



IAOMS Foundation Report on East Africa *East Africa Program Continues in Nairobi*

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The IAOMS Continuing Education Program in East Africa, in collaboration with the East African Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons is progressing smoothly. The

first course of this program was held in the University of Nairobi (Kenya) in September 2007. Six modules have been held until now. Venues have been Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), with the local director in Nairobi being Prof Mark Chindia, who is the African Representative to the Education Committee, and Secretary General Dr. Fawzia Butt; while the local director in Dar is Dr Elison Simon. The last two modules were held again in Nairobi, Kenya, once the political situation was better in that country.

I had the opportunity to travel to Africa again and to participate in both the 5th and 6th modules of this program. The 5th course took place between 28th September and 2nd October, 2009. About 30 participants from different East African countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Rwanda) attended the course in a highly interactive way. The topic was Oral and Maxillofacial Trauma and our guest speakers were David McPherson and Roger Webb (UK), who presented an excellent course. As a special note, a hands-on workshop on Advanced Trauma Life Support was included.

The 6th Course was held between 1-5 March, 2010 on Head and Neck Tumors. This topic will be developed during two courses, with benign tumors the topic for the first course. The guest speakers were Thjis Merckx and Jan De Vischer (The Netherlands), who did a great job. During my visits to Nairobi, I had the opportunity to organize meetings with the representatives from the Universities of Nairobi and Dar es Salaam as well as with the President of the

African Association, Prof Simon Guthua. All of them expressed their gratitude for the IAOMS support. We think that this educational project has been very important in encouraging our colleagues in East Africa to develop a common training project. Moreover, a movement to the harmonization of surgical specialties in the region probably will lead to the establishment of a 5-year OMFS Training being included the specialty in a common trunk with other surgical specialties in the framework of the College of Surgeons of East Africa.



Speakers and Organizing Committee for the September 28-October 2nd course in Nairobi. From left to right J Acero, R Webb, D McPherson, F Butt and M Chindia.

The next course of the East African Program is planned to be held in Nairobi (Kenya) in September 2010. The topic will be Head and Neck Malignant Tumors. Further planning of future activities once the first project is completed is under study.

-Julio Acero

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