



Sisters
Hospitallers



General Medicine

**Did you know that our Institution manages several general hospitals in different countries, for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, through a wide range of medical and surgical specialities?
Discover how this area is developing in the Province of England.**

May 2018



Frank Andi-Mends

**Medical Officer
in charge of
Medical Ward at
the “St. Francis
Xavier” Hospital
in Assin Foso
(Ghana)**



I am Dr Frank Andi-Mends, Medical Officer in charge of Medical Ward at the Sisters Hospitallers’ “St. Francis Xavier” Hospital in Assin Foso (Ghana), where I have been working for a year and a half.

In 1965, the Sisters Hospitallers assumed the administration and management of a small clinic located in Assin Foso. Throughout these more than 50 years, despite going through very hard times due to political and economic instability at the national level, that small clinic is now a hospital of reference for the African community, which offers a full set of health services to the districts of Assin North and Assin South, in the Central Region of the country.

Currently, the hospital has **138 beds for inpatients, as well as outpatient consultations, surgical, diagnosis, laboratory, maternity, children's medicine, x-rays, dentistry and ophthalmology services, among others.** Specifically, in 2017, we treated over 128,000 people. If it were not for our services, it would be hard for them to be cared for by qualified medical personnel. On the other hand, the Hospitaller mission also reaches the homes of many patients, through a follow-up program for sick people with tuberculosis, AIDS and/or with geriatric needs. In the annual peer reviews carried out by hospitals in the area, this centre has positioned itself as one of the best.

In my specific case, **dedicating myself to general medicine involves working closely with different departments**, which makes specialisation difficult. However, it offers the possibility of having vast knowledge in various subjects. My areas of

intervention are: outpatient and inpatient consultations, emergencies and surgical operations in my area, as well as providing support and necessary information to patients and their families when needed.

For some time, I have had the opportunity to prepare and present clinical cases, monthly morbidity and mortality rates, in meetings with specialists. Thanks to these meetings, my medical knowledge has increased and **I have become more aware of our level of responsibility to patients.**

The technological improvements, brought into use at the hospital, make our work much more efficient; now we can electronically pass on the results of the X-rays and ultrasounds so that they can be reviewed from any computer, which greatly speeds up our intervention process. This advance has also considerably reduced the waiting time in the outpatient consultations area.

At the hospital, we also have a radio station, from which we broadcast basic advice on healthy lifestyle habits and prevention. This communication channel is achieving very good results since society acquires more knowledge about health, which reduces the risk of possible complications later on.

Working at the “St. Francis Xavier” Hospital has given me the opportunity to learn, for example, to operate on hernias, remove lumps, assist during tendon surgeries, etc., which my professional colleagues do not do at other health centres. **The discipline and devotion of the employees, at all levels, create a very dynamic workflow and an excellent environment to progress both professionally and personally.**

