



40th Anniversary Edition



ZAMBIA



FlySpec Founder
Professor John Jellis OBE

FLYING



SURGERY

SUMMER 2022

FLYSPEC NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 40 Years of Flying Medical Service to Zambia



*Professor John Jellis OBE and Dr Goran Jovic FlySpec Surgeons & Pilots
with the original FlySpec plane the Beech Musketeer*

2022 marks the 40th year of FlySpec, Zambia's Flying Surgical Specialist Service which delivers operative care to the people of remote and rural Zambia.





FlySpec - The Beginning

FlySpec was founded in 1982 by Professor John Jellis, originally as a 'one man' service. At this time not only was Professor Jellis the sole orthopaedic surgeon, but he was also the only pilot. He recognised the huge need for surgical care to be accessible to remote & rural communities enabling vital life changing operations to be available to people living outside of the capital city Lusaka - people unable to travel for treatment due to distance and cost.

Most of the patients treated by FlySpec are children. Surgery aims to treat congenital deformities such as club feet, cleft lip & palates, bone and joint infections, neglected fractures, and burns of all ages, including the resulting complications.

John's pioneering vision has flourished and survived the test of time despite the austere environmental and economical challenges facing a lower middle income country over 40 years.

Dr Goran Jovic, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and pilot, joined FlySpec in 1994. FlySpec has continued to expand and develop and today mainly includes local surgeons who undertake outreach work on a regular basis. The value of the 'FlySpec project' continues with cost effective specialist Orthopaedic and Plastic Surgical care being delivered throughout Zambia to otherwise 'unreachable' communities.

Alongside commencing and establishing formal orthopaedic training (MMed) at UTH Lusaka and UNZA, Professor Jellis utilised FlySpec trips to teach the numerous Zambian surgical trainees who accompanied him on these trips over the years. Many of these trainee surgeons comment that the FlySpec visits provided them with invaluable knowledge and skills and constituted a vital part of their training. Today they endeavour to pass these skills on to their own trainee surgeons.

Over 40 years FlySpec has seen over 86,000 pts, operated on over 26,000 patients and has undertaken 2,580 visits to 30 remote and rural areas spanning the whole of Zambia.

The Early Days



Prof Jellis and his wife Jane arrived in Zambia in 1970 to take up post as consultant Orthopaedic surgeon at University Teaching Hospital Lusaka.

They were accompanied by their children Ruth, Mark & baby Rachel



Early Days FlySpec



Professor Jellis assessing patients for surgery in Clinic



Surgery at Chitokoloki 2006
Prof Jellis, Dr Makasa and JR



Post Op Ward Round before Flying Home



Refuelling the aircraft in the bush



Always a Welcoming Crowd



Early Days FlySpec cont.



Professor John Jellis with his wife Jane after receiving his OBE in 1987

In 1987 John was awarded the OBE by HM The Queen for Services to Zambian and African Orthopaedics. In 1992 he was made a Fellow (ad hominem), of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Prof Jellis's vision for FlySpec's future is that the service will continue to expand and develop as increasing numbers of young Zambian surgeons join the service taking it's ethos and legacy into the future.



Hospital Focus

An insight into hospital life in remote and rural hospitals visited by FlySpec. In this edition we feature:

Chitokoloki Mission Hospital



Aerial view of Chitokoloki Mission Hospital & airstrip



Chitokoloki Mission Hospital



A typical Ward

FlySpec is a regular visitor to Chitokoloki Mission Hospital. The hospital has 200 beds and is located on the Zambezi river in NW Zambia. It serves a population of 150,000 in the NW Province along with many patients who travel across the nearby borders of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Dr David McAdam is a medical missionary and the senior surgeon at Chitokoloki Hospital. David and his wife Lorraine (a nurse and midwife) are both from Northern Ireland and worked as missionaries in the DRC for 8 years leaving 'temporarily' due to the war. David describes originally meeting Lorraine 'over a bedpan' in Musgrave Park Hospital Belfast in 1985 when he was a junior doctor (although Lorraine notes that David has never been anywhere near a bedpan in his life!) – the start of their medical missionary journey together.

Working in such a remote region means that David and his staff have to deal with every kind of emergency and condition that presents to the hospital, from trauma and paediatrics to Obstetrics & Gynaecology and ophthalmology. David is multi skilled with a vast experience and scope of practice which extends to cataract surgery which he undertakes regularly at Chitokoloki. He received an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians of Glasgow in 2018 in recognition of his outstanding work.

FlySpec, along with other visiting doctors provide much needed specialist input on a regular basis, and local patients who require specialist surgery are scheduled for assessment and treatment in advance to coincide with the surgical team visits.

Transport to Chitokoloki is usually undertaken by light aircraft as distances are vast and terrain challenging for vehicular transport. The hospital has its own airstrip and aviation support staff, facilitating air travel to this remote outreach area.



Chitokoloki Mission Hospital cont.



Last minute preparation before the start of surgery



Dr McAdam undertaking the morning ward round



Dr McAdam arrives to greet the FlySpec team



A rare moment - David and Lorraine enjoy a well earned cup of tea



Chitokoloki Mission Hospital cont.

Also from Northern Ireland, and working in Chit since 2009 is JR (Julie Rachel Elwood) a nurse, midwife and graduate from the University of Ulster. Like David and other members of the Chitokoloki staff, JR is multi skilled with a wealth of clinical experience. Although involved in all areas of clinical practice throughout the hospital, JR spends much of her time working as a nurse anaesthetist. She loves the patient continuity, looking after patients with every sort of problem, and the ongoing learning that is part of the Chitokoloki experience. 'Every day is a school day' she says and working with specialists such as the FlySpec surgeons over the years has enriched that experience, broadening her knowledge and skills while bringing otherwise inaccessible treatment to the patients at Chitokoloki hospital.



JR – Senior Chitokoloki nurse
On call transport -
particularly helpful at night!



JR at work -anaesthetising children is a regular part her
day to day work helped by anaesthetic clinical officer
Charity



Dr Collin West is the
regular FlySpec orthopaedic
surgeon.



Dr West has fixed these tibial and femoral fractures with
External Fixators. The patients will be able to mobilise early
rather than remaining in hospital on traction for months.

Rota coverage at this busy hospital is undertaken by long term senior staff along with regular short term visiting staff.

Dr McAdam, Dr Ros Jefferson, Dr Chibwe, ML Maambo and JR all share rota coverage and in emergency situations all staff are involved.



FlySpec Clinical Work throughout Rural Zambia The Patients



Combined specialist orthopaedic and plastic surgery at Chitokoloki Hospital saved this young man's severely fractured arm following a serious Road Traffic Accident. The flap joining his left wrist to his abdomen remains for 3 weeks to provide blood supply to the large area of skin loss at the wrist to allow healing.



FlySpec doctors working with Mazabuka staff to skin graft this young man's lower limb amputation stump after recovery from severe infection post trauma.



Young children awaiting surgery at Mazabuka Hospital



FySpec Clinical Work throughout Rural Zambia

The Patients cont.



This 10 year old boy has a displaced fracture through a congenitally abnormal extra joint in his left leg. Specialist Orthopaedic fixation with a metal pin will allow him to mobilise and return to school. He is absolutely delighted to be having an operation to fix his leg!



Before Surgery



After Surgery



This young girl has Chronic Osteomyelitis (COM) – infection of the bone. It is very common in both children and adults in Africa. Surgery enables dead bone to be removed to allow healing.



Dr Moyo FlySpec surgeon at the Cheshire Home Chipata about to take this little girl's cast off



FlySpec Clinical Work throughout Rural Zambia **The Patients** cont.



This teenage boy also has COM in his right thigh. An operation successfully drained infected material from inside the swollen thigh bone



FlySpec Plastic Surgeon Dr Goran Jovic and Chitokoloki nurse JR skin grafting and dressing this young baby's burns



FySpec Clinical Work throughout Rural Zambia **The Patients** cont.



Dr Simba Kaja works with FlySpec regularly in Mbala.

Correction of club foot deformity in young children is a commonly required operation



Giorgio Lastroni FlySpec orthopaedic surgeon repairing a burned hand at Mongu Hospital.



Mazabuka theatre nurse Beatrice reassures this little 3 year old boy who is about to have an operation to straighten his legs, - this surgery will allow him to walk and grow properly



FySpec Clinical Work throughout Rural Zambia

The Patients cont.



A broken wrist after falling out of a mango tree and the ingenuity of a home made splint!
A quick operation to straighten a bent forearm followed by a Plaster cast was all that was needed to fix the problem.



Dr Mwamba Mulenga , Mukinge Hospital FlySpec surgeon undertaking corrective foot surgery on this young baby's congenitally abnormal foot.



Newborn Twins at Chitokoloki.



FlySpec Expansion



Mazabuka

Mazabuka General Hospital

In March 2022 FlySpec undertook its first surgical camp visit to Mazabuka in its 40 year history. The trip was initiated by a request from the local Orthopaedic surgeon Dr Mbelenga, who had originally been trained by Professor Jellis and had attended many FlySpec trips in the past as part of his training. This is a wonderful example of the contribution FlySpec makes to training local Zambian surgeons, perpetuating the passing on of specialist skills to the doctors of the future.

The trip was highly successful and we look forward to working with the wonderful Mazabuka staff and community in the future.



Team Mazabuka after finishing a long theatre list.

Cardinal Adam Memorial Hospital Lusaka



FlySpec is working in collaboration with the Cardinal Adam Memorial Hospital Lusaka to run a specialist orthopaedic camp to increase access for the people of Lusaka.

Cardinal Adam Hospital is a Catholic Church Hospital offering specialist oncology,

gynaecology and urology services to the people of Lusaka . It's mission is to reach out to the poor and vulnerable members of the community. In keeping with this philosophy, the first FlySpec specialist surgical clinic was held 3rd June this year and patients assessed for surgery will be brought back for their operations on July 1st & 2nd 2022.

The FlySpec team including local Zambian surgeons and trainees will be working along with Cardinal Adam Hospital Staff to bring this much needed service to the community. We very much look forward to this new venture.



Aviation Update



9J-LOR has now had her makeover and is looking and feeling good! She only awaits her new Navigation aids and radios (avionics) which have been sourced to be fitted

To enhance safety for pilots and staff we are investing in a SPIDER GPS tracking system. This system will allow the aircraft to be tracked at all times particularly important when traversing remote and rural terrain where radio communication maybe patchy or non existent.



Flying over the River Zambezi on route to Mukinge Hill from Mongu.

FlySpec Destinations over the Years

Destinations visited by FlySpec since 1982 include:

Lusaka, Mansa, Katete, Ndola, Chitokoloki, Mukinge Hill, Chillonga, Mongu, Mazabuka, Mbala, Livingstone, Choma, Kasama, Monze, Kitwe, Kabwe, Macha, Luwingu, Mporokoso, Kasikishi, Senanga, Lukulu, Kaoma & Kalene, Lubwe, Mbershi, Chilubwe & Chiriundu

FlySpec
40 YEARS OF VISITS



SITES SERVED
1982-2022



Donated Equipment – a big help to Zambian Hospitals

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Medical Aid International and a number of UK hospitals, many units in Zambia have benefitted from the donation of essential medical equipment. These donations include a life box monitor along with essential basic anaesthetic equipment and surgical skin grafting knives, gifted to Mazabuka Hospital by Medical Aid International. Orthopaedic power drills donated by 'Arbutus Medical' allows local Zambian surgeons in Mazabuka and Mukinge Hill to undertake basic surgical procedures otherwise not possible without such equipment .

Mbala has also received donated surgical and anaesthetic equipment.



FlySpec's visiting Orthopaedic surgeon Alberto Gregori donates a specialised skin grafting knife to Mazabuka's consultant Orthopaedic surgeon Dr Michael Mbelenga.



Anaesthetic Clinical Officer Prince, happy to receive essential anaesthetic equipment including the patient monitoring 'Life Box' courtesy of Medical Aid International.

This equipment is now used to monitor Mazabuka patients during general anaesthesia improving intra operative patient safety.



Vital Monitoring using the Life box during paediatric anaesthesia at Mazabuka Hospital



Donated laptops help clinicians assess and treat patients

Laptops donated to Mukinge Hill Hospital have enabled x-rays to be available for ward rounds in the paediatric wards and in the clinic. This helps clinical staff considerably in assessing patients, facilitating diagnoses, and allowing teaching of junior staff



Dr David Friend, Senior Surgeon at Mukinge Hospital, delighted to receive donated laptops

Laptops in use for patient assessment and diagnosis in clinic and on the wards



Dr Missy Sandberg uses the laptop to access patient's x rays on the busy Mukinge Hospital ward rounds



Dr Mwamba Mulenga Zambian orthopaedic surgeon discusses x rays with Mr Gregori



In Memory of Dr Matolase Mtonga



It is with deep sadness that FlySpec remembers and pays respects to Zambian trainee plastic surgeon Dr Matolase Mtonga. Dr Mtonga, a gifted and committed surgeon, died suddenly on 20th Dec 2021.

Dr Mtonga was a pioneer and was on track to become Zambia's first female plastic surgeon. As a trainee working with consultant reconstructive and plastic surgeon Dr Goran Jovic, she was a frequent FlySpec participant who was passionate about bringing desperately needed reconstructive surgery to the Zambian people including the poorest living in the most remote and rural areas.

Her early death is a huge loss not only to family, friends and colleagues but to the people of Zambia.

She is remembered with much love and respect

The 'Matolase Mtonga Annual Scholarship' has been established in her name by ReSurge International, to continue her legacy of pioneering women in surgery. The three 2022 scholarship winners are female plastic surgeons in Ethiopia, India and Kenya.



Acknowledgements

FlySpec would like to extend their sincere thanks to the following people whose support enables us to provide vital medical aid to the people of Zambia

ReSurge

Smile Train

Tim Beacon & Medaid International

Christadelphian Meal a Day

The Family of Paul Keegan

Taj Pamodzi Hotel

Cameron Optometry

Paul Osteen MD Lakewood Church Texas USA

Petand Transport

Sandeep Shawali - Orthopaedic Consultant & John Hay, Surgical Store Manager both at Hairmyres Hospital Lanarkshire Scotland

Toyota Zambia

Ayler May Cemetery Trust

SIM Lusaka

Flying Mission Zambia

James Gondwe, CYD Malawi

Sonia Contlay, Mazabuka

Charmaine Clayton, Mazabuka

Mohammed Bhagoos, Mazabuka

Ashraf Limbada, Mazabuka



<https://www.flyspec.org>



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And leave Comment to be given to FlySpec

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WE NEED YOUR HELP AS EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

