

WOC Chairman's Report 2008/9

It has been an honour to be chairman of WOC UK for the past three years and it is time to pass on the mantle. As I look back on this year I see many highlights. The foremost are the links that many British surgeons have developed with parts of the world where orthopaedic training and service delivery is needed. Many such surgeons are WOC members, but equally many are not. I would encourage those involved who are not WOC members to join, not because of what they can get from WOC, but because of what they can give, and because the more links we have the more we will encourage interest and commitment from others.

Another highlight has been the involvement of trainees. This year's BOA congress WOC afternoon will join with BOTA highlighting the time spent overseas by three senior trainees, and although it is a Friday afternoon I hope good number will stay to listen to them. It has been encouraging to see a number of fellowships develop to support trainees visiting the developing countries. Such visits often result in long term relationships with colleagues in less affluent countries, and development interests that become life-long.

Finally I think every retiring chairman earns the opportunity to hand on to his successor his hopes for the future. Mine are that WOC takes an ever higher place in UK orthopaedics, encouraging interest in the orthopaedic needs of poorer countries, especially with the big international 'English speaking' meeting due for Glasgow next year. I would also like to see WOC develop its marriage broking role, putting interested UK orthopaedic surgeons in touch with projects that need the support we can give. A lot of this is by word of mouth, but I hope to see the website take a bigger place in the future.

I will maintain and increase my own involvement in orthopaedic research and training in Africa through the new College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa, but I will take a more back seat role in WOC and look forward to supporting the new chairman.

I would like to end by thanking all the WOC committee for their service, their enthusiasm and their commitment over the three years.

Chris Lavy September 2009 Manchester