



# Improving Perioperative, Trauma & Interventional Vascular Emergency Systems (the IMPERATIVES project)

Ghana to UK Research Visit, October 2025

**Visiting Delegation:** Vascular Surgery Team, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana

**Hosts:** International Health Systems Group, Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge

## Overview

This research visit marked a significant milestone in the ongoing academic collaboration between the University of Ghana and the University of Cambridge in supporting and developing a Vascular Surgery service in Accra, Ghana. Over four days, visiting surgeons from Ghana engaged with clinical teams, research groups, and strategic partners in Cambridge, laying the groundwork for future joint initiatives in vascular surgery and global health systems development.

## Visit summary

The visit began with a trip to Lister Hospital in Stevenage, where the visiting surgeons were warmly welcomed by the local vascular team, comprising of anaesthetists, vascular surgeons, and nursing staff. The group was given a comprehensive tour of the hospital's facilities, including the hybrid theatre, which they observed in action. Staff members explained the theatre's key components and workflow, offering valuable insights into advanced surgical environments. The delegation also visited the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), vascular wards, and the education centre.



Addenbrooke's Hospital, where the visiting Ghanaian team spent time with the vascular surgery service

On the second day, the team visited Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. They met with the vascular team and observed a case in the vascular theatre, gaining firsthand exposure to clinical practices in a high-resource setting. This was followed by a meeting with the team at Cambridge Global Health Partnerships (CGHP), discussing the future direction of the collaboration, including the possibility of Ghanaian doctors undertaking fellowship roles in the UK to enhance their vascular surgery skills. This conversation highlighted the mutual interest in building sustainable pathways for knowledge exchange and clinical training.

The third day focused on research, with a visit to the University of Cambridge Department of Engineering. There was clear potential for bidirectional learning, with discussions

surrounding ongoing and prospective collaborative research projects. The dialogue revealed promising areas for joint work, particularly in the development of projects in the epidemiology of vascular disease in West Africa, pathway mapping, and the development of a registry.

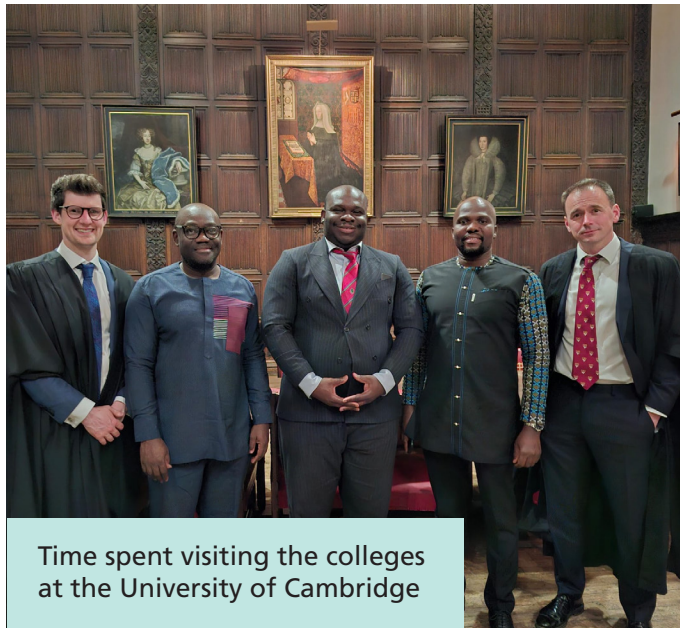
On the fourth day, the delegation returned to Addenbrooke's Hospital to observe the specialised high-risk anaesthetic aortic clinic. They also participated in the hospital's vascular multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, which provided a window into collaborative decision-making and patient management strategies in complex surgical cases. The team also met with Ghanaian diaspora working at Addenbrooke's Hospital, to understand the shared challenges and benefits faced upon working in the UK as a Ghanaian.



Visiting Ghanaian team meet local diaspora at Addenbrooke's Hospital

Throughout the visit, it was clear there was a shared commitment to advancing vascular surgical services in Ghana and the opportunities and benefits that the collaboration could bring. The trip highlighted opportunities for clinical fellowships, joint research initiatives, and ongoing knowledge exchange, and further strengthened institutional ties between both Cambridge and Accra, setting the stage for a vibrant and impactful collaboration.

This visit was not only a testament to the value of cross-border academic partnerships, but also a catalyst for future work that promises to enhance vascular surgical outcomes and health systems resilience in both regions.



Time spent visiting the colleges at the University of Cambridge

## Next steps

Building on the progress of this visit, the next phase of the collaboration will centre on the following research priorities:

1. Understanding the prevalence of vascular disease
2. Mapping current pathways for vascular services
3. Building a registry to collect data on vascular patients

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### University of Ghana Medical School [ugms.ug.edu.gh](http://ugms.ug.edu.gh)

The University of Ghana Medical School, based in Accra, Ghana, was founded in 1962 and now has over 1000 students. The school is closely linked to Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, a public teaching hospital established in 1923, which provides a wide range of healthcare services to the region, including specialist surgery and anaesthesia.

### International Health Systems Group <http://ihsg.cam>

The International Health Systems Group is based within the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge. It aims to improve global health standards through systems thinking and to drive changes in clinical care, health services, and policy using systems understanding.

### Cambridge Global Health Partnerships (CGHP) <https://cambridgeghp.org>

CGHP is a hub and leader for global health in the East of England. It aims to improve healthcare for all by connecting individuals and teams across the world to share knowledge, skills, resources, and experiences in order to address some of the biggest health challenges of our time.