

Leveraging the alumni

Kenyan students at the University of Worcester are catalysts for the development of new cancer palliative care module back in Nairobi

Increasingly, international universities are looking at how they can develop in-country modules and courses and there is no better catalyst than the alumni. The University of Worcester's module on Palliative Care is a perfect case study.

The collaboration began with a scoping visit to Nairobi Hospital by senior staff from the University in January 2010 in response to requests from Kenyan students for help with nursing CPD. This visit was then reciprocated by the team of matrons from Nairobi and quickly it became apparent that the link between the University, its local NHS hospitals and hospices was of particular interest.

New cancer centre

As one of the leading health institutes in Africa, The Nairobi Hospital is currently constructing a new cancer centre to add to its extensive range of specialised services.

As part of the preparation for the new cancer centre, the two institutes are now developing an end-of-life and palliative care workshop. The UK recently came top out

of 40 countries for its end-of-life care provision (EIU, 2010) and the University of Worcester was ranked 7th in the UK for its nursing programmes (*Sunday Times*, Good University Guide). These two facts mean the University of Worcester can provide the latest evidence-based information for nurses, taught in a supportive learning environment.

Staff from the University of Worcester will be visiting The Nairobi University in June/July this year to deliver the end-of-life and palliative care workshop to the nurses in the new cancer centre. The workshop aims to develop the essential skills the nurses will need to work with this vulnerable group of patients. On completion of the workshop, the nurses will have the opportunity to consider furthering their study by undertaking the BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies top-up degree.

It could be that this can form the start of a more wide-ranging long-term partnership. And very logical that the catalyst that made it happen was the Kenyan students themselves.

As the emphasis moves towards home-based training, it is a sign of things to come.



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