

# Specialist Therapist (Burns)

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Terms of Reference

## *Specialist Therapist - Burns*

### Volunteer Brief and Terms of Reference

#### Summary

King's Global Health Partnerships are looking to recruit two experienced Specialist Therapists with **significant experience in managing acute and complex burns**. Successful candidates will be required to travel to Freetown, Sierra Leone from January-February 2022 to work alongside teams at Connaught Hospital to assist in managing complex cases and deliver specialist training to build capacity within the department.

#### King's Global Health Partnerships

King's Global Health Partnerships (KGHP) works with health facilities, academic institutions, and governments to strengthen health systems and improve the quality of care in four countries: Somaliland, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. We bring together health, academic and international development expertise from King's College London, the UK's National Health Service (NHS) and our international partners to:

- Educate, train and support healthcare workers
- Strengthen healthcare and training institutions
- Enhance national health policies and systems.

Our programmes are delivered by volunteers, with educators, researchers, health professionals, managers and health sector leaders taking up volunteering placements to deliver technical advice, teaching, training, and distance mentoring and on the job support to their counterparts in the global south.

#### King's Sierra Leone Partnership

KGHP has been working in Sierra Leone to help strengthen the health system and improve the quality of care since 2011. We work with our partners to provide education and training of healthcare workers, and to strengthen clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospitals Complex Connaught Hospital (USLTHC), the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) and the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS).

## Context

On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, a fuel tanker was involved in a road traffic collision in the Wellington area of Freetown. After crowds had gathered, the fuel ignited causing a deadly explosion. Over one hundred people have died from this incident with countless more receiving complex burns injuries. Patients are currently receiving care in major hospitals across the capital.

Those who have survived are critically unwell with severe, life changing burns. They require immediate specialist care and longer-term support to prevent serious disability. There are also many people with less severe burns who are being treated in outpatient facilities and require care from nurses and therapists. There is a serious risk that inadequate treatment, or poor infection prevention control could lead to further unnecessary suffering, disfigurement, disability, or death. KGHP are well placed to assist and are recruiting specialists to join our team in Freetown to address these challenges.

## Proposed activities

- Work alongside teams within Connaught Hospital to manage acute and complex cases and to support patients as they heal
- Support patients with acute and complex burns which are being managed within the community who will attend outpatient clinics daily
- Deliver specialist training to therapists within the department
- Support partners and in-country teams as and when you are required.

## Timing

- We are looking to get specialists in country for January - February 2022 and are happy to discuss your availability.
- Placement length in-country will be from 2-4 months which will be dependent on funding
- You will be based in Freetown, Sierra Leone and will be working in Connaught Hospital and potentially other health facilities across the city

## Skills and experience

- **Qualifications:** Minimum requirement - Band 6 Therapist with significant postgraduate experience in burns.
- **Experience:** It is essential that candidates have experience working in a low-income, low-resource setting so they can commence activities shortly after arrival. It would be desirable for candidates to have experience working with burns patients in low-income, low-resource settings. Teaching experience is also preferable.
- **Personal Characteristics:** Excellent interpersonal and intercultural skills, as well as the confidence to work within a multicultural team and with senior staff from partner organisations. You will be skilled at multitasking and prioritising, working independently, an ability to work flexibly and adapt to changing priorities, and an appreciation for the value of partnership working.

## Expectations

Successful candidates will be required to complete an onboarding and induction process which includes a DBS check. As part of your affiliation with KGHP, you will also be actively encouraged to document your work. KGHP are keen to promote your activities via our social media channels and through a variety of internal and external media. We therefore rely on your content to enable this to take place. You will be encouraged to also keep a personal reflective journal to document your experiences.

## Our offer to you

You will have the opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team and contribute to improving health outcomes for a population in need. In addition, there is strong evidence that health partnerships like ours do not only benefit people in low-resource settings. They also bring real benefit to NHS staff and services as well as citizens in our partner countries. Among others, these benefits include the opportunity to develop:

- Leadership skills
- Skills in interdisciplinary team working
- Knowledge and skills in innovation and quality improvement
- Clinical and teaching experience
- Cross-cultural experience
- Personal resilience and efficiency

Volunteers on placements will receive additional support which is listed below.

- Pre-departure and in-country induction
- Cost of return flights to and from initial post is covered by KGHP

- £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in-country in Leones
- Visa, residency permit and professional registration with the Sierra Leone Nursing & Midwifery Board covered by KGHP
- Cost of vaccinations and antimalarials covered by KGHP
- Enrolment onto King's College London Travel Insurance policy
- Medical indemnity cover
- Cost of accommodation covered by KGHP

## Application

All volunteer roles are appointed following an application and interview process, scheduled for a few days after the application deadline. If you are interested in applying, please complete the online application form and submit a C.V. under the “Apply” tab on our Global Volunteering Scheme web page: [www.kcl.ac.uk/kghp/volunteering](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kghp/volunteering). The deadline for applications is rolling and we will review applications regularly.

Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.

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