**Annual Report 2019**

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*We remain focused on best quality service for sickle cell patients and their families, not only in the capital city area of Freetown but, as well, throughout Sierra Leone. We continue to operate from two locations, delivering essential health maintenance and treatments, medications, counseling, health education and schools outreach. We also respond to our mandate for referring patients for specialized and urgent care to the Ola During Children’s (ODCH) and the Connaught Teaching Hospitals, as necessary.*

*During 2019, there has been increased utilization by SCD patients represented by 4932 visits, an uptick of 18.2 % from 2018. There were 272 clinically significant new cases with an associated increase in wellness measures among people who use our services.*

*These results came about as a consequence of cooperation between us and other players, among which are national and International NGOs and community physicians. Our working relationships with referral centres, including the Women’s Health Care Centre, the Aberdeen Women’s Centre, the ODCH and the Connaught are excellent, contributing to satisfaction among patients.*

*Challenges remain however, throughout the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation system reflected in delays at out-patient and emergency departments. Nevertheless, we focus on the best service delivery and, in most cases, surmount the obstacles making sure that our clients receive the best.*

*We must also mention the productive relationship we enjoy with Ramsy Medical Laboratory who continue to provide the test results for identifying individuals affected by SCD, a role that the lab has played for the best part of two decades. However, new challenges have emerged in logistics and other areas but, with collaboration, we continue to deliver the essential diagnostic results. Full resolution of these difficulties will depend on greater support from our donors. We list them and other collaborators below in the Acknowledgement section.*

*Once again Sierra Leone Sickle Cell Society participated, with the rest of the world, in commemorating World Sickle Cell Day on Wednesday June 19th 2019 using various media, including print, radio and TV and, as well, religious thanksgiving services. These activities received full support from patients and their relatives and friends.*

*During the year, we continue our relationship with De Montfort University in the UK, exploring some of the social determinants that influence perceptions of sickle cell disease and which affect clinical outcomes.*

*In this 21st century, we recognize that the care for sickle cell disease patients in Sierra Leone is less than optimal. Our ultimate objective remains, therefore, the recognition by the government of Sierra Leone that sickle cell disease is a major public health issue, encompassing the entire lifespan, starting from birth. This is a message we disseminate at every opportunity so that organizations, such as ours, will cease to have much relevance in due course. In the meantime, we join hands with other organizations in the country to map a way forward. We acknowledge the contributions by the following organizations: (AISPO) Associazione Italiana Solidarietà tra I Popoli, Aberdeen Women’s Center, eHealth Africa, Helen Keller International, Ola During Children’s Hospital, Sickle Cell Carers Awareness Network, SickleSmart, St John of God Hospital, Lunsar and the WHO.*

*We have also begun fruitful collaboration with the organization, HACU, Hematology and Cancer Untold, whose founder is Ms Jacqui Cole of Philadelphia, United States, and, through this association received a consignment of supplies useful in the support of sickle cell disease patients.*

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*Dr. Len Gordon-Harris and staff at the Diagnostic Clinic*

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*Ms. Jacquie Cole of HACU*

*Prof. Alpha & Mrs (Dr) Isata Wurie and staff at RAMSY Medical Laboratories*

*Sickle Cell Anemia Relief Foundation & CEO, Mr. Raymond Leslie Jarrett, Wake Forest, NC USA*

*Our Donors*

*Dr Christopher Beserve*

*Dr & Mrs S. Somolu*

*Dr Godman Greywood*

*Miss S. Gilpin-Jackson*

*Mr & Mrs Mike Hopes*

*Mrs Amy Fergusson- Williams*

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