



THE AFRICAN PAEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Strengthening paediatric health care for Africa, in Africa, through strategic workforce development

APFP IN NUMBERS: JANUARY 2008-OCTOBER 2020



Since 2008, the APFP has trained **163** specialist and sub-specialist paediatricians and allied health workers



Graduates of the APFP programme are from **14** sub-Saharan countries



More than **90%** of APFP graduates still work in Africa, and more than **80%** of these work in public facilities



47 fellows enrolled for training in **22** diverse specialty areas of paediatrics in 2020



10 fellows passed their (sub)specialty examinations in 2020, a 100% pass rate.



IMPACT OF COVID: WHAT LIES AHEAD?

The majority of APFP trainees elected to remain in South Africa rather than return home before lockdown, and to support our health services through critical periods of the pandemic, at significant personal cost and risk.

Our support to trainees during this period included:

- Extension of funding for those due to exit but trapped in South Africa due to lockdowns
- Extension of funding for those whose (sub)specialist exit exams were postponed
- Negotiation of an official commitment from the WC: Dept Health to provide full health coverage to fellows and their families in the event of illness
- The use of online teaching, ward-round and meeting platforms wherever feasible, to protect trainees from unnecessary exposure, and ensure that training continued as seamlessly as possible

As COVID continues to wreak havoc across the continent, it is difficult to plan for the coming year. We hope that the **21 new fellows scheduled to join the training programme in 2021** will be able to start on schedule. We also hope that it will be possible to return to face-to-face regional engagements, as these are a key aspect of supporting our African partner centres, in particular of supporting alumni in their service development back home.

Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic include increased vulnerability of healthcare systems in Africa, making the work of the APFP even more critical. It is APFP alumni who will need to lead the rebuilding of paediatric services decimated by the pandemic



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING CHILD HEALTH IN AFRICA

