

Dr Hamlin's 90th Birthday Celebrations



ALMOST 300 FAMILY, FRIENDS and staff gathered in the grounds of the hospital to celebrate Dr. Hamlin's 90th Birthday in what was supposed to be a "small gathering"!

As usual Dr. Hamlin did not want any fuss made about her OR her Birthday but the staff were not going to miss the opportunity to mark this momentous occasion in style. Following some prayers and songs her son Richard made a very moving speech where he eloquently summed up 90 years in 9 minutes, there was hardly a dry eye in the garden! A number of the staff, including Buru who has worked for Dr. Hamlin for over 50 years, talked about their own

special experiences and how Dr. Hamlin had impacted on their lives.

It was a very memorable afternoon for all who attended and Dr. Hamlin was the last to leave after she had her photo taken with all 300 attendees!



Dr. Hamlin Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Dr. Hamlin is humbled by the news that Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has chosen to nominate her for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. It is a great honour and a privilege to be held in such a high esteem by the Minister who has been a great supporter of Dr. Hamlin and her work in Ethiopia for many years.

Dr Fekade overseeing births by caesarean at Hamlin Hospital

We are delighted to report that there is a steady increase in the number of babies being born at HFE. It is a joy to witness many of our ex fistula patients return to the hospital to await the birth of their babies. They are encouraged to return to the hospital well in advance of their due date. They may spend many weeks of expectation in the peaceful oasis of Hamlin hospital where they are so well fed and cared for by staff and fellow patients. For our doctors and theatre staff, it can be a welcome relief from more complex surgeries to assist these women, many of whom have had previous still births and suffered fistula during obstructed labour.



Dr Fekade, Medical Director

A recent delivery by caesarean section



Tender care of theatre staff

Alice Emasu (pictured to the left of Dr Catherine), and her team from TERREWODE in Uganda recently visited the hospital to meet with Dr Hamlin and other members of the HFE team. This was part of a study trip for them to learn more about how we do things at Hamlin. TERREWODE have been working with Fistula patients in Uganda for many years and it was a very useful exchange of experiences and ideas. We are looking at concrete ways of sharing knowledge and assisting them with some technical support and training.



Ali Borazjani is a trainee doctor from the US with an engineering background. He recently spent 6 weeks at the hospital having been put in contact through Dr Lewis Wall. His particular area of interest has been helping women who continue to suffer urinary incontinence after successful fistula closure. With the support of Dr Fekade, Medical Director, and Sr Helina who is the nurse in charge of the incontinence clinic, Ali sought to develop a culturally-appropriate clinical assessment system that is custom-designed for the fistula patient. The new system will provide more effective treatment for patients with post-repair incontinence. Ali was especially popular with many of the women and children at the hospital. We wish him well in his ongoing research and training and look forward to his return visit.



Ali Borazjani, Trainee Doctor visits HFE

Master Plan and New Building

Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited was delighted to be able to fund the development of a new master plan for the site of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. The master plan has been developed by Abba Architects PLC, an Ethiopian firm of architects who have done other work for HFE. The master plan is very exciting and will significantly improve efficiency while maintaining the integrity and spirit of the hospital. Dr Hamlin and the Board of HFE are very happy with the master plan and have given approval for the preparation of detailed designs for a new building. The new building will provide much needed facilities for the hospital. Most of the cost of the new building will be funded by a generous bequest which HFA received from the estate of the late Ruth Lily Gledhill. Miss Gledhill had taken a keen interest in the work of Dr Hamlin and made a substantial gift to Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited as a provision of her will.



AusAID Review

For many years Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia has benefitted from the generous financial support of the Australia Government through funding agreements between Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited and AusAID. During 2013 AusAID, together with USAID, commissioned a review of the support provided over the previous 10 years by the Australian and US governments to Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.

This review had a particular focus on results attained under the most recent funding Agreements. It aimed to contribute to learning and organisation improvement, maximise long-term benefits and sustainability through a better understanding of the context, successes and challenges facing Hamlin operations in Ethiopia. The report of the review contains recommendations for Hamlin partners and donors as well as lessons learnt over the decade. The full report is available to the public at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/publications/Pages/joint-aus-us-gov-review-hamlin-fistula-ethiopia-final-report.aspx>

The Directors of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited welcomed the review of the various agreements which the company has had with AusAID and were delighted with the endorsement which this independent review gave to the support the company has provided, and continues to provide, to Dr Catherine Hamlin and Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.

The report makes many positive recommendations about how the vital work of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia can improve and continue to expand in the years ahead.

Joint Public Statement

Representatives of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE), Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia) Limited (HFEA) and Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited (HFA) are pleased to confirm that they have reached agreement on any differences between the parties in the past and have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on how they intend to work together in the future. HFE is grateful that HFA has always provided operational and capital funds to HFE and welcomes all gifts made to HFA for the purposes of HFE.

It has been agreed that HFEA will be a partner of HFE and act as their authorised representative, the active fundraiser and communications arm in Australia. HFA will be a major donor and continue to manage and administer existing funds with passive fundraising through its existing network. HFA will continue to receive donations and bequests given to support the work of HFE.

All parties are very happy to conclude these discussions and thank all donors for their loyal support.

Professor Jeremy Wright joins team



Professor Jeremy Wright has recently joined the team of fistula surgeons at Hamlin. After 40 years of practice in the United Kingdom, 30 as a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, he retired from his consultant appointment and decided to take the 'gap year' he had never got round to and worked in the rural west highlands of Ethiopia for a year. However the bug got to him and after a short sojourn back in the UK he was looking for pastures new and decided to specialise in fistula surgery. He is now well integrated into the hospital and is also travelling to the regional fistula centres.

Dr. Karen Ballard appointed



Dr. Karen Ballard has been appointed to develop and co-ordinate the research activities within Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. Having spent many years working in Women's Health research in the UK, and more recently, Ethiopia, Karen brings extensive knowledge of how research is designed, implemented, communicated and funded. Working alongside the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation teams at Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, Karen is helping to develop some exciting research projects, which will increase our understanding about fistula treatments and prevention and ultimately improve the care that we provide.

Vale Ridley Smith



In December 2013 Dr Catherine Hamlin, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia and Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited (HFA) lost a dear friend with the death of Mr Ridley Smith. Ridley served as a director of HFA from August 2003 until July 2012. Ridley was an award winning architect who willingly offered his services to support the work of Dr Hamlin.

The built environment at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital campus, as well as Desta Mender, the Hamlin College of Midwives and a number of the satellite hospitals, bear the mark of Ridley's hand. He willingly travelled to Ethiopia many times to confer and plan.

Ridley was a good friend and confidant of Dr Hamlin and shared her deep Christian motivation for this work of compassion amongst the women of Ethiopia. The Board of HFA thank God for his servant Ridley and the opportunity to partly share with Ridley "the good works, which God prepared for him to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

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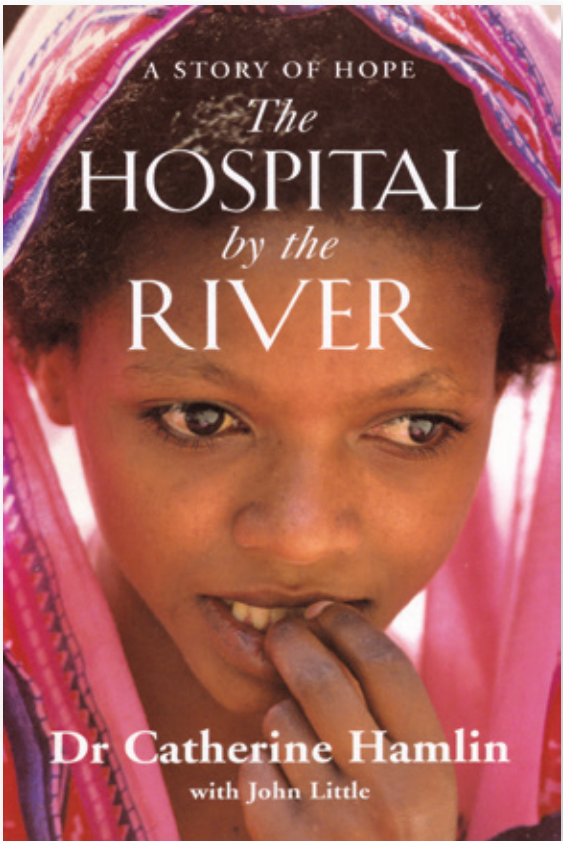
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