

Kumasi Community Outreach

Intern Report

INFANTA MALARIA PREVENTION FOUNDATION AND GYE NYAME

June 29, 2009

Authored by: Ukachi Emeruwa and Christina Jung

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Intern Report

Gye Nyame Mobile Clinic

Dr. Ori and Dr. Britta Shwartzman, psychiatrist and pediatric surgeon, respectively, are partners in the Gye Nyame Mobile Clinic project. The NGO is currently working in the Ashanti Region, holding a direct relationship with St. Patrick's Hospital in Offinso South. Their collaboration with Infanta Malaria Prevention Foundation is based on a mutual interest in issues surrounding cerebral malaria.

Program Itinerary

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

- most of the day was spent traveling into Kumasi
- found lodging in the Valley Gate Hotel (since there were no vacancies in both the Christian Village and Samaritan Villa guesthouses)
- dropped off the medications that Infanta donated at the Christian Village guesthouse, which Dr. Britta and Dr. Ori picked up later that evening

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

- Operation Day: spent the whole day at the St. Patrick's Hospital with Dr. Britta
- Brief introductory tour of the hospital's facilities and staff
 - Hospital was unexpectedly large – with multiple wards and buildings
 - Organized and orderly
- Observed and scrubbed in on three surgeries (orchidopexy) in the surgical theater
 - Instructed on principles and procedures for sterility
- Dr. Britta invited us over for dinner Thursday night

Thursday, June 25, 2009

- Sight-seeing: Ashante Palace and Asafo Market
- Inclement weather then prevented us from being able to have dinner at Dr. Britta's

Friday, June 26, 2009

- traveled with both Dr. Britta and Dr. Ori with their mobile clinic team to a remote village in the bush Nyamebekyere

- drove first to St. Patrick's Hospital to pick up supplies and team members, and then drove to the village (the doctors were able to give most of the malaria medications to patients free of charge, courtesy of Infanta Malaria)
 - Dr. Britta and Dr. Ori each paired up with a nurse (or nurse assistant) to help with translation (Lydia and Nii, respectively) – along with an accountant (named Ten-Fifty) who served as the coordinator of the mobile clinic effort and also distributed medications and kept records of all the patients that the two doctors saw
- we assisted with differential diagnosis and medications and observed consultation visits



Saturday, June 27, 2009

- most of day was spent traveling back from Kumasi to Accra

Outcome

Mobile Clinic: Comments

It was clear to us that the mobile clinic had a strong and reliable relationship with the village members; they visited every two weeks on Friday without fail. This consistency was vital to the success of the clinic.

Cases of Interest

- **8-year-old female:** orphan taken in by another mother in village with 5 kids of her own, severely malnourished with bacterial infection on both the top of her head and the lower portion of her right leg, weight: 12kg (looked much younger than her 8 years), dry skin, thin hair and had little interaction with the other children in the village – classic case of malnourishment
- **Male teenager:** presented with history of epilepsy (had 3-5 episodes/day prior to treatment – including one that caused him to fall into a fire and burn the lower portion of the right leg severely), complicated with malaria and meningitis (most children with such conditions often do not survive) – epileptic treatment began about 2 years ago and episodes dropped to about 1 or 2 a month
- **Young female:** about 7-8 years old, presented with abdominal pain and weight loss, but with no other accompanying headache, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. – differential diagnosis pointed to a “parasitic infection” (likely a worm, an infection, or a tumor) for which antibiotics and malaria medications were prescribed
- **Young female:** about 5-6 years old, Dr. Britta first observed that the child was dragging herself bodily along the ground with her arms, and appeared to have lost function of her legs, after consulting the child’s mother, Dr. Britta and Dr. Ori discovered that the girl had fallen from a tree, fracturing her femur – preventing from walking, mother refused to bring the child to the hospital (likely because she lacked the resources)