



## The programme is born!

A glittering reception was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Hotel Russell, Bloomsbury, for the launch party of Medic to Medic.

Entering to a string quartet made up of doctors and medical students, guests were greeted by a champagne reception and a photographic exhibition of stunning images of Africa by Michael Huggan, an eminent photographer.

There was immediate interest in our raffle tree centrepiece. The raffle tree is a new twist to the traditional raffle. Instead of buying a strip of tickets with only a slim chance of winning, each person who purchases a raffle tree ticket will win a prize – with the ticket selected from the branches of the beautiful gold tree. There



**Props away: movie memorabilia up for auction**

were numerous prizes on offer, including afternoon teas at top London hotels such as the Ritz and Brown's, fine wine, dinner for two at luxury hotel Old Aldwych, and a year's membership of the Royal Society of Medicine and

the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The evening kicked off with an address by Professor Colin Green, director of IMET2000, which is the umbrella charity for Medic to Medic. IMET2000 aims

*(Continued on page 2)*

Well, it's been a pretty busy time for Medic to Medic. I can't believe that it's only been a year since I first pitched the idea for a programme sponsoring medical students to Colin Green of IMET2000. Since then, we have had our glamorous launch party, which was a great success and generated plenty of positive publicity. We've also had our first sporting event: surgeons Joanna Manson and Nick Symons cycling around the Isle of Wight. We now have 29 people sponsoring medical students in Malawi, and we're aiming to have 50 by Christmas!

Along with the local hospital and university press, Medic to Medic has had its first full length article in the BMA News, a national publication reaching many doctors in the UK. It was great to receive so many encouraging responses, and further offers of sponsorship and help.

In early September, I will be visiting the Malawi College of Medicine, along with Medic to Medic vol-

unteers Tamsin Cargill and Tim Bartley. We will meet all our sponsored students and see how the scheme is helping them, and discuss any problems.

We're also looking towards next year now, and we will be visiting the Malawian districts which have the least number of doctors, with the aim of increasing the number of students from these areas.

Finally, I'll be looking into the feasibility of sponsoring students through their "pre-medical" course, and also orthopaedic clinical officers – see page three for further details.

Thanks to everyone who has organised, sponsored, swum/cycled/run for Medic to Medic, and all their hard work. It's wonderful to see it all come together.

*Kate*

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## “When Medic to Medic went to the ball...”

If only the tale of Cinderella were true, then the eight medical students and junior doctors who organised the launch party in April wouldn't have been left feeling so completely dishevelled!

A three course dinner in a upmarket location, dancing, and a few phone calls to beg for auction prizes seemed simple when we dreamt of the launch party way back in October. How wrong we were!

As monthly meetings soon progressed to fortnightly, then weekly, our optimism was perpetually riding on a rather choppy sea. The to-do list got greater week by week, with only the short relief of the latest prize toward the raffle tree keeping us afloat.

The evening before the party was a hectic amalgamation of folding, stick-

ing, ribbon tying, and generally all things pretty and girly! Programmes were designed and made, presents were wrapped, and the lovingly hand crafted raffle tree was given a touching spruce up, transforming it from a



The Medic to Medic team

space age sculpture to a more natural life form. Despite in-depth planning, agendas and rotas, nothing could prepare us for those last days of frenetic last minute jobs.

What a welcome the guests received though! They were shown into an elegantly decorated room, with African photographs lining the walls, while the string quartet seemed to wash away any woes. As drinks were sipped and chatter filled the room, the serious business of what guests could win on the raffle tree began. Just how we managed to get our hands on so much Harry Potter memorabilia remains a mystery.

As organisers, we were left to watch from afar, allowing ourselves just a small grin of satisfaction. It was a job well done.

by Leonie Williams

## Over two thousand pounds raised

(Continued from page 1)

to produce high quality medical education, unlimited by borders or resources, and is currently developing an e-curriculum.

Following Professor Green was Kate Mandeville, Founder of Medic to Medic, who took to the stage to explain the motivation behind Medic to Medic and the aim of sponsoring 15 medical students from Malawi College of Medicine this year.

Notable members of the audience included Professor Alan Fenwick, head of the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative at Imperial College, and Dr Tom Lissauer, ex-Consultant Neonatologist and renowned among medical students for his definitive textbook on paediatrics.

During dinner, magician Chris McGeever wowed the audience with his sleight-of-hand card tricks. Chris entered the Magic Circle at the earliest possible age of 18, and now regularly entertains whilst pursuing his studies at Cambridge University.

Finally, it was onto the auction –and the excitement levels were whipped up to a frenzy by John Bosco, rising

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“  
It was a fabulous night and a great success for Medic to Medic....all students should have access to medical education whatever their country of origin. I am behind this scheme 150%.”

\_\_\_\_\_

Professor Colin Green, IMET2000

star of the stage. The auction included a signed set of Harry Potter books by Severus Snape himself, actor Alan Rickman, a spa day for 8 guests at the London County Marriott Hotel, and a designer handbag by Lulu Guinness.

The ultimate prize was a wine-tasting evening for 15 people at fine wine specialists Jeroboams of Mayfair, with wine selected to personal tastes and the first £200 of wine free. This was boldly bid for by Dr David Layfield, a surgical house officer at St Mary's Hospital.

In total, the event raised over £2,500 for the Medic to Medic Programme, and enough sponsors have signed up in order to support all fifteen Malawian students for this year. The Programme will cover the tuition fees for these students until graduation, making it easier for them to study and eventually work in their home country.

The event was generously sponsored by the Medical Protection Society, Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare, and the accountancy firm Rathbones. Thanks again too for the many donations and prizes we received.

## Lecture notes: Tiwonge Khonje

### Lecture notes...

*Every issue, we aim to give you the view from Africa with a short column from one of our sponsored students. This issue, we have to the pleasure of a few words from Tiwonge Khonje, one of the first students sponsored by the programme.*

After my father's death when I was eleven years old, my mother became the sole provider of my family and she continued paying school fees for all the children in the family through her work as a secondary school teacher. Unfortunately my mother passed away in 2001. Since then, my sisters started taking care of me having failed to pursue their studies due to lack of school fees.

My interest in medicine grew in secondary school after some medical doctors came to give us a career talk on how to become a medical doctor and what doctors exactly do. At the end of my secondary school, I was selected to the College of Medicine to do a Premedical course for 1 year. I was then selected to study medicine having successfully completed the premedical course.

Medical school life is interesting. One not only learns academic work, but also different extra curricular activities and lessons which are of great importance in life. You learn not only from the lecturers but also from the patients that you meet in the wards. Life here revolves around understanding, compassion, loving and above all respect.



**Beneficiary: Tiwonge Khonje**

On the other hand medical life can really become hard due to the huge bulk of academic work. At times you have too much work to do such that proper planning and time management is essential.

After finishing my medical training, I would like to specialize in Pediatrics. I really love children and I would like to help them when they need me most thus when they are sick. I would like to go to the district hospital in any other part of Malawi where I can do community based pediatric care. This will enable the marginalized and impoverished rural children have access to good medical care. I believe that child mortality can be greatly reduced by providing good primary health care – this can be achieved if more of the trained medical doctors go into the community and provide quality health care at grass root level.

## Novel solutions, new students

A lot of students who would like to apply to the Malawi College of Medicine don't have education to A-Level standard. Unfortunately, these are often the students from poorer rural areas, who may be more likely to return to these areas after graduation. The medical school has formed an access - or "pre-medical" - course, which is a year of intensive tuition in basic sciences which enables entry to medical school the following year. Next year, Medic to Medic would like to sponsor five students from selected rural areas through the premedical course. It's more expensive, but we feel it increases the likelihood of doctors returning to those areas which currently have no medics at all.

### Orthopaedic clinical officers

Orthopaedic clinical officers (OCO) are a new type of medical practitioner who have been specially trained to fill a niche in Malawi's healthcare shortage. There are many trauma cases in Malawi due to the high number of farming and road accidents. However, there is only one trained orthopaedic surgeon in the whole country.

OCOs are lay people who undergo an intensive 18 month training course led by Mr Jim Harrison, a British orthopaedic surgeon who has emigrated to Malawi. After this, they are able to set fractures, perform basic reductions of dislocated joints, apply plaster casts, and fulfil most of the roles needed in a district hospital.

It's a novel solution to the shortage of specialists, and has had good results. However, the government has not yet agreed funding for the training course. Kate will be meeting with Mr Harrison in Malawi to discuss the possibility of Medic to Medic taking on funding for a number of OCOs next year.

## Get involved!

Amazingly, we still have places available to join us in our skydiving foolhardiness, so please drop us a line if you've always fancied jumping out of a plane.

We are also looking for volunteers to run in the London marathon next year, and the Great South Run. Imagine the satisfaction of having run 13

or 26 miles, and having raised lots of money for charity as well!

We also are holding cupcake sales in hospital foyers around the UK, which have been really successful at raising money. If this is something that you feel you could organise for your hospital, please send us an email: [medictomedic@googlemail.com](mailto:medictomedic@googlemail.com).

## the medic to medic programme newsletter

### Medic to Medic Programme, c/o NPIMR

TT Block,  
Northwick Park Institute for Medical Research,  
Watford Road,  
Harrow HA1 3UJ,  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)208 869 3287 Fax: +44 (0)208 869 3270

Email: [medictomedic@googlemail.com](mailto:medictomedic@googlemail.com)

Web: [www.imet2000.org/medic-to-medic](http://www.imet2000.org/medic-to-medic)

For comments, questions and errata regarding this newsletter, please contact the editor, Tim Bartley, at the general email address given above.

Every effort has been made to credit contributors to this newsletter. Where omissions have occurred, please advise and they will be rectified at the earliest possible opportunity.



medictomedic  
PROGRAMME

Part of:

IMET2000

Registered Charity No. 3931085

Company No. 3931085

The medic to medic programme was founded in 2008, as part of IMET2000, to address the problems of training and retaining medical students in some of the worlds poorest countries.

For our first country, we chose Malawi. Like so many sub-Saharan countries, Malawi is desperately short of doctors. It has just two doctors per 100 000 people. The UK has over 230 per 100 000.

Since the founding of the Malawi College of Medicine (the country's first and only medical school) in 1991, only 50 doctors are being produced per year for a population of over 10 million. Simply not enough medics are being trained.

Medic to Medic will help in two ways: to guarantee the tuition fees until graduation for poor students and to increase the number of doctors being trained each year. We have 15 students currently under our sponsorship scheme at the Malawi College of Medicine, selected for their academic potential as well as their need for financial aid. We aim to sponsor another 15 students every year.

If you feel you can sponsor a medical student, current tuition fees are only £8 a month. Please note that although you will be linked with an individual student, our donations are pooled so that no one student is disadvantaged if a donor needs to pull out.

Please set up a direct debit to IMET2000 (Medic to Medic) at Lloyds TSB:

Account no: 02342861

Sort code: 30-95-36

Branch no: 309536 (Maidenhead)

For more information or to request a direct debit form, please contact us (details above left).

# Swim, cycle, run, for Medic to Medic

**S**wim, cycle, run for Medic to Medic – or even jump out of a plane? Yes, it wasn't long before people were offering to do sponsored events for Medic to Medic – and we were more than happy to accept.

Our first sporting volunteers were London surgeons Joanna Manson and Nick Symons, who cycled around the whole of the Isle of Wight in one day.



*If at first you don't succeed...*

They managed to raise over £400 for Medic to Medic, and Jo was back to her arduous on-call schedule the very next day. Many thanks to both of them.

Next we have accountant Christoph Atkins, who is aiming to complete the London Triathlon in under 2 hours 30 minutes, which will be a personal best. This will entail not just cycling in London streets, but also swimming in the Thames, so timing may not be his only worry. Good luck, Christoph!

Our very own Odiri Eneje has kindly offered to run the 13 mile Yorkshire Great Run in October, and has started her training regime with walking home from work. As she says, you can't run before you can walk.

Kate Mandeville, Leonie Williams and Tamsin Cargill will all be jumping out of a plane together in October.

They are aiming to raise £400 each for their first (and only) parachute jump. Although Leonie is having second thoughts, and may sit in a bath of baked beans instead.

We are using new website Mosaic Appeals for online donation. Please visit [www.mosaicappeals.com](http://www.mosaicappeals.com) and enter the name of our sporty volunteer to see how our individual appeals are going.



*...tri, tri, tri, again.*