

Milan, February 5<sup>th</sup> 2007

## **COMING BACK FROM AN OTHER HUMANITARIAN MISSION BY PROFESSOR CAMPANELLI: A NEW CENTER FOR ABDOMINAL HERNIA SURGERY, AT TAKORADY HOSPITAL, IN GHANA**

An unused annex of the old hospital in Takorady was renewed and supplied with all the necessary for a small surgery wing thanks to the help of British High Commission in Ghana, CNR, an oil Canadian company, Plymouth Hospital, Rotary International and European Hernia Society.

Giampiero Campanelli, Professor in Surgery of University of Insubria in Varese and General Secretary of European Hernia Society, attended to this beautiful initiative, during both preparing and active stage.

During the week, from 27<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Prof. Campanelli, with the help of his assistant Dr Marta Cavalli, realized 31 procedures among with abdominal hernia repairs and urologic operations. He was able to compromise the surgical needs with the local situation and perform all the procedures in conditions that sometimes were not so easy: blackout occurred frequently leaving operating theatre without light and cauterizing for clotting...not taking into account surgical instruments: not much, not suitable and damaged by continues use, but enough for a surgeon.

Even if Prof. Campanelli brought from Milan a baggage full of all the essential material for procedures, meshes and sutures, drugs and dressings, lancets and syringes, gloves and masks, it was always very important to pay attention not to waste it.

But nothing stopped his will or opposed to his final point: operate most people as possible.

Most of the cases were performed under local anesthesia: this kind of anesthesia requires a compliant patient so the help of the nurses, who could translate and explain for the surgeon to the patient what he was doing, was very precious.

However language didn't stop Prof. Campanelli: he also tried to speak Fante (the local language) so that the patient couldn't avoid laugh during operation for his pronunciation.

This hard working week was possible thanks to Dr Boateng-Duah and Mr Brian Dixon.

Dr Boateng-Duah (Medical Director of Takorady Hospital) arranged screening of all the hernia patients before the surgery (choosing among 500 people contacted by a television announce) and provided all the need to realize operations.

Mr Brian Dixon, representative of local CNR, provided an excellent logistic support, including an Italian coffee machine.

Everybody who played a rule in the organization and realization of Hernia Center helped Surgical team to work in a humanitarian and selflessness atmosphere and relate a relationship with the patient, that never should be miss out.

Of course it was a very wearing week, but also so rich in satisfaction and experiences that coming back to Italy it was inevitable missing all the people met there....waiting for a new humanitarian mission.