

Harare Zimbabwe 15.01.2018 – 21.01.2018

Zimbabwe has a population of 12 million and two plastic surgeons, Dr Faith Muchemwa and Dr Kevin Nduku. In January, a BFIRST team visited the Plastic Surgery department: Drew Fleming and Wee Lam to teach upper limb surgery, Adam Reid and Jason Wong to teach lower limb surgery, and Megan Blakeway and Annie Capon, to teach hand occupational therapy.

On the first day, the team conducted a cadaveric workshop at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School with a focus on flaps for Lower Limb reconstruction. Informal feedback from the delegates included: 'This is the first time we had a cadaveric workshop and it was excellent'.

In the afternoon, the team was brought to the Parirenyatwa hospital where a total of approximately 40 paediatric patients with congenital hand conditions and burnt contracture were seen and around 10 patients were selected for surgery. In addition, Mr Reid and Mr Wong saw a few upper and lower trauma cases and scheduled these for flap reconstructions.



Over the next few days, the team operated on paediatric hand patients for congenital hand surgery, release of burnt contracture, syndactyly releases, first web reconstruction for an Apert's patient, a cleft hand, as well as a few duplicate thumb corrections. The highlight of the trip included a free anterolateral free flap reconstruction for an open wrist defect with missing extensor tendons led by Mr Wong and Mr Reid. One of the aims of the trip was to



teach and perform free tissue transfer, which if transfer of skills was successful, would represent a major step forward in Reconstructive Surgery in Harare. Halfway through the surgery, Mr Reid and Mr Wong, together with Mr Lam attended the lunchtime educational meeting where they jointly presented a guest lecture entitled: 'The Future of Extremity Reconstruction - From Development to Tissue Engineering to Regeneration'. The lecture was very well received, and several questions were asked.

On the final afternoon, the team departed for a short holiday at the Victoria Falls. This was a 'first' trip for BFIRST to Zimbabwe and proved to be very promising in terms of an ongoing collaboration for education and training. The local hosts, Dr Faith Muchemwa and Dr Nduku are extremely supportive and in addition, Drew Fleming provided invaluable advice for the preparation of this trip. Future plans include sponsoring Dr Nduku for a BFIRST fellowship to Manchester and another trip next year.