

Dear Scandinavian Colleagues in Cardiac Surgery and Cardiology

During the "First Joint Scandinavian Conference in Cardiothoracic Surgery" in Stockholm 2009 there was a symposium on "Humanitarian work in cardiac surgery". At this symposium two humanitarian organisations presented their work in this field.

The three of us have had the privilege to work for one of these organisations, "Emergency", (www.emergency.it) during different time periods in 2008-2010. Emergency is an independent, neutral and non-political Italian organisation which provides free-of-charge, high quality medical and surgical treatment to civilian victims of war, landmines and poverty. Beside this, they have also in 2007 established a cardiac centre outside Khartoum, Sudan, where adult and paediatric cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology is performed (www.salamcentre.emergency.it). Last year almost 1000 open heart procedures were performed. Most of these were valve procedures in young patients with rheumatic heart disease, but a large number of operations for congenital heart defects have also been done.

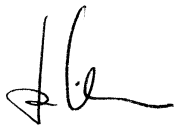
This has been an extremely rewarding experience for all of us. We have had the opportunity to treat young patients with very advanced heart problems and to see them recover in a fast way. The cooperation within our international staff (mainly colleagues from Italy and Serbia) as well as with our Sudanese colleagues has been very nice. Everybody works for the benefit of the patient and there is a truly functional teamwork.

There is a constant need for surgeons, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, perfusionists and nurses for the OT, ICU and the ward and we would encourage everyone with an interest for work in less privileged areas of the world to consider this opportunity.

If you would like to apply for a position at the centre please send your CV to curriculum@emergency.it with cc to our Medical Coordinator, Dr Gina Portella, (gina@emergency.it).

More information about our experiences from Sudan can be found at <http://www.lakartidningen.se/07engine.php?articleId=12716>. Please, feel free to contact anyone of us for more information.

Looking forward to see you in Sudan!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Lindblom'.

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