East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation (EAMAF)  
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East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation (EAMAF) has continued its support of Dr. Helmut and Ro Diefenthal at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania. The hospital setting on the base of Mount Kilimanjaro continues to train Tanzania radiologists (19) and assistant medical officers, PA (56). Many of the radiologists in Tanzania have been trained by Dr. Diefenthal and his radiology team.

To train radiologists for work in Africa we have to modify western curricula. The KCMC team lead by Dr. Diefenthal teaches the radiological features of disease that are only seen in Africa. Examples are schistosomiasis haematobium, mansoni, amebiasis, kwashiorkor, and general malnutrition. Tuberculosis, rheumatic heart disease, and hematogeneous osteomyelitis are rare in western industrial nations but are still very common in Africa.

Radiology instruction includes physics and anatomy, and equipment available for imaging includes plain film, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, and CT scanning. Most tumors are diagnosed by ultrasound and CT. Trauma, cancer, and infection continue to be the most common reasons for needing a good diagnostic radiology department.

EAMAF most current project is helping to institute a biomedical repair department at KCMC. Much of our diagnostic equipment needs constant upkeep and simple parts that can be stored at KCMC. Many of the ultrasound units need updating and quality preventative service. A biomedical technician and basic diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot problem will be installed in its own department at KCMC. This $60,000 project will be completed by August 2008, and will be a great help in keeping all of the diagnostic equipment updated.

EAMAF foundation has delivered 7 ultrasounds over the past 2 years to Tanzania, thanks to Dr. Barry Goldberg and his Global Ultrasound Equipment Donation Foundation that renovates and upgrades used ultrasound equipment. The ultrasound units are the major diagnostic tool for imaging the heart, abdomen, and pelvis.

EAMAF has also begun a study for the installation and training of a permanent MRI at KCMC. Because of a lack of consistent electricity a permanent magnet must be used. An MRI would help in the diagnosis of soft tissue tumors, osteomyelitis, AIDS, neurology tumors, and soft tissue infections. The MRI will be our largest project to date for EAMAF. We feel it would add to our teaching and help in the diagnosis of difficult problems not seen on ultrasound or CT. We continue to look for financial support and teaching in the MRI area.

In conclusion, EAMAF has been fortunate to support Dr. Helmut and Ro Diefenthal who have made a difference for thousands of patients in East Africa. Dr. Diefenthal continues his clinical practice with ultrasound imaging and echocardiography. Many congenital heart defects have been diagnosed and sent to India for corrective surgery. The patient outcomes have been remarkable considering the equipment available.

Those of us, who have been fortunate to lecture, teach, and give the Radiology Boards at KCMC have been blessed by the relationships with Dr. Helmut and Ro Diefenthal. We have developed many relationships with the doctors at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center and many of the local physicians and radiologists. Working with the many dedicated MD’s, Radiologists, and
AMO’s whom have trained with the help of EAMAF has been a real help to the citizens of East Africa. Anyone can visit the website at www.eastafricafoundation.org to see further work, donations, and progress at the beautiful KCMC hospital in Moshi Tanzania.

KCMC with Kilimanjaro in the background

Dr. Josaboni with Dr. Nelson (EAMAF) at KCMC discussing a CT case

Dr. Nelson (EAMAF) and Ro Diefenthal

Dr. Diefenthal discussing ultrasound with KCMC Residents

Dr. Roelofs (EAMAF) with the 2007 Tanzania AMO graduates

Dr. Helmut Diefenthal and his wife Ro Diefenthal at their home in Moshi, Tanzania