

**FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE YENAGOA, NIGERIA HOSPITAL TELEMEDICINE
PROJECT**

Training of a Telemedicine Team

and

Donation of InTouch Health RP-7i device by Global Offsite Care

A partnership that commenced in 2013 achieved a landmark success when Global Offsite Care, California, USA through support from various Rotary clubs trained a Nigerian Telemedicine Team in California in 2015. The training which took place at the Sonoma West Medical Centre, Sebastopol also saw the team visit an eICU facility in the city of San Francisco as well as several hospitals in California. This provided the team with Medical and technical know-how required for setting up and running a Telemedicine program in their home country.

The Nigerian Telemedicine program will involve Teleconsulting using a RP-7i Remote Presence System from InTouch Health (USA), a Stroke program that is urgently needed to bring hitherto unavailable drugs and critical expert medical care to stroke patients thereby saving them from permanent disabilities and sometimes death. To widen the outreach, a Hub-Spoke approach has been adopted as a strategic vehicle to help develop and establish telemedicine in the wider region with the Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa (FMC Yenagoa, Nigeria) as the Hub.

On March 11 2016, FMC Yenagoa, Nigeria received a remote presence device, the InTouch Health RP-7i, which was donated to the Hospital by the Manufacturer through Global OffSite Care, USA and shipped to Nigeria.

According to InTouch Health, a Remote Presence System is a mobile Telehealth platform that enables an individual to “be in two places at once.” Remote Presence is the ability to project yourself to a remote location (without leaving your current location) and to move, see, hear and talk as though you were actually there. Using the InTouch Provider Access Software and a Patient Access Device, linked via the Internet over a secure broadband connection a physician can communicate with a patient, family members, and other staff. The Patient Access Device’s two-way audio and video communications allow a user to be remotely available at the location and time that they are needed.

Prof. James Gude lectures during the Nigerian Telemedicine Training at Sebastopol, California



The Nigerian Telemedicine Training Team members in a group photo with Dr. (Lady) Princess Kemelagha



The Nigerian team with some Global OffSite Care Board members and facilitators



Princess Kemelagha stands next to the RP-7i Patient Access Device on arrival at FMC Yenagoa, Nigeria



Adeolu Tella, Telemedicine ICT crew member with the RP-7i Patient Access Device at FMC Yenagoa, Nigeria



CHALLENGES TO THE FMC YENAGOA, NIGERIA TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

Challenges faced by the program fall into two main categories, **Equipment and Skills acquisition**.

Extensive funding is required to put in place all of the component aspects needed to make the Telemedicine program truly sustainable. Some particular cases in point are:

1. A Backup Power solution: Solar Power Panels and Cells to help provide 24 hours power for Internet, Local Network, the Telemedicine Robot and other Telemedicine facilities within the Hospital
2. Utility Vehicles: Buses and Trucks for the team
3. Training of Health and ICT professionals
4. Funding for the Stroke program for
 - a. Urgent re-activation of the Hospital's 16 slide CT Scan
 - b. Provision of medications for stroke patients
 - c. Public enlightenment outreaches to curb late presentation of cases
 - d. Ambulance Emergency Service
5. Setup of Telemedicine facilities at the Hospital's rural outreach annexe at Otuoke town
6. Provision of broadband Internet access at the Hospital's rural outreach annexe at Otuoke town.