

STAFF MEMBERS INVITED TO SENIOR SURGEONS MEETING

The Surgical Society of Kenya (SSK) convened a meeting of senior surgeons from the country to discuss issues appertaining to surgery in the country. Members from the Department f surgery were invited.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Surgical Society and discussed a number of issues aimed at seeing what role the Society can play in improving teaching and service delivery of surgery in Kenya. The SSK also wanted to see how it may mobilise the experience of senior surgeons in this process.

The various agenda items included (amongst others);

1. Approaches that can be taken to;
 - a. Make improvements in training,
 - b. How to promote better professionalism amongst our members,
 - c. How to address the issues of surgical workforce and the impact of devolution,
 - d. Address the effects of medical tourism on the profession,
 - e. Look at how the surgeons welfare can be improved
 - f. And how can philanthropic activities help the society.
2. Establishment of a surgical foundation

Following introductions, a brief summary of Society activities was presented followed by an overview of the Societies history to the current day and future plans.

Many discussion points followed including those relating to possible contributions SSK can make in surgical training and improving infrastructure and professionalism. There is a strong need to work closely with the regulatory and other professional bodies to drive this agenda. Once achieved then addressing patient exodus from Kenya to outside nations will more or less address itself.

One of the discussion items that came out was the need for senior surgeons to take a mentorship role in SSK activities and the society would formulate a mechanism to accommodate this. There was a strong feeling that unless this was undertaken the traditions and institutional memory of the society was at risk of being lost.

This meeting formed a good starting point to unite the surgical fraternity and it was agreed further meetings will take place.