

**Dr Wilf Kelsall** FRCP, FRCPCH

*Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist & Neonatologist, Cambridge University Hospitals*



*'One of the biggest challenges poor communities face are the lack of resources, it's the simple things that can make the biggest difference'*

Dr Wilf Kelsall is a Neonatal Consultant Doctor and Paediatric Cardiologist at Cambridge University Hospitals, and an Addenbrooke's Abroad Committee Member. He has volunteered extensively in Romania for the past 10 years, offering his skills and experience as a Neonatal Consultant Doctor and Paediatric Cardiologist, and in his field of expertise has played a pivotal role in setting up partnerships and establishing relationships between Addenbrooke's Abroad and Medical Support in Romania (MSR).

*'Having volunteered exclusively in Romania for the past 10 years I realise how the simplest things can make the biggest difference. If you can get the fundamentals right, then you have a chance of making a huge difference to healthcare systems in resource poor countries. I managed to introduce polythene bags in Romanian hospitals to reduce hypothermia in infants born at gestations below 30 weeks - which in itself was a great achievement. Something so simple - It makes you value the NHS and how lucky we are.'*

*I've found the whole experience hugely stimulating. Romanian Doctors and staff have a lot of respect for what we do and it feels good to be appreciated. I'm now more involved in teaching at the University Hospital in Cluj in the northwestern part of Romania where I feel I can make a positive difference. It's a beautiful part of the country and I enjoy traveling there.'*

*I've made some good friendships with the young Romanian Paediatricians through my voluntary work and they have come to stay with me in the UK. I believe that it is critical for someone to champion an established Link to ensure that there is sustainable change and continued support in that particular area'.*

Romanian hospitals still lack many of the resources so readily available to us in the UK. Having witnessed first-hand the lack of Paediatric equipment there, Dr Kelsall pioneered the establishment of a partnership between Cambridge University Hospitals Addenbrooke's Abroad and Aid to Hospitals Worldwide, an organisation based in Bury St Edmunds which is dedicated to equipping hospitals, clinics and schools in some of the world's poorest countries. A container of equipment is now donated approximately every six weeks by Cambridge University Hospitals. Aid to Hospitals Worldwide re-cycle and reuse donated equipment and sorts, selects, checks and sends equipment to where it is needed overseas.

*"Once you've experienced life in resource poor communities, you'll look at life in the UK in a whole new perspective".*