

Missive from Malawi

With most of the breast cancer cases discussed at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital MDT presenting as locally advanced or metastatic, a 2 year mortality of around 80%, and no specialist breast service in the country, when I was asked by the Blantyre oncologist Leo Masamba to set up a triple assessment clinic, refusal wasn't an option.

Memories of the 1990s meetings to devise the BASO Guidelines were my inspiration to enfold all five of Malawi's surgeons who could be considered the special interest group. We have met three times now, most recently inviting our pathology, radiology, oncology and palliative care colleagues, and have the Malawi Breast Policy well on the way. Our mission is a quality breast service based on the UK model, available to all Malawians, with three pillars: breast centres of excellence in each of the three regions, (hubs for the 27 district hospital spokes); health care worker education across the country to recognise breast cancer and refer optimally (to reduce treatment of breast cancer with repeated antibiotics); and raising awareness of breast cancer across the whole population.



I was delighted to find that the ABS had an International Forum and I had the opportunity to liaise with the surgeons in the UK. Presenting "A Breast Care Malawi corner" as part of the International Forum stand in Birmingham gave me the opportunity to meet many like minded colleagues.

Follow the links to read more about us. Do get in touch! Thank you for your interest.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/breastcaremalawi>

https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=232386210925131&ref=content_filter

Briony Ackroyd-Parkin

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital