

Advancing endoscopic stone surgery training in Bamako

GPC support for Prof. Alain Le Duc's unwavering efforts to train surgeons in West Africa

Bamako is the capital and most populous city of Mali. It is now the seventh-largest West African urban centre and is estimated to be the fastest growing city in Africa. As such, the need for trained surgeons is paramount.

In 2018, Professor Alain Le Duc of the University of Paris requested aid from the Global Philanthropic Committee (GPC) to help Point G Hospital in Bamako advance training in endoscopic stone surgery.

More specifically, the proposal aimed to teach endoscopic management of the upper urinary tract using percutaneous and ureteroscopic techniques, as well as to equip the department with the proper equipment to perform these surgeries. To assist in this endeavour, Olympus Corporation generously donated a large number of endoscopic equipment to the hospital.

The Point G Hospital is a civilian hospital that overlooks Bamako. The Department of Urology is located in a completely rebuilt section of the hospital and has 40 beds dedicated to conventional urology of the upper urinary tract and endoscopic treatment of the lower urinary tract. This university department has an excellent reputation in West Africa and is an official training centre for the whole country.

Professor Le Duc is committed to supporting this project's educational mission and will spearhead a Train the Trainer programme, which consists of several targeted workshops. Each workshop will be kept to 3 to 5 participants to ensure active participation, enabling a rigorous training. In turn, the trained surgeons will train their colleagues according to local needs. In addition, nurses will be invited to actively participate in these sessions. The objective is to train at least 30 young urologists in endourology over 3 years.

Due to the country's political unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has faced some immense challenges and setbacks. The goal is to commence the training programme in the second half of 2021, if the situation permits. We wish Prof. Le Duc and the urological department at Point G Hospital great success and growth and offer our continued support for this important endeavour. Stay tuned for project updates. Prof. Le Duc demonstrating stone surgery in Point G Hospital in Bamako.

Prof. Alain Le Duc is an International Consultant for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) since 2008 and Co-Chairman of Urology Speciality Courses, Medical Faculty at the University of Bamako in Mali. He is a member of Equilibre et Population, an organisation committed to improving the living conditions and status of women and girls in West Africa, and Vice President of Chirurgie Solidaire, an association dedicated to providing surgical training in developing countries.

In addition, Prof. Le Duc is an Administrative Council member of two NGOs involved in educating and training young surgeons in West Africa, focusing on urology and obstetric fistulas.

The SIU is honoured to have presented Prof. Le Duc with the SIU-Albert Schweitzer International Teaching Award in 2018.



Prof. Le Duc demonstrating stone surgery in Point G Hospital in Bamako

Global Philanthropic Fund

The Global Philanthropic Committee (GPC) consists of multi-national urology organisations including the American Urological Association (AUA), European Urology Association (EAU), International Continence Society (ICS) and the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU), with the goal of supporting proposals for worthy projects to improve urologic care throughout the world. The GPC allows organisations to pool their resources to fund larger scale philanthropic projects as a collaborative effort. Urology organisations can support a project through monetary funds and/or in-kind donations, including volunteer time.

The GPC's mission is to provide philanthropic support to improve urological education in the developing world. The GPC strives to provide funding mainly for education and generally will not provide funds for purchasing expensive equipment. The GPC will selectively provide funds for educators to travel for the purpose of providing training in various regions of the world, within the parameters of an approved funding request.

Global Philanthropic Committee

