



# KIWOKO HOSPITAL

## NEWSLETTER

February 2020



### FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK



I hope it is not too late to say **"Happy New Year 2020"** to all of our readers. Welcome to the start of a new decade which for many has been reason for great excitement.

The new year here has started off with a flurry of planning activities. One of the major items has been for our new 5 year strategic plan, which we hope to have signed off very soon. Central to it shall

be 4 areas: hospital services, community services, mission work and training. We hope to throw more light on it in the coming Newsletter/s after it is officially launched by our Board.

The end of last year was characterised by unusually rainy weather which was not easy, but most especially for farmers, to plan for. Similarly in the last 2 quarters of the year we found ourselves unusually busy across the hospital. This is best seen in the bed occupancy rates (BOR) which were averaged 57.9% in the 3rd quarter and 71.8% in the 4th quarter (average BOR 2018 - 2019 was 50%).

Unfortunately the result of the increased numbers who fell sick, coupled with many of them being from a lower socioeconomic demographic yet being so sick they needed admission, meant that the patient care costs shot up above what we expected for the period. We are currently trying to contain this budgetary challenge.

In the midst of this challenge we are grateful that we have continued to be able to help as many as come to us with care they would have otherwise had to travel greater distances to try and access. Thank you for your prayers and support. To those engaged in the work well done, keep it up! May the Lord continue to strengthen you.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Introducing Kiwoko Hospital Laboratory
- Special short interviews with our 30 year award recipients
- Kiwoko Chase events

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

We continue to welcome (and need!) volunteer healthcare professionals to work alongside our national workers. This year we are excited to welcome a number of short and medium term volunteer doctors, physiotherapists and a podiatrist. Would you be interested in spending a sabbatical at Kiwoko Hospital, or perhaps you are recently retired and would like to do some voluntary work?

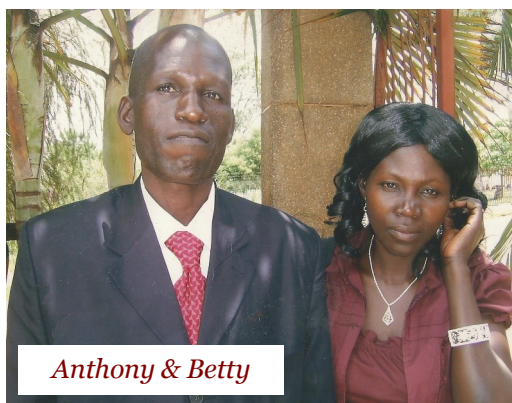
Currently we have particular need for **GENERAL SURGEONS** and **PHYSICIANS**, those in the training years and beyond!!

To start a conversation about volunteering in any capacity, doing electives or visiting the hospital, contact Stephen Park (Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator) by email: [visitors@kiwokohospital.org](mailto:visitors@kiwokohospital.org)

**Interesting Fact:**  
*In 2019, 1323 blood transfusions were administered to patients.*

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With deep sadness we report the passing away of one of our long serving staff members, Mrs Betty "Nalongo" Ayikoyo. She had worked with us for the last 20 years and at the time of her death last November, she was working as a Laboratory Technician in our Lab Department. At one point, she served as the Deputy Lab In Charge. As a hospital community, we are still recovering from this loss. She is survived by her husband



*Anthony & Betty*

Anthony (who also works with us) and 4 children. May the Lord continue to comfort and strengthen them. Let us continue to remember them in prayer.

I was recently talking to one of our long serving staff members not featured in this edition, who recounted how she had come here as a young woman not born-again and

filled with many doubts and fears. It was amazing how she gave testimony after testimony of how the Lord has provided for her time and time again and made this place a home but above all how she has come to faith. Long serving staff we are proud of you! Your stories and testimonies continue to give us hope and courage to persevere. It has been a privilege to work alongside all of you for part

of the time you have spent here so far. Thank you for being so faithful.

To those of us who still have many years until we can

feature as long serving staff members, remember these are people just like you that we are celebrating today and they all started somewhere just like us. We have the advantage that we can learn from them! May God continue to richly bless us as we grow as a family.

**Dr Peter Serwadda**

## BECAUSE YOU GAVE

**Dr James Nyonyintono, Clinical Director, reflects on 2019.**

A unique year 2019 was. We had over 25 elective students from many different parts of the world. It stood out that some of these were not only here for their elective—'the training of health workers' part of Kiwoko hospital mission but, the other part of 'providing accessible, affordable curative and preventive health care to the poor and vulnerable'. They visited patients, talked to them, gave gifts including meals, toys, sponsoring out sourced-highly specialized care that Kiwoko cannot afford, and starting charities back home to donate to other children and a blood bank fridge. Many have gone before them with such good works and some returned to share their lives with the people at Kiwoko.

I could never mention everyone of you that are not students, just to thank you for such generous hearts providing more than a million meals, treating over 70,000 patients, touching countless lives through tireless networking, advocacy, looking for funds and countless prayers without ceasing to support the work at Kiwoko Hospital. Thank you!



## LIFE AT KH: LABORATORY SERVICES



*We continue to introduce different hospital departments through their reports and stories. In this issue our Laboratory In-Charge, Joseph Kateregga, reports how the laboratory staff play a vital role in providing excellent patient care.*



Kiwoko Hospital Laboratory (KHL) is ranked among the oldest laboratories in Uganda, and was one of the first departments established in the hospital. It remains superior in hands-on-training for both students and

researchers in the country (including nurses, midwives, clinicians and doctors) for the skilled handling of patients lives.

KHL provides a high quality, affordable services to its surrounding community. It is also a point of reference for lower health facilities in the district. The laboratory currently has 6 major sections of comprehensive service delivery: Immunoheamatology, Heamatology, Immunology, Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, and Parasitology.

Indeed, many clinical or medical decisions are based on the laboratory test results for screening risk population, diagnosis, and monitoring medical treatments of a particular clinical condition.

It is therefore unsurprising that the laboratory is very busy. The main laboratory provides services for approximately 100 clients daily, with an average of 300 tests daily. Additionally, it supports two peripheral labs: Antenatal (approx. 50 clients daily) and HIV laboratory (approx. 30 clients daily).

To provide these services the laboratory is staffed with 23 qualified and experienced medical laboratory personnel comprising of Laboratory

Assistants and Technicians. Our staff aim to fulfill the core-values of the hospital laboratory: Commitment to quality; Professionalism and accountability; Care and compassion; and, Commitment to education and training.

To ensure the best possible care for patients, as a laboratory we are committed to maintaining quality laboratory test results. The introduction of agile committees including Quality team, Occupational safety and health, CUSP (Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Programme), Blood transfusion committee, and Tuberculosis management committee help ensure consistency in the quality of service delivery. Furthermore, various ongoing quality assessments (both administrative and technical) are being conducted by several government/international agencies

to ensure the quality and improvement of laboratory services and which has put the laboratory among the best performing laboratories in the region/country.

Thank you to all our staff for the hard work and dedication that they show, enabling us to provide excellent services for our patients.





## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The annual Kiwoko Hospital Christmas party brought together staff and students from all hospital departments for a time of food and enjoyment. Many departments were represented through presentations, including singing and dance. There was much laughter and fun. Our special guest was Chairperson of the Board, Dr Ekira Najjemba Kikule, and Dr Peter Serwadda brought a word of encouragement. The party concluded with the distribution of long service awards and gifts. In total 38 staff received awards, from those receiving 10 year awards through to 7 individuals receiving 30 year awards!



## WELL DONE TO OUR 30 YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS!

*When we look back and consider the early days of Kiwoko Hospital and how far the hospital has progressed, it is truly amazing. Praise God! It has been wonderful to reflect on these changes with some of our staff who recently received 30 year awards at the Christmas Party.*

### SEKIDDE KINTU MOSES



#### **Community Based Health Care (CBHC) Manager**

Moses truly enjoys working for “our hospital”. He describes how the hospital was started by it’s clients, that “Dr Ian Clarke helped us to start our own thing”.

He notes that he joined initially as he wanted to work with the community preventing illness. Through watching others, learning on the job and being mentored by others he has developed huge skills, independence and confidence and now he is the person mentoring and mobilizing others. He is in charge of 12 full time workers and 120 volunteers. He feels that he has “developed with the organization”.

Moses believes that the hospital name, motto and key symbol are all hugely significant: “The hospital was

*“Dr Ian Clarke helped us to start our own thing... it is ‘our’ hospital.”*

started by the community, for the community. It is a Christ-centered organization looking to provide healing for the whole person”.



### KYAMULABI SARAH

#### **Principal Tutor**

Sister Sarah came to the hospital initially after school as a Nursing Assistant but with “hard work, much study and God’s help” has

completed much training and is now the Principal Tutor of the Nursing School. She is grateful for how Kiwoko Hospital has helped her through the years, and how it has also been the basis to connect to many places throughout the world, including the

*“I pray that the passion for mission is never lost.”*

opportunity to study at Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland. Sarah remarks how initially Kiwoko Hospital was small, with a real ‘closeness’ between everyone. It is now much bigger, and although it isn’t possible to be as close with the large number of staff, it is still family. She feels “blessed to have seen the development and growth of the hospital”. Sarah wants to “continue serving God” in her whole life, including in work. Regarding the hospital, she “pray[s] that faith drives us rather than economy/needs” and that “the passion for mission is never lost”.



## NAKGUDDE JANE

### *Nursing Assistant*

Like many of her contemporaries, Sister Jane can vividly remember life before Kiwoko Hospital existed and the huge pain and loss that many people in

the area experienced. She notes how the hospital started from nothing, providing basic clinics and community health care and education, and gradually with time has grown into what it is now. Jane’s role has evolved over the years. Initially she supported those providing healthcare and learnt much from observation, and like her fellow award recipients, she often helped with the practicalities, including carrying bricks for the building of the first ward. Thereafter, Jane received training to be a Nursing Assistant. Although she made the decision not to further her official education for the sake of family commitments, she did have the opportunity to attend basic nutrition training in Mulago in 2002. Subsequently, her main role has been to educate patients and staff regarding nutritional needs, especially the particular needs of patients with malnutrition, HIV and/or diabetes.

*“The hospital care now is a great, great improvement on what was available before.”*

## NAMBOZE CHRISTINE



### *Cleaner (Theatre)*

Christine came to the hospital after a Church of Uganda lay reader told her about the possibility of work. She had recently been widowed and needed work to support her family.

Although initially cleaning in various departments, she has been an important member of the theatre cleaning staff for over 25 years. Christine has enjoyed being part of the whole hospital team, and remarks how each team member is appreciated no matter their role. She notes how the hospital has significantly grown in size over the 30 years, but also how other improvements e.g. staff welfare have been such a blessing. Christine remarks how she is so grateful for the hospital, not only for the job it has provided her with, but also for the medical care for her and her family when needed.



## MUWANGUZI SAMUEL

### *Group Employee*

Samuel’s job role is very manual, doing many of the tasks that can often be in the background but are important, such as keeping the compound clean and

tidy through raking leaves and emptying bins and ensuring people have clean water by pumping it and filling jerry cans etc. On reflecting on 30 years work and the changes it has brought he noted the significant growth of the hospital, particularly how many more buildings and facilities are now available. He also remarked how staff welfare has improved over the years, for example, lunches are now provided. He is grateful for the help from the hospital in providing a loan which enabled him to build a house. He has many positive recollections about life as a Kiwoko Hospital employee. However, one memory that will never leave him is a significant fire in the workshop fuel store in the early days.





### **Interesting Facts:**

*In 2019, there were 9774 admissions to the hospital.*

*Of these, 20% were to medical wards, 11% to surgical wards, 15% to paediatrics, 14% to NICU and 41% to maternity wards.*

### **NEW WEBSITE FOR FOKH**

Friends of Kiwoko Hospital are a Northern Ireland based charity set up to support the hospital through financial support, prayer and communication. They recently relaunched their website. Visit [www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk) for more information!!



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## **NABAKKA ESTHER**

**Registered Nurse**



What a joy to listen to Sister Esther recounting how God 'opened up the door' for her to come to Kiwoko, and how He helped her in various roles, which have included nursing assistant, in the sterilisation department and also in theatres. Then the surprise and joy of being sponsored by the hospital through her midwifery and diploma

*"When I told my uncle [about the sponsorship] we knelt down and thanked God."*

training. She thanks God for how her wage has helped her support not only herself, but also many family members. The 30 years has "felt like it has passed very quickly!" Esther enjoys her work, particularly how the different members of the team work well together in Kiwoko. She feels proud of what she has been able to do through God's help: "Of course at times some situations are difficult, but when we have done our best we know God can take over."

***Thank you to all our 30 year award recipients for your hard work, dedication and faithfulness over so many years. You have made such a valuable contribution to not only Kiwoko Hospital, but also to the lives of so many in this area and beyond.***

## **SENOGA BOSCO**

**HIV Counsellor**



Like many of those who received 30 year awards, Bosco has fulfilled many roles

over the years. Initially a translator for Dr Ian Clarke, he was involved in mobilization and outreach, carried bricks, dispensed medicines, provided security, been involved in purchasing and catering, and in

*"I have seen God's hand on Kiwoko."*

latter years was trained as a HIV counsellor. Bosco reminisces clearly of the huge changes at Kiwoko Hospital, and is truly in awe of what God has done: "I have seen God's hand on Kiwoko - for 30 years for Kiwoko to be what is it, many other places would not do it in 100 years. Faith is so important." He talks of the many people with 'hearts to help', and those who have been keen and faithful to ensure the hospital provides excellent care for its patients. As he prepares for retirement in the coming months, Bosco says he is "happy to leave the hospital when it is growing".

### **Interesting Facts:**

*In 2019, there were nearly 4000 admissions to the Maternity Wards, of which 20% were referrals from other health care facilities.*

*In 2019, on average each month 232 babies were born at Kiwoko Hospital.  
(223 live births / 9 stillbirths per month)*



## EKISA AND SUUBI CLUBS

***Grace Nakubulwa our Children's Ministry Coordinator reports on some of the outreach to children that is conducted around the hospital around the hospital.***



It is always a blessing reaching out to the children around the hospital with the Gospel and love of Jesus through different events and activities. The children's ministry team run a club called 'Suubi' twice each month. This happens every second and last Sunday afternoon of the month. Here we teach the Word of God, play, celebrate children's birthdays and many other fun activities with the aim of sharing Jesus with the

children. Each year we also run a Holiday Bible Club. At the end of August 2019 we had a 3 day HBC, called 'Ekisa', when our theme was "I am a child of God" (1 John 3:1). About 250 children aged 5-13 years attended each day for three days. We taught from the story of The Lost Son and believe they learnt so much. Our prayer is that whatever is taught helps these children come to know Jesus personally and grow in their relationship with God.



## KIWOKO CHASE EVENTS

As always, the Kiwoko Chase and surrounding events at the end of August were enjoyed by staff and visitors alike. There was plenty of competition, especially between different



hospital departments, and lots of fun, laughter and community spirit were experienced by all. Well done to all those who took part, and special praise for those who won! Thank you must be extended to those who made Kiwoko Chase happen: expert organisation by the Kiwoko Chase Committee and funding support from Kiwoko Hospital, Adara Development and Aspen.





### **Interesting Fact:**

*In 2019, over  
33,000 patients  
attended the  
Outpatient  
Department.*

### **DONATIONS**

Kiwoko Hospital would not and cannot exist without the faithful giving of our friends and supporters. **Friends of Kiwoko Hospital** is a registered Charity based in Northern Ireland (UK charity Ref. 104586). Please visit the website and choose the most appropriate way in which you can partner with us in bringing good news to the poor, in word and action.

### **... AND COMMISSION**

If you are purchasing through Amazon UK, the hospital can gain up to 10% commission. Go to the FOKH website - [www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk) - and click on the link on the bottom right, which will take you through to the usual Amazon website. Proceed as normal from there!

**amazon.co.uk**



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## **KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR HOSPITAL!!**

- Praise God for His continued faithfulness, provision and care, through which we can continue to serve the people of our local communities and beyond.
- Praise God for those who support the hospital and our patients through prayer, financial giving and encouragement.
- Praise God for the many volunteers and visitors over the years, and how many of these individuals continue to raise support for the hospital. Pray for more volunteers.
- Thank God for all our staff, each with an important role in the functioning of the hospital. Praise God for dedicated staff, many who are prepared to go 'beyond the call of duty' to provide excellent care for our patients. Remember those who recently received awards for long service, some of whom have committed their lives to Kiwoko Hospital.
- Thank God for the continued growth of the hospital. Pray for the hospital leadership as they make many decisions about the present and future running of the hospital. Pray for the ongoing significant financial needs of the hospital.
- Pray for all the ministries happening through the hospital—including prison ministry, children's ministry, evangelism and discipleship of students and staff, outreach to local communities and the team that travel to Karamoja twice yearly. Thank God for the many staff who voluntarily give of their time to serve God through these ministries.
- Pray for every patient and visitor who comes to Kiwoko.
- Pray that in everything happening at Kiwoko Hospital, God will be glorified.

***"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you  
great and unsearchable things you do not know."***

**Jeremiah 33:3**

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Kiwoko Hospital is a private, not-for-profit, mission hospital in rural Uganda. We are so thankful to our supporters for their ongoing significant contribution to the work of the hospital. Without you we would be unable to provide the high quality healthcare that our patients deserve.

If you have enjoyed this update newsletter please forward it on to

family, friends and colleagues. For more information on Kiwoko Hospital, and for ways to support the work, go to the FOKH website:

[www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk)

We also post regular updates on our Facebook page:

[https://  
web.facebook.com/  
kiwokohospital/](https://web.facebook.com/kiwokohospital/)

