**KAMULI FISTULA CAMP**

At arrival to the hospital on the morning of the 16th October, I went straight to the ward to find it fully packed. Attendants were on the veranda and the patients occupying all the beds. I realized that this was going to be a fully packed camp! On average we worked on 6 patients per day but at times we would go to 10 patients in a day. This provided enough opportunities for everyone to get hands on experience.

I got to meet Drs. Catherine and Collie who were part of the surgical team. I learnt from them a different way of repairing 3rd and 4th degree perineal tears, this technique is commonly employed by colorectal surgeons. I was also able to learn a new technique for vaginal repair of intracervical fistulae as opposed to the routine abdominal repair of this type of fistula. I was also able to meet Dr. Ian, whom I had only met virtually on email and phone call. We did ureteric reimplantation with him and also repaired VVFs. I was able to learn a lot from him. He is such a talented surgeon

They were all great teachers, not only to me but to the other fellows and senior house officers who attended the camp! The most important trait of any teacher is patience and positive reinforcement which they possessed. I’m hopeful that one day I can also mentor and train younger doctors with such passion and skill as they possess.

Unfortunately, I was taken ill with a flu and actually felt quiet ill during my second day in Kamuli. Despite this I soldiered on because I couldn’t let such a great learning opportunity pass me by. I took my meds to deal with the nasal congestion and body pain and was able to continue with the rest of the team till the end.

I was amazed at how well the nursing team took care of the patients, adequate pre operative and post operative care. Despite the large number of patients with an average of 6 surgeries done daily, patient care wasn’t compromised. It was lovely to see Ishbel dressed in the Ugandan Nursing uniform and participating in patient care.

This was a beautiful experience, I got to meet new people of different nationalities and professions from photography, health and social work. I also met another FIGO fellow Dr. Abdi and we shared experiences from our countries on fistula care.