

OBSTETRIC FISTULA  
2008 ACTIVITY REPORT



Dr. Charles-Henry Rochat

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Director of the « Fistula » programme at GFMER ([www.gfmer.ch](http://www.gfmer.ch))

Member of the Fistula Committee of FIGO (International Federation of Obstetricians Gynecologists)

Member of the IOFWG (International Obstetric Fistula Working Group)

Board Member of the AFOA (Association des Fistules Obstétricales d'Afrique)

Member of the Foundation Council of GFMER

Coordination of surgical missions:

◦ **Hospital of Conakry and Hospital of Kissidougou, Guinea**

* April - May	Dr Nicolas Ferry (France) Dr Michel Heisert (France) Conakry	16 VVF repaired
*April - May	Dr Nicolas Ferry (France) Dr Michel Heisert (France) Kissidougou	42
*August - September	Dr Jérôme Blanchot (France) Dr Yacine Haffaf (France) Conakry	50 + 7 incontinences
*November - December	Dr Jean-Pierre Hillebrant (France) Conakry	20 + 1 incontinence

◦ **“St. Jean de Dieu” Hospital, Tanguieta, Benin**

*March	Dr Charles-Henry Rochat (Suisse) Dr Jim Peabody (USA)	31 + 7 incontinences
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*October	Dr Jean-Marie Colas (France) Dr Claude Dumurgier (France)	42
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◦ **UCYA of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

*July	Dr Jean Martin Zino (Madagascar) Dr Maxime Thalmas (Côte d'Ivoire)	22
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*December	Prof. Abdel Latif Benchekroun (Maroc) Dr Maxime Thalmas (Côte d'Ivoire)	24
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◦ **Hospital of Fada N'Gourma, Burkina Faso**

*January	Dr Jean Lalaude (France) Dr Guiro Moussa (Burkina Faso)	20
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◦ **Hospital of Abeche, Chad**

*January	Dr Jean Martin Zino (Madagascar)	18
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*May	Dr Jean Martin Zino (Madagascar)	23
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*October	Dr Jean Martin Zino (Madagascar)	19
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« [Fistules](#) », Médecins Sans Frontières, June 2008

◦ **Hospital of Manambaro, Madagascar**

*October	Dr Charles-Henry Rochat (Suisse)	6
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[http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites\\_internationales\\_Fr/PDF/Rapport\\_mission\\_Madagascar\\_octobre\\_2008.pdf](http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites_internationales_Fr/PDF/Rapport_mission_Madagascar_octobre_2008.pdf)

*Overall number of women with obstetric fistula operated in 2008 thanks to  
GFMER-AFOA-MSF coordinated missions* **333**

### Conferences and courses:

- 28 February: « [Obstetric fistula](#) », Training in Reproductive Health Research, WHO
- 28 March: «Overall management of Obstetric Fistula», Clinical Research Cooperation with developing countries, Geneva International Conference Center (GICC)
- 17 April: « Fistules obstétricales : prise en charge globale », RAFT (Réseau en Afrique Francophone pour la Télémédecine), WHO, Geneva
- 24 May: « Chirurgie des fistules obstétricales », Journée de Printemps du GRSSGO (Groupement Romand de la Société Suisse de Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique), Morges
- 10 September: « [Chirurgie des traumatismes uro-génitaux en conditions de guerre et de précarité](#) », Cours de chirurgie de guerre et de catastrophe, Geneva
- 15 – 16 September: « [GFMER Database](#) », ISOFS Conference (Inter Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeon) à Addis Ababa (L. de Bernis)
- 19 November: «[Chirurgie des fistules obstétricales : prospective](#)», urologie d'ailleurs, Association Française d'Urologie, Paris

### Publications:

- [Eglin G, Blanchot J, Colas J-M, Rochat C-H. Fistules urogénitales. In: EMC Gynécologie. Editions Elsevier Masson SAS; 2008. \[220-A-10\]](#)
- [Nathan LM, Rochat CH, Grigorescu B, Banks E. Obstetric fistulae in West Africa: patient perspectives. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2008 Dec 27. \[Epub ahead of print\]](#)
- [Tebeu P, de Bernis L, Boisrond L, Le Duc A, Mbassi AA, Rochat C. \[Knowledge, attitude and perception about obstetric fistula by Cameroonian women\]. Prog Urol. 2008 Jun;18\(6\):379-89. French.](#)

### Miscellaneous:

- 15 January: meeting with Dr. Jean Martin Zino (Madagascar) to finalize the partnership with MSF Switzerland in Chad
- 4 February: Opening Ceremony of the Course in Reproductive Health and Sexual Health Research [http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical\\_education\\_En/Opening\\_ceremony\\_2008.htm](http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/Opening_ceremony_2008.htm)
- 8 February: Meeting GFMER – SENTINELLES at the Foundation headquarters for an update on ongoing fistula activities in Benin and Burkina Faso
- 28 March: first mission on the introduction of prostate endoscopic resection at the CNHU Cotonou, Benin
- 28 May: Geneva Health Forum, participation in the Société Médicale de Beaulieu (SMB) stand
- 2 – 3 May: Meeting of the FICO Working Group (International Federation of Obstetricians Gynecologists) on obstetric fistula, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 27 – 28 August: Meeting of the FICO Working Group (International Federation of Obstetricians Gynecologists) on obstetric fistula, London, England

- 29 August: [Commander Cross \(Pro Merito Melitensi\) received from Mr. Giulio Di Lorenzo Badia, Ambassador of the Order of Malta to the Republic of Italy](#)

#### Ongoing activities:

- International validation of the Fistula database conceived and developed by GFMER
- Financial support and collaboration with Essor (NGO Benin) for the recruitment and follow-up of obstetric fistula patients
- Creation of a three years grant to support doctors from the Hospital of Tanguieta, Benin
- Creation of a one year grant for an African Surgeon at the Hospital of Tanguieta, Benin
- Financial support for the construction of reception and consultation buildings at the Hospital of Tanguieta, Benin
- Participation in a study conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Institute on the social reintegration of women operated for obstetric fistula
- Participation in the elaboration of the FIGO (International Federation of Obstetricians Gynecologists) training manual on the management of obstetrical fistula
- Creation of a secured database for French speaking health professionals involved in the management of obstetric fistula (health professionals, centres and institutions files)
- Continued partnership with UNFPA and WHO for the development of protocols to conduct research in the field of fistula
- Agreement with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Monte Fiore Hospital in New York for training on Fistula Repair (for last year residents in gynecology)
- Elaboration of new teaching movies on the surgery of obstetric fistula
- Supervision of the thesis of Anne Caroline Benski, San Raffaele Hospital, Milan  
[http://www.gfmer.ch/HSR\\_It/Fistola\\_ostetrica/Fistola\\_ostetrica\\_Benski\\_2008.htm](http://www.gfmer.ch/HSR_It/Fistola_ostetrica/Fistola_ostetrica_Benski_2008.htm)

#### In preparation:

- The "model of Tanguieta" paper in collaboration with Lisa Nathan, Jim Peabody and Bogdan Grigorescu