

# Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem Commandery of Wales

## Elective Student Bursary Report Joseph Jude-Gubral Week One

The first week has been very interesting. I am on placement with the local medical students from Jaffna University and to my surprise, all the teaching is done in English. The only time Tamil is being used is to take history from the patients. Although intense at times, the teaching at the hospital is exceptional. The consultant would go through each patient's history and management in a lot of detail.

It was very interesting to observe the difference in patient communication, between hospitals in the UK and Sri Lanka. As there is no computer facilities in the hospitals, all the patient notes are hand written in a patient book. Patients are required to keep this book and all the scans they have had. If they don't bring those to the hospital appointments then it would be very difficult to trace their medical history. This happens frequently and the doctors can get really annoyed and tell the patients off. Patients non-compliance with medication is also high in Jaffna, as patients don't take their medication for various reasons but mainly because of poor understanding of why medicine is being given.

I have been assigned to the general medicine male ward, and I have seen few interesting cases, which includes few cases of dengue fever and TB infection. Overall the first week of elective has been educative and thoroughly enjoyable!

I have contacted a local priest from the Leprosy Mission to visit the leprosy village in Jaffna, for which I am still awaiting reply.

