

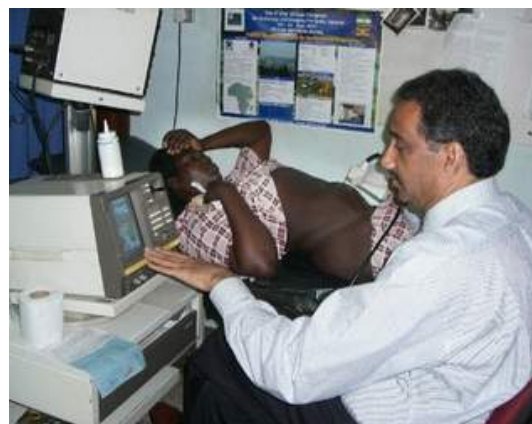
UR radiologist seeks funds for equipment for poor nations

Chris Swingle • Staff writer • April 21, 2009

When Dr. Vikram Dogra, a University of Rochester Medical Center radiologist and professor, lectured at a medical conference in Uganda two years ago about ultrasound imaging, he learned that the clinicians from sub-Saharan Africa had just started using the technology.

Their equipment, equivalent to machines used in the United States back in the 1970s, couldn't do the things he was talking about. Humbled, he quickly revised his talk.

Now the Pittsford resident has teamed up with prominent radiologists in multiple countries to get more modern imaging equipment and training to developing countries, especially communities in Africa and Latin America. Health care providers could use the images to save lives, Dogra said.



Dr. Vikram Dogra, University of Rochester radiologist, performs an ultrasound exam at a hospital in Kampala, Uganda, in 2007, using a machine from 1970. (Provided photo)

"I thought India was poor," said Dogra, 55, who grew up there. Uganda's 28 million people have only 20 radiologists, and 14 African countries have none, he said, while URMC alone has 53 radiologists.

He has applied for nonprofit status for the effort, dubbed Medical Imaging Partnership, and has committed \$10,000 of his own money. His goal is to raise \$1 million using professional fundraisers.

"We need to do our part," said Dogra, adding that as a successful immigrant, he feels morally obligated to give back to the world community

For more, go to <http://medicalimagingpartnership.org> or call (585) 273-4388.

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