

## Report of 10th Paediatric Surgical Training visit 2009

Surgery for children in Mauritius has now taken a great leap forward, as there are now three surgeons with subspecialty training, including Dr Hosany Nazeer, Dr Naresh Burton and Dr Kevin Teerovengardum, who not only fully certified in France as a Paediatric Surgeon, but who has been appointed to the Victoria Hospital as a Paediatric Surgeon. Working with these dedicated and motivated men, the Mauritian and Australian teams saw 162 patients, performed 63 operations, which involved 39 anaesthetics. Since 2001, there have been 444 patients seen, 517 operations and 359 anaesthetics. The support of the SACIM in both Australia and Mauritius cannot readily be calculated in human benefit, particularly because of the huge benefit of the training component of the 10 visits. However, if each time a child was operated on, they had been transferred to Australia, the overall cost would be well over \$10,000, which equates to SACIM, the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation, together with the Ministry have provided \$3,500,000 worth of care.

The latest visit started with Professor Dewan, Diane Paech and David Allen leaving their bags at the hotel and heading to the Flacq Hospital. There, a large contingent of patients and staff were gathered. Eighty patients were reviewed and many were placed on the operating list. The second clinic was on the following Saturday, with a similar number of complex patients, requiring the clinic to go into the night.

The team was hosted to dinner with the Minister Dr Rajesh Jeetah, and SACIM, with apologies and best wishes from the Australian Commission Ms Cathy Johnston, and supported by junior medical staff, some of whom donated their services, anaesthetic, radiology, nursing staff, theatre technicians and, importantly, a very skilled catering staff.

During the clinics many patients were able to be discharged to the care of the Mauritian team, and the 29 children had an anorectal anomaly, 7 Hirschsprung's, 2 a Megarectum, 8 Constipation, 2 Duodenal atresia, 57 the penile maldevelopment of Hypospadias, 16 testicle position anomalies, 18 a history of urethral obstruction, 13 a kidney blockage or Hydronephrosis, 4 had an intersex, 2 Bladder exstrophy and others had a range of other urinary tract anomalies.

A total of 63 operations were performed on 39 patients with over 80 hours of operative time, with up to 6 hours per operation including: 13 Hypospadias repairs, 5 Pena type procedures for anorectal anomalies, 2 with neonatal emergency of duodenal blockage. Two children had an operation to reimplant their ureter because of a blockage or reflux into the kidney, one of who was able to go home the same day. A 10 year old boy had surgery to enable him to be continent by enlarging his bladder. No significant complications occurred.

The visits have been like the poem below, chasing rainbows. Dr Teerovengadum is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and has been found. Our task is to now support his further development of the service, which is ably supported by Dr Hosany Nazeer and Dr Naresh Burton.



Hosany Nazeer (left) completes an operation performed by Dr Kevin Teerovengardum, under the watchful, training eye of Professor Dewan



Dr Kevin Teerovengadum, (left) celebrate with Dr Naresh Burton at the dinner arranged by SACIM Mauritius



Joyelle, the boy who started it all! Professor Dewan thought it inappropriate to have the family come to Melbourne a third time. His tee-shirt says it all – ultimate...success, and now a team in Mauritius to take over in the near future.

## *Chasing Rainbows*

Lightning strikes, illuminating the sky;  
Thunder rolls.  
Dark, black clouds billow hurriedly to the horizon.  
Waves tip their caps in greeting to the reef,  
Calming their angry intent.  
Sailors batten hatches.

A car of foreigners  
Catches raindrops on a winding road;  
Passing sweet fields and boulders,  
Chasing rainbows.

Antennae search for a message,  
On a house and home for the sick,  
Where crowds gather on a day of landing  
And, on Saturday, young Dodos chase rainbows  
Through clouds with silver linings.

The path is well beaten by rain, and three  
Cashing rainbows into the night.  
Rainbows of many colours;  
Reflective, enlightening rainbows;  
Rainbows that have no end;

Another storm cloud enters,  
Flashing light of images to remember,  
Overcoming fear.  
The fire of contact and electrical conduct.  
Causes a flood, frown and blood stained pain,  
The red of the rainbow,  
The blue of the rainbow;  
All the colours of the rainbow.

The day becomes night again; silver linings chase clouds away  
Rainbows crisscross rooms, travel down roads,  
Curve upside down on faces and beam brightly from eyes.

Chasing rainbows;  
Finding silver linings and tear drops of gold.