



American Medical Resources Foundation

Visit to Barthimee Hospital in

Thies, Senegal

February 26 to March 7, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The American Medical Resource Foundation (AMRF) is a charitable organization based in Middleboro Massachusetts whose mission is to improve health care around the world by donating medical equipment and supplies to hospitals that serve the poor in developing countries.

American Medical Resources Foundation (AMRF) Victor Sologaistoa, President & CEO with Carol Sologaistoa, LPN and Patricia Hough, MD traveled to Thies, Senegal on February 26, 2017 to perform an evaluation on a local hospital to learn of their equipment needs, as well as searching for new opportunities to support their health care system.



Dr. Phiri Adamson, medical director of the Hospital Barthimee in Thies, Senegal, gave the team a tour of the facility. The hospital was established by the Mission Inter-Senegal, an organization of Protestant ministries that provides health care, education, economic projects such as micro loans, and religious training. The hospital began as a clinic in 1999 and has grown to a Level 2 hospital in 2010 to include the specialties of Pediatrics, Surgery, OB-GYN and Medicine. The hospital is a non-profit but charges a sliding fee for treatments. There is also outreach program for health care to several villages and a cleft palate surgical team that performs surgeries three times a year.

The hospital added a fourth floor last year but it is not ready for patient care due to a lack of beds and medical equipment. Over the years Dr. Adamson stated that there has been a decrease in cases with tropical diseases and an increase in adult diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, sickle cell anemia, hepatitis, and end organ liver and kidney failure. Treatment resistant TB remains an ongoing health problem in the country.

Dr. Adamson gave a tour of the hospital and pointed out equipment needs. The small lab has the basics but the Coulter Counter will need replaced in the near future. The lab would like to have equipment to analyze cardiac enzymes (liver functions).



Lab Equipment



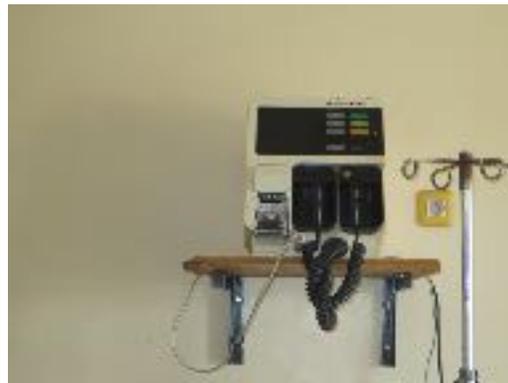
Lab Technicians

The X-ray department still utilizes manual film processing and would like to upgrade to a digital system. There is no mammography. An Ultrasound machine is available for diagnostics in the hospital. There is a sparsely equipped emergency receiving area with no monitors or ventilators.



An ultrasound room exists and has a pelvic probe. Dr. Adamson would like a portable ultrasound to use when he does nerve blocks or needs to locate IV access. An echocardiogram unit is also on the wish list.

The oxygen supply is on the wall supplied by outside bottles bank system. The pediatric unit has 9-10 beds and the adult medicine wards (male and female have about 12 beds). There is a separate room for an ICU of 3 beds with an old Siemens ventilator and an older defibrillator. There is a delivery area on the third floor but no dedicated OR. The surgery theater is used for Caesarian sections. There area 6 to 10 births each week. There is a fetal monitor but it is out of graph paper and only one transducer. A Hill-Rom warmer is available but the lights, heater and temperature probe are broken. Victor recommended two fetal Doppler's to replace the non-functional fetal monitor in the labor area.





The OR has two working anesthesia machines a Dragger machine witch is not used because the hospital cannot get Isoflurane, a general anesthetic and a Ohmeda Modulus, very old. Dr. Adamson stated the OR could use a mobile light. There is a wet and dry sterilizer outside of the OR. A room for endoscopy exists but both scopes are broken, there couple light sources but no camera or video capabilities. There is a surgeon trained to perform laparoscopic surgery but no equipment.



The ground floor contains a two rooms with dental clinic witch appears to be fairly new and functioning equipment.



There is also a pharmacy on the ground floor. Medications are purchased at the Senegalese National Pharmacy or through Partners International that sends a container once a year. Dr. Adamson stated that the hospital has the resources to use a clearinghouse for NGO's sending containers. Needed are donations of sterile gloves, sterile gowns, drapes, IV central lines, a pleural vacuum, ECG's, any sterile surgical or suture kits. The hospital can also use crutches, canes and wheelchairs. Walkers are not commonly used in Senegal.

Recommendations:

AMRF recommends that a Medical Equipment donation with Low and High Tech items is and a great need for the hospital as soon as possible.

We concluded our visit with Dr. Phiri Adamson with discussions of a future support to the hospital and their community, with technical, as well as Clinical aspects of patient care. AMRF presented a gift of a Portable Pulse Oximeter for the Hospital to Dr. Adamson.