



Volunteer Opportunity:

Surgical Training

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre, Malawi

Physicians for Peace is seeking volunteers to participate in its Surgical Training Project in Blantyre, Malawi, in partnership with the University of Malawi College of Medicine and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (COM/QECH). This project provides surgical education and training to interns, residents, and clinical officers at QECH, the largest hospital in Malawi. This initiative utilizes actively practicing or retired volunteer surgeons who serve as visiting members of the Surgical Department at QECH and assist with the Surgical Training Project for a three month period. In this role, the volunteer surgeon primarily provides hands-on surgical training, occasional lectures, and surgical mentorship according to an established General Surgery curriculum.

Physicians for Peace is seeking interested surgeons passionate about international health and medical education and training to serve in this role as the collaboration with QECH/COM continues.

Volunteer Position Details

- A three month commitment is required, but longer commitments will be considered.
- Physicians for Peace will oversee the arrangements for travel, necessary documentation, coordination with the host hospital staff and faculty
- Participating surgical volunteers benefit from the provision of airfare, housing, a car for local use, and a small stipend to defray living expenses

Surgical Training Needs in Malawi

PFPP has entered into a long-term partnership with QECH/COM largely due to the tremendous need for increased capacity of surgical provision in Malawi. The startling ratio of physicians to patients in Malawi ranges from 1 doctor to every 50,000 patients to 1 doctor to every 60,000 patients, depending on the sources. This places Malawi at the top of the worldwide list of countries facing a dire shortage of healthcare professionals. Medical education in Malawi is still quite new, with the College of Medicine opening in 1991. Surgical residency training is primarily conducted utilizing the College of Surgeons of East, Central & Southern Africa curriculum, facilitated at the regional level. QECH and Kamuzu Central Hospital are the two teaching hospitals in the country, both striving to bolster surgical training and education so that Malawi's surgical workforce can continue to grow and strengthen and better serve the overwhelming patient needs.

Interested volunteers should send their CV and a copy of their active medical license to Leslie Toledo at ltoledo@physiciansforpeace.org or call for more information, 757.625.7569.