

## **Josh Wade - Medical elective in Tanzania and Uganda, summer 2016**

I went to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Tanzania and Kasangati Health Centre IV in Uganda. The former is a large tertiary referral centre with multiple departments and a large affiliated medical school while the latter is one step below a hospital run mostly by clinicians and a handful of doctors. I went mostly to experience healthcare in a completely different setting and in a low resource environment.

I was attached to the Internal Medicine department in KCMC and was scheduled to be in general outpatient and HIV clinics in Kasangati. In KCMC I attended ward rounds and clinics mostly. The bi-weekly teaching ward rounds were the highlight. There were a lot of students but around half an hour was spent by each bed talking around their presentation and presumed diagnosis and lots of questions were both asked of the students and answered by the doctors.

In Kasangati I ended up being more surgical than expected as there generally appeared to be more going on and was easier to get involved with. They had one small operating theatre which was mostly used for Caesarian sections, many of which I observed. In addition, I had the opportunity scrub in and assist with a myomectomy.

For some reason I had anticipated more uniformity in conditions but the differences between my two placements were stark and I'm really glad I got to experience both. KCMC certainly had more resources and more doctors while Kasangati will be remembered for the small but dedicated midwifery team. It was a great opportunity to see medicine provided with fewer resources and experience things I could not predict. In general, big equipment needs were sometimes spectacularly fulfilled in a disjointed one-off way but long term sustainability issues remained with things like soap often in short supply.

In summary my elective was a fantastic experience and I am immensely glad that I chose to go where I did.