



## The Surgical Society of Zambia

MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURGICAL COLLEGES

June, 2005

# The Blade

A Surgical society of Zambia Newsletter

Vol 1, No 1, 2005

### *From the Chairman's Desk*



On behalf of the new executive, I wish to say how humbled we all were at being elected to represent the society. I have just started familiarizing myself with the inner works of the Surgical Society of Zambia (SSZ) and can't help but applaud the numerous contributions and sacrifices previous executives have made. I also welcome the start of the Newsletter in this new format, complete with an electronic version that we hope will reach as many as possible. I am certain that all who attended the Annual General Meeting in Lusaka enjoyed the scientific session and the lively atmosphere of the AGM. I would like to congratulate Penias Tembo and his executive on an outstanding meeting. The members of the new executive, all known for their commitment to the

ideals and the objectives of the society, have begun actively planning activities for this year. With you in mind, we are working on events in keeping with our goal of advancing the art and science of the surgery in Zambia. Among these is a trauma course on the Copperbelt, participation in the forthcoming ASEA and COMESA meeting in Blantyre, Malawi and the Scientific Meeting later this year.

For myself, I look forward to working with members of the new executive – whose energy and drive is inspiring. I encourage you all to contact me or other members of the executive with ideas and suggestions to make our Newsletter better.

**John S Kachimba**  
M.Med, FCS, Dip Urol.

### **SURGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The Surgical society held its 13th Annual AGM and 26<sup>th</sup> Scientific session on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2005 at the UTH, in Lusaka. The theme of the conference

was Surgical Training in the HIV era. The meeting was moderately well attended with over 70 participants.



The conference was opened by the Director General of Central Board of Health Dr Ben Chirwa.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS**

The theme paper was presented by Prof L Munkonge the immediate past dean of the school of medicine. He highlighted the areas of concern in the training of surgeons. He distinguished two key areas of debate and concern. The first was occupational risk to the trainee. The second was the curriculum content in relation to HIV teaching to students.



**Occupational Risk** The surgical trainee was at risk of acquiring HIV during the course of his/her training. The question was raised as to whether in view of this trainee should have a HIV test before beginning their training. The preclinical period carried risk in dealing with cadaver the nature of this risk needed some study. The clinical period of training carried a risk as well. Specialisation period had its risks from operative procedures.

### **HIV in Medical Curriculum**

The school was undergoing a review of its curriculum. The place and nature of teaching of HIV needed to be developed within that



new curriculum.

Three further papers were presented in the first session. The aetiology of Breast Cancer in Zambia, Epidemiology of Domestic injury and Chemical Hydrocoelectomy.

### **Current Trends in HIV management**

Dr Peter Mwaba (M.Med, PHD) the Head of Medicine gave a talk on current trends in HIV management in which he went through the history of HIV its discovery by Gallo & Montagnue. Its pathogenesis and symptomatology. His emphasis was on alternate new drugs that can act at other sites of the HIV cycle in the body. Such as drugs that can prevent binding of HIV virus at CKR5 receptor, integrase inhibitors that prevent the virus integrating into the host cell DNA. He highlighted the value of vaccine trials which are being done in many African countries and soon to be undertaken in Zambia as truly the greatest challenge because the provide potential for course.



In the third session the head of OBs & Gyn Mss Kaseba (MRCOGI). Presented her paper on the effects of HIV on OBS & GYN. She pointed out that there was a higher prevalence of HIV among men the women. In addition that men are more likely to transmit infection to men than the reverse. This was because of the large mucosal surfaces of women exposed during sexual intercourse.

### **THE EFFECT OF HIV ON OBS & GYN**

The effects in OBS include transmission to the New Born, which makes up 90% of pediatric HIV. Low birth weight, still birth, preterm delivery and maternal mortality.



The gynaecologic effects include PID, Abortion, warts and malignancies. She Highlighted Ca Cervix which I the main cancer of women in Zambia and the reduction in age incidence at presentation. It's association with Human papilloma virus. The virus has resulted changes in OBS & GYN practice in order to reduce occupational risk.

In the fourth session the Deputy Director of the national blood bank service Dr Josph Mulenga (MSc, MBA) gave a talk on the role of the ZNBTS in HIV prevention. Thou heterosexual transmission is the main method of transmission, Blood transfusion is also a cause, the aim ZNBT is to reduce this risk to an acceptable minimum.



Annual collection has average 40,000 units, the target is to reach 60,000 units for 2005. The current usable blood of all collected is 87%. Discard rates have been reduced.

**BLOOD TRANSFUION AND HIV**

Of the discarded blood 6% is found to be HIV infected. The methods of screening include clinical and laboratory screening.



Current the ZNBTS has a network of services in all province with the capacity to screen and provide blood & blood products to all provincial and district hospitals.

**Summary of the AGM**

The 13<sup>th</sup> AGM was held a 17:00 following the Scientific session, a full report is available to all members electronically and hard copies can be obtained from the chairman or the secretary. Reports were presented by the outing chairman, the secretary and treasurer. The chairman highlighted the difficulties of running the association, with declining finances and interest among the surgeons general.



The current meeting was one of the most poorly attended. He proposed a change from two annual meetings to one to reduce the burden on the executive. The matter was heavily debated and deferred to the next AGM when the new executive would review it. The secretary informed the members of increase in membership fees, the need to register the association and a new data capture sheets for all members to allow good record keeping as well as to keep the secretariat in touch with members. The treasurer repot that the SSZ of Zambia had 2,696 US dollars and 10,325,885 million kwacha.

**EDITOR'S CUT.**



The secretariat takes great pride in the re focusing of the news letter as a means of information and contact with the SSZ membership. The Blade will be your

newsletter and we will be happy to receive articles and comments about everything related to it's policy and content. In the first instance it will be mostly an electronic based newsletter largely. In this first edition we have had to compromise content with size. We have had to experiment with the format and the key themes, we hope as the newsletter matures it better met the expectation of all our members. We hope you can find it informative but not tedious, amusing but not frivolous. To strike a balance that is acceptable to all is never easy, but we hope we will be able to may a reasonable attempt at this. We expect to include jokes, members news, puzzles, problem cases, questions and a lot more as the newsletter develops. Mostly we hope this newsletter will help to better surgical practice up and down the country.

**Mr Kasonde Bowa** MSc,M.Med,FRCS  
Editor

## **NEWS**

1.ASEA regional meeting in Salima Malawi 4-5<sup>th</sup> August 2005. Accommodation 40US, Registration 30US dollars.Members interested please contact,the chairman at [jskachimba@yahoo.com](mailto:jskachimba@yahoo.com)

2.International Surgical Week in Durban 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>tg</sup> August 2005.Details at [www.isw2005.org.za/](http://www.isw2005.org.za/)

3.ASEA AGM in Dar 29<sup>th</sup> Nov-2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2005.call for papers contact [isharif@muchs.ac.tz](mailto:isharif@muchs.ac.tz) or [akinasha@muchs.ac.tz](mailto:akinasha@muchs.ac.tz)

4.MCS and FCS exams deadline 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005. Written exams 14<sup>th</sup> September ,clinical exams on the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2005 in Dar es salaam. Fees are 200US dollars MCS & 250 US dollars FCS.

5.All ASEA members and Fellows are urged to pay their fees. Members K50,000 and Fellows K100,000.

6. SSZ basic skills workshop 25 -28<sup>th</sup> October 2005. Scientific meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005.Limited numbers please apply early.

### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

Kasonde Bowa  
John Kachimba  
Robert Zulu  
Emmanuel Makasa  
Mutale Chikwenya

### **Contact Address**

[kbowa@yahoo.com](mailto:kbowa@yahoo.com)  
[jskachimba@yahoo.com](mailto:jskachimba@yahoo.com)  
[emakasa@yahoo.com](mailto:emakasa@yahoo.com)  
[SSZ@yahoo.com](mailto:SSZ@yahoo.com)