

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Max Prokopenko
<b>Medical School</b>	University College London
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	Tanzania
<b>City or town</b>	Moshi
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre
<b>Dates visited</b>	26/03/18 – 06/05/18
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Dr K Chilonga
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>My time spent at KCMC was divided mainly between attending theatre sessions to watch both elective and emergency operations. I also enjoyed participating in ward rounds to see patients admitted to the hospital as well as ward rounds on the dedicated Burns Unit with the burns registrar.</p> <p>Both the theatre sessions and ward rounds tend to be quite interactive with plenty of teaching and different sets of learning opportunities. Theatres had emergency cases on at the start of the day, which were very interesting to see.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>I personally found the Burns unit to have a lot more opportunity to get involved. Daily tasks included re-dressing patients' wounds after debriding necrotic tissue and cleaning the affected area. Following this, I would conduct the ward round with the burns registrar where I learnt considerable amounts about the complications of burns, what issues these patients experience and the relevant management for each case.</p> <p>In theatres, some of the most interesting cases involved patients admitted following trauma. One of the most striking operations I witnessed involved a patient who had been attacked by a rhinoceros and had subsequently developed an empyema from the penetrating wound.</p>
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	<p>KCMC only has 3 theatres and I often found too many students present (from the local medical school and other elective students) making it difficult to get the chance to scrub in as much as I anticipated.</p>

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	<p>The student scrubbed was required to actively help with the operation and sometimes required to pass the correct instruments much like a scrub nurse in the UK – therefore a basic knowledge of surgical instruments and their names is essential to participate.</p> <p>The theatre rooms themselves are also incredibly hot, and therefore can be challenging to withstand for hours especially when scrubbed in. Bring your own theatre shoes, as its difficult to find spare ones in the changing room.</p>
<p><b>What accommodation was provided?</b></p>	<p>All elective students were offered a room in a house in the doctor’s compound (10 min walk from hospital), however this must be arranged approximately 2 months in advance of arrival. Cost was 150 USD per month. This is where most people stayed (medical elective students, Nursing elective students and local doctors)</p>
<p><b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b></p>	<p>Yes, I think this hospital offers a great opportunity to experience and learn much about surgery. The diagnosis and subsequent treatment is often based on the clinical impression, as expensive tests and scans are not readily available or affordable. Blood tests also take a considerable amount of time to come back. Much focus is therefore placed on treating the patient clinically.</p>
<p><b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b></p>	<p>Yes, amazing experience in the Burns unit with great exposure to management of patients on this ward. Would definitely recommend this to anyone with an interest in burns. I found the burns unit to be far less busier than the rest of the hospital. This allowed for a greater opportunity to get involved in the ward round, patient care and sometimes even 1 to 1 teaching from the burns registrar.</p>