Scotland and Zambia strengthen healthcare knowledge exchange ties:
4 interlinked global health collaborations

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NHS Education for Scotland

Aim

Lack of access to healthcare information is a major impediment to quality healthcare improvement globally.[1] Building on work presented at the NHSScotland Event 2013:
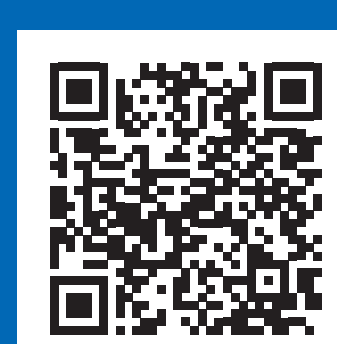
http://malawi.mvm.ed.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/global_health_collaboration_poster.pdf

this poster shows NHSScotland's expanding collaboration on strengthening of healthcare knowledge exchange (technology-enabled learning (TEL)[2], information sharing, and knowledge translation[3]) ties with Zambia, for the purposes of spreading and sustaining quality healthcare information to where it is most needed.

Methodology

4 interlinked global health collaborations, at different stages of development, and using differing project methods (Participatory Action Learning and Research, Realistic Evaluation, Connectivism etc.), are focussing on strengthening healthcare information access, uptake, and utilisation by health workers and service users across Zambia, and in Scotland and elsewhere:
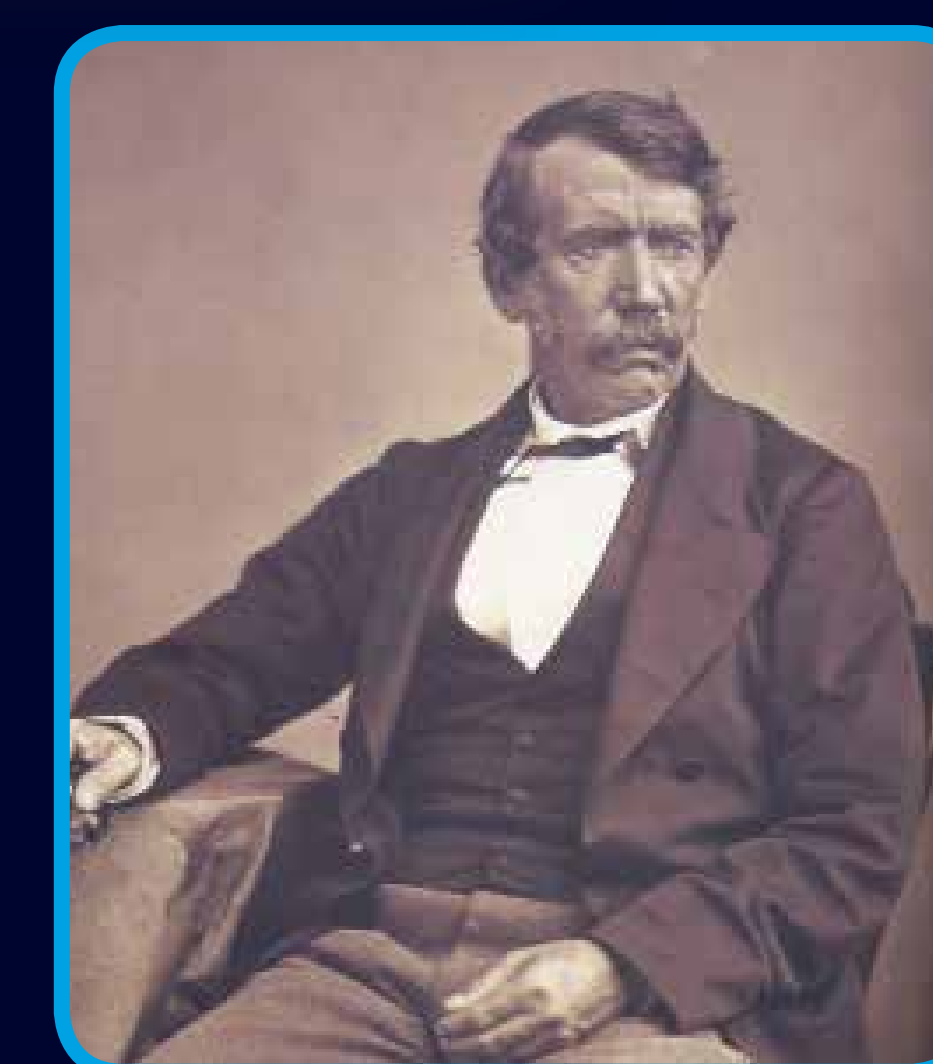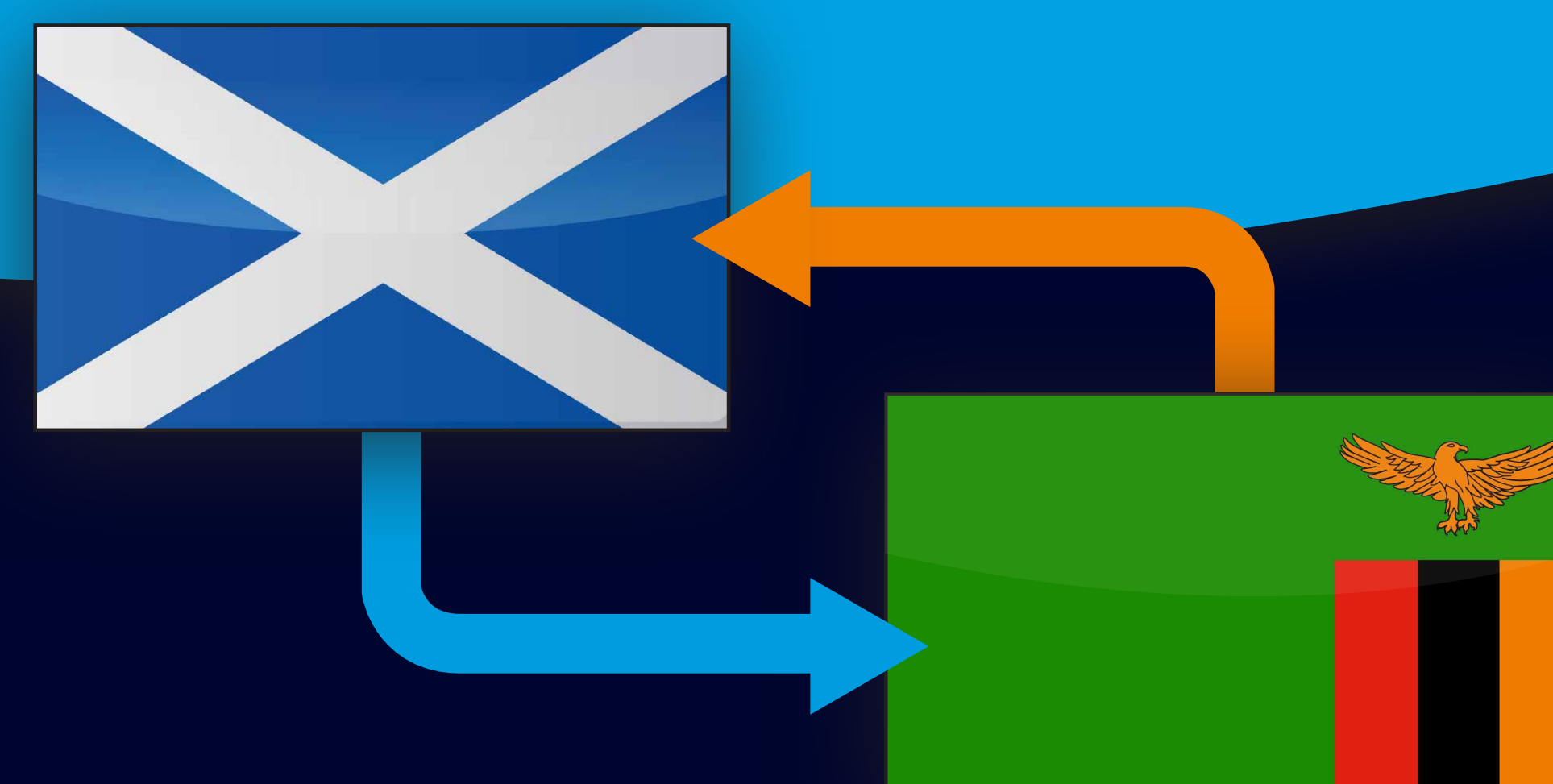
- THET Multilink Collaboration on 'Building capacity for remote, rural healthcare knowledge exchange (Please see above link and QR code)

- NHS Education for Scotland (NES)-led knowledge translation collaboration (at an early, exploratory stage)

- Healthcare Information for All (HIFA)-Zambia discussion forum (jointly administered by the Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance, ZUHWA, and the Global Healthcare Information Network): http://www.hifa2015.org/hifa-zambia

- Friends of Chitambo (Registered Scottish Charity No. SCO44337 and partner in all the above projects): Supporting Chitambo Hospital and School of Nursing, central Zambia: http://www.thet.org/hps/health-partnerships/jvalli

Results

The above, overlapping health and voluntary sector collaborations are contributing to:

- *THET Multilink Collaborators:* Ongoing development and/or testing of digital technologies (email discussion forums; Skype Clinical Supervision; digital health libraries; mobile DVD players; Medical Aid Films; and low cost mobile phones) for TEL and healthcare information exchange purposes.

- *HIFA-Zambia discussion forum:* Bringing together health workers, researchers, policymakers and others in Zambia and worldwide to reduce mortality through improved access to quality healthcare information

- *NES-led Knowledge Translation Collaboration:* Exploring potential for a project on 'translating knowledge into practice to improve healthcare quality, and testing a transferable "Knowledge Broker Network"' model.

- *Friends of Chitambo:*
  - Supporting nurse training processes at a remote, rural school of nursing, through providing training scholarships and materials
  - Developing a project to meet locally identified needs to strengthen emergency care resources (information and communication systems) at a remote, rural hospital

Conclusions

Strengthening of ties between the above groups is contributing to improving healthcare knowledge exchange between Scotland, Zambia and other global regions. This has potential for both raising Scotland's international profile[4], and contributing to mutual healthcare improvement[5] through, for example:

- Sharing of NHSScotland's world-class healthcare quality improvement systems with Zambia[6]

- Strengthening of NHSScotland's remote healthcare knowledge exchange systems (digital[7], knowledge translation, and other healthcare information exchange processes), through piloting within Zambian healthcare contexts.

Such exchange is mutually valuable and enriching.

References

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