



Dear smartname

The second KBNF Neurosurgical Mission for 2024 is currently underway in Liberia. Our current surgical focus is pituitary tumors—a need we identified earlier this year during our February Mission. Patients who undergo pituitary resections need extremely specialized care post-operatively.

Dr. Alvin Nah Doe currently has a list of five patients who are eligible for surgery immediately. Many of these patients have been waiting months, even years, for a miracle.

Patients with pituitary tumors are at risk of becoming incapacitated. Blindness is a serious factor, since the tumor can encroach on optic nerves.

Prof. Femi Bankole (pictured below) of Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) and a KBNF Board member, is flying in to Liberia on Monday, Nov. 11, accompanied by two critical care nurses. These surgeries are vastly resected through the nasal cavity and so Dr. Bankole is also carrying with him the critically-required transsphenoidal surgical set. (This set is not currently available in Liberia.)



Rosalyn, a 44-year-old widow and university graduate, is one of the patients suffering with a large pituitary tumor. Amazingly, her vision has remained partially intact. But, during her consultation, she told Dr. Doe that she could not participate in the Mission since she could not afford her final diagnostic tests. When he asked her how much was still needed, she said \$100 would cover her expenses. Waiting another year could mean her sight would be fully compromised

and her health decline could be irreversible. So, KBNF is committed to intervene in this situation. Patients like Rosalyn is why we do what we do.



Prosper, pictured above with his mom, Marj and Shirley Scharfe, KBNF's Shipping and Logistics manager, is a precious six-year-old boy who is well known to the team. Prosper requires reparative surgery following neurosurgery three years ago. A few months ago, his mother brought him back to Monrovia when

infection erupted. IV antibiotics have cleaned up his wound and now we will permanently repair it.

As you know, KBNF provides these surgeries for free. However, it's not truly free. Incredible investment is required by our KBNF family, including our Mission team and our supporters. Some give time, skills, energy and service; many give financially. It takes all of us to pull off a successful Neurosurgical Mission.

SPECIALIZED NURSES' TRAINING



Fourteen nurses attended our first nursing training session on Friday. We taught neuro-vital sign assessment and unique care issues, specifically for our pituitary patient population. Intravenous insertions and infusions were reviewed, of immense interest to all the nurses. Our second three-hour class will be conducted on Monday, as surgeries commence.

A CONTINENTAL LIGHTHOUSE

We are also preparing to meet with members of the Liberian government during this

Mission. The government of Liberia has designated 500 acres of land for the purpose of creating a state-of-the-art university hospital complex. Our vision is to build a leading West African medical and training centre. The concept has been in the works for well over a year and the next step involves a land survey, followed by the completion of the master plan and program. I call it a continental lighthouse,

A VISIT TO FIRESTONE HOSPITAL



Last week, Dr. Alvin Nah Doe and I were graciously hosted by the Director of Firestone Hospital in Liberia, as well as several administrators (pictured above.) We enjoyed a tour of the hospital where we learned that their X-Ray machine is the sole diagnostic equipment that is operational.

We gained significant insights as we discussed the hospital's capacity and what medical services they offer. Primary procedures at Firestone Hospital include abdominal surgery, closed reduction of fractures and C-sections. Neurosurgery referrals to Dr. Alvin Nah Doe are valued.

On Nov. 18, I will be returning to teach Heart Power—compassionate caregiving—for the hospital administrators and staff. This is an area that the administrators reveal is a priority.

PATIENT UPDATE



In February, we shared a short video on our Instagram account that captured the heart of so many people. The video, viewed over 13,000 times, showed one of our patients, five-year-old

Charles Doe, twirling a blown-up glove balloon, given to him by Liberian Physiotherapist Samuel Hennings.

Whatever happened to Charles? We asked Teinein Bernard, our KBNF nurse, and she told us that Charles continued as an outpatient, returning regularly for spinal dressing changes. When the incision became infected, however, he had to be admitted as an in-patient for intervention. But it worked! The wound healed and Charles was discharged to return home, fully recovered. We are so grateful to hear these stories.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to [get your tickets to our KBNF Christmas Celebration](#) and hear LIVE updates from Marj on the November Mission, as well as inspiring stories to start off this Christmas season in a meaningful way. Tickets are limited and sales end Nov. 26. We'd love for you to join us!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL KORLE-BU

Christmas CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DEC 1, 2024

AT STEAMWORKS IN VANCOUVER

BUFFET DINNER + PROGRAM AT 6PM

375 WATER ST. VANCOUVER, BC V6B1B8

When: Sunday, Dec. 1 from 6-10pm


What: A buffet dinner and inspirational evening


Where: Steamworks in Vancouver, located at 375 Water St.

Ticket Price: \$100 per ticket

VOLUNTEER SATURDAY THIS WEEKEND

This weekend is **Volunteer Saturday** at our **KBNF Centre in Ladner**. We'd love to see you! Come join us from 10am-2pm. We need help folding linens, cleaning a fridge, sorting medical supplies and more! If you have any questions, please contact Idelette at 604-765-3401.



 **Korle-Bu
Neuroscience
Foundation**

**NEXT VOLUNTEER SATURDAY:
NOV. 16
10AM - 2PM**

Dear Korle-Bu family,

Please consider partnering with us as we impact the lives of patients like Prosper, Rosalyn, Charles and so many others. We couldn't train nurses or support neurosurgeons like Dr. Doe without your continued support and care.

Together, we are a lighthouse of excellence and care.

Love,

Marj Ratel

President and Founder

[Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation](#)

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