

# Saving Young Lives Project

## Going to Ghana to train nurses on basic principles of PD.

This summer, the Saving Young Lives (SYL) project organized its first training session in Ghana, in the centers of Accra and Kumasi. The Saving Young Lives project is a partnership between ISN, International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA), International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) and Sustainable Kidney Care Foundation (SKCF). It seeks to develop acute peritoneal dialysis programs in hospital centers across Africa and South East Asia.

This training course in Ghana helped nurses and other healthcare professionals understand the basic principles of Peritoneal Dialysis (PD). Seth Johnson, from the Renal Research Institute/SCKF, flew to Ghana for two weeks. First, he visited the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, where a PD unit has been well established for a couple of years, led by Sampson Antwi. This center in Kumasi is now hoping to become a regional center of training and education on AKF and PD for young children.

He also visited the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, where a peritoneal dialysis unit is being set up, led by pediatric nephrologist Victoria Adabayeri. Johnson has trained a number of nurses, mixing theory and practice and troubleshooting complications. He also taught them the principles of infection prevention and hand hygiene. Medical residents, interns, pharmacists, and a surgeon also attended the training sessions.

The level of enthusiasm and commitment was very high. Participants were “hungry” for information and willing to learn and practice the learned skills. One staff nurse writes, “It is now becoming evident that PD is possible and achievable in our setting.”

Johnson testifies: “The level of readiness and enthusiasm among participants was great, and that made the program worthwhile.”

Last year, several programs kicked off in Ghana, Tanzania, Benin and more recently, Ethiopia and Uganda. The program focuses on educating and training staff within the hospital centers. The aim is to bring the educational resources to the doorstep of local medical professionals and help them provide much needed care to patients with AKF.

Visiting patients.



Seth Johnson handing out an award during his visit.



Group photo with the nurses



For more information on the ISN Saving Young Lives Project, visit:  
[www.theisn.org/syl](http://www.theisn.org/syl)