

Vice-Presidents Report 2011 – 2014 to the House of Delegates.

During the last three years I “played” on different tables and with different sponsors, but all of them with the aim of improving the lifestyle and conditions of ostomy friends in various countries in Europe and Africa. The easiest way to report on these activities is to group them under each country and not to follow the chronological sequence.

Ethiopia

In September 2011 I went to Addis Ababa with Arne Holte to meet Mr Aberra, an ostomate who organized several meetings with surgeons from different hospitals of the town and with some ostomates. The goal of Mr Aberra was to establish a charity which allowed them to receive appliances from abroad easily and distribute them to ostomates. Our goal was to establish an association which would establish ostomy clinics, at least in the principal hospital of Addis Ababa, and to make known the problems faced by ostomates in that country.

We met doctors, ostomates, and the general manager of the Black Lion Hospital, the main hospital in Addis Ababa. Two doctors were interested in attending a stoma surgery course in Italy and the general manager guaranteed her agreement and support for the establishment of the stoma clinic when the two doctors had completed the course. The ostomates who attended the meeting were really sad, but the sons and husbands of the ostomates agreed and guaranteed their participation in an Ethiopian Ostomy Association.

I do not want to chronicle the following months of correspondence and I briefly record the principal developments.

The general manager of the Black Lion Hospital was removed, the surgeons were no longer able to come attend the stoma surgery course in Italy and almost all the ostomates that Arne and I met died within one year.

Norilco (the Norwegian ostomy association) sends ostomy equipment to Mr Aberra who distributes it to some ostomates. A real association was never set up and, with the support of EOA, the relationship that still exists between Norway and Ethiopia could be developed to establish an active association in Ethiopia.

Albania

After a previous visit to Berat, a town in the south of Albania, I maintained contact with the chief surgeon of the town’s hospital and a nurse came to Milan in April 2011 to attend a stoma therapy course which was funded by FAIS, the Italian ostomy association. In the autumn of 2011 a stoma clinic was opened in Berat, not in the hospital, but in the health territorial structure. The stoma clinic works well, but it is just for ostomates in Berat. The majority of ostomy surgeries are carried out in the capital Tirana and there no-one knows about the stoma clinic in Berat. I made contact with a Professor of the University of Tirana who studied in Rome and we agreed to hold a course for surgeons, nurses and ostomates in Tirana with the aim of improving the quality of surgery, to set up a stoma clinic and to

establish an ostomy association. The course was scheduled to run in October 2013 but because Professor Dibra, the Albanian surgeon, could not find funding for the course, and due to family commitments I was unable to make any progress, so the course has not yet taken place.

I am now in contact with Professor Carol Pezcoller and Professor Dibra and the current situation is that Professor Dibra hopes to be in a position to organise a course for stoma surgery and stoma care in 8-10 months' time, during which time I will endeavour to secure funding through the European Union.

Greece

In these last three years I continued to keep contact with Mrs. Angeliki Karakatzanis who works for Hollister in Greece. Her advice at the moment is not to begin work to establish an ostomy association because of the situation in Greece where people are concentrating on survival and cannot think of wider projects such as an ostomy association. I will remain in contact until the situation improves.

Turkey

At the end of 2012 I got in touch with a Turkish stoma therapist living in Ankara, Mrs Karadag who advised me that in the summer of 2012 there was a meeting in Ankara where the Turkish Ostomy Association was formed. Just few days ago I contacted her again and she told me that now they have three local associations in Ankara, Istanbul and Smyrna. It is hoped that a representative of the Turkish Ostomy Association can attend the EOA Congress in Krakow.

Romania

Following a small shipment of appliances from Italy to the Romanian Ostomy Association in 2011, the vice-President of FAIS, Mr Stefano Piazza, and I organised two large shipments of appliances which had been donated by the families of former ostomates and by the manufacturing companies. A truck from the Italian Red Cross delivered the goods from Italy to Bucharest in 2012 and another one in 2013 and the transport costs were paid by FAIS and other Italian sponsors.

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Kenya and Tanzania

After some months of preparation with a charity working around Lake Victoria, in February 2013 Professor Carlo Pezcoller, Dr Harikesh Buch, and a stoma therapist travelled to Kisumu in Kenya. I organized their course on stoma surgery and stoma care with the co-ordinator of the charity for ostomates, Mr Odero. The course was attended by surgeons, nurses and ostomates from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. They were about 40 people and ostomy associations were established later in Kenya and Tanzania. The Lions Club of Kenya then paid for the course to be held in other towns in Kenya. The principal sponsors of the course were the Italian and Kenyan Lions Clubs, FAIS and EOA. Stoma clinics have been established in Kisumu, Kenya and Mwanza, Tanzania. I am not sure if a stoma clinic and an ostomy association have been established in Uganda as I do not have any direct contact with that country.

Nigeria

I kept in contact with two Nigerian nurses who attended a stoma therapy course in Italy in 2012, one of whom remained in Italy and the other one returned to Nigeria where a new hospital, opened by a Nigerian surgeon who studied and worked in Italy, has a stoma clinic. However, contact with Nigeria is difficult because I do not have an e-mail address, so I am not sure if an ostomy association has been established. The expenses and accommodation for the two nurses to attend the course were completely funded by FAIS.

Giuseppe De Salvo