

Gambia Surgical Team update:

A. The spring 2018 mission to The Gambia focused on pediatric and thyroid cases. The team performed 14 thyroidectomies, 4 surgeries for imperforate anus, 2 Hirschprung's surgeries, and 4 pediatric hernia repairs. Drs Just and Eeson also teamed with Serrekunda Hospital surgeon Dr. Manneh on a complex gall bladder surgery. Seventy-three patients were seen in clinic, the majority being thyroid patients.

Medicos again provided support to the endoscopy clinic at Sharab Medical Center through further training for Dr. Ahmed Djire. In its first year of operation, the clinic performed 360 endoscopies.

The thyroid clinic at Serrekunda Hospital attracts patients from a large geographic area and is held weekly. Dr. Saffie Jammeh continues to volunteer at the clinic, providing invaluable assistance and support to patients. The poor availability of accurate testing remains a huge challenge.

Two children for whom Medicos previously provided chemotherapy drugs were seen during clinic and are doing very well.

B. Future missions: A mini-mission is planned for Nov. 27-Dec. 7, 2018, to:

- perform further surgery on the 4 children with imperforate anus
- support the endoscopy and thyroid clinics
- deliver chemo drugs for a young woman with Hodgkin's lymphoma

At present the team consists of Jon Just, Roxana Just, Charlie Eckfeldt and Debbie Brauer. Anyone interested in joining this mini-mission should contact Jon.

Plans for a Spring 2019 mission will be evaluated after the November trip.