

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS MEETING

Programme directors from all the institutions and postgraduate training programmes met at Brackenhurst on February 4th 2015. Departmental representatives were Dr. Daniel Ojuka and Professor Pankaj Jani. Aga Khan University Hospital, Moi University, Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons, College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern African, and Dr Peter Oduor for Nakuru PGH. Also present were programme directors of PAACS/COSECSA from other countries including Tanzania, Ethiopia, a Malawi and Congo. The Surgical Society of Kenya leadership was represented by the Chairman, Prof Hassan Saidi and the Honorary Secretary Dr Nthumba Peter.

Meetings aim was to discuss training and the next generation of surgeons in the country.

The key issues discussed were

1. Evaluating the value and role of Programme directors and their role in curriculum development and running academic programmes. In order to facilitate this him/her needs to;
 - i) Be involved in choosing those who join the programme, so that they select those with aptitude to learn.
 - ii) Be involved in placing of residents in clinical areas for rotation and oversees their evaluation and feedback
 - iii) Be able to discontinue trainees not fit for training
 - iv) Involved in formulation of conference/seminar schedules
 - v) Chair the resident council
 - vi) Ensures there is a programme handbook comprehensively describing the programme.
 - vii) Ensure an enabling training environment.
 - viii) Put in place resident in training-mentorship, social support and leadership skills enhancement plans.
 - ix) Prepare and present students for examinations

While sharing the strengths and challenges of various programmes it was observed most programmes had adequate volume and case mix and a better resident to faculty ratio of 1:1/2 in some centres. University of Nairobi was observed to have a larger bed capacity ICU in Kenyatta National Hospital compared to the other centres.

Challenges in general were funding, public universities not having their own hospitals and inadequate mentorship of students.

Resolutions were;

- The various academic bodies formalise the role of Programme Directors.
- Program Directors meet regularly for purposes of learning from one another.
- There will be a pre-conference workshop during the surgical Society of Kenya Scientific Conference for the program directors. Important issues to be discussed include organisation culture, how do we want to execute mentorship and how do we want evaluate the programme directors programme?