



News

Continued growth for the Training Centre

The Newlands Clinic Training Centre celebrates its third anniversary on 8 April. The number of course participants has risen steadily since it was opened, with 310 doctors and healthcare specialists completing the ten-day HIV Management course in 2013. Since September 2013, there has also been a new course on offer covering diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer.

310 doctors, nurses and professionals from the fields of pharmaceuticals and physiotherapy completed the ten-day National Advanced HIV/AIDS Management Course last year, which represents an increase of 60 people or around 24% year-on-year. This expansion is in keeping with Swiss Aids Care International's goal of strengthening training and the transfer of knowledge to local specialists.

New course offering

In September 2013, a course in diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer was also offered for the first time – the VIAC Training and Mentorship Programme. There is a significant lack of appropriately trained doctors and nurses in Zimbabwe, and Newlands Clinic was recently recognised as a VIAC training centre by the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.

Prof. Ruedi Lüthy, Director of Newlands Clinic said: "Cervical cancer is disproportionately frequent among HIV-infected women, and this is why we set up a corresponding prevention and treatment programme in 2011. 32% of the female patients we examined in 2012 were affected. This is a very high percentage. I'm delighted that we've also been able to get involved here in terms of training."

Eight specialists have completed the course thus far. The course will be held quarterly from 2014, and comprises two days of theory classes and ten days of practical training in diagnosing and treating cervical cancer. After the course, there is a ten-week mentoring programme.

* VIAC = visual inspection with acetic acid plus cervicography

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