear meters of wall working table with antisplash frame x60x90cm	1	1,089	1,089	Matachana	76060.3
Water/Air pressure Cleaning Gun	2	324	648	Matachana	81180
WORKTOP, plain, stainless steel, cantilevered from wall, 1200W 650D, HTM63	1	460	460	Matachana	X1027
WORKTOP, plain, stainless steel, with right of centre sink bowl & drainers, cantilevered from wall, 2400W 650D, HTM63	1	1,254	1,254	Matachana	75192
Medical Gas piping and equipment			50,000	More details to come	
			106,721		