

# EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN KUMASI, GHANA

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Our group traveled from Gainesville to Accra on January 19th and continued to Kumasi the same day. We stayed at the Kumasi Catering Rest House, in close proximity to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH).

We conducted a training course in “Advanced Emergency Medicine Point-of-Care Ultrasound.” Ultrasound is a particularly powerful tool in resource-limited environments. The course was conducted over five days, with 3 hours of lectures, followed by three hours of small-groups hands-on scanning practice at the KATH Accident & Emergency Centre per day. The course was offered twice, to maximize the number of participants. The course was registered for continuous professional development credit with the Ghana Medical and Dental Council. A

total of 33 physicians from KATH and emergency departments from around Ghana completed the course.

We also conducted a total of four hours of lectures to emergency department staff at large on critical care and resuscitation medicine topics with a particular focus on pathophysiology and resources-appropriate medical care. These were attended by approximately 100 staff members (physicians, nurses).

The UF Department of Emergency Medicine recently shipped 19 ventilators to KATH, a sorely needed resource as many hospital units had been without a ventilator for at least two years, significantly limiting care options and survival chances for critically-ill patients. The ventilators were deployed for use at the end of our visit, after intensive daily training sessions by Dr.

Becker. Additionally, we brought a large number of disposable supplies with us for ongoing use of the ventilators.

Finally, we met with the entire Board of Directors of KATH to officially announce the start of a cooperative partnership between KATH and UF Emergency Medicine. This was followed by several additional meetings with KATH’s CEO and Medical Director to discuss the details of this cooperation.

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