

**Prepared by Catherine Stowell, Trustee, as an ongoing 3 monthly document to thank volunteers and donors who contribute so much to MCAI's work.**



Welcome to the new quarterly newsletter. This is our way of keeping in touch with donors and patrons around the world with a few highlights from the work you have been supporting.



Above: Trustees Brigid, David and Catherine after meeting with the FCDO.

### **A meeting with the Foreign Office**

We have been placing pressure on the UK Foreign Office over the critically urgent need for medical evacuations from Gaza.

On the 25th of June 2025, we were invited for a meeting at the FCDO, on a gloriously sunny day in London.

For MCAI, this is advocacy and a call to action: we not only presented the FCDO with the case for the urgent medical evacuation of 500 women and children, but also offered MCAI's assistance and experience in medically treating these evacuees.

[You can view our most recent letter to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office here.](#)





Above: Iryna (far left) with trustees Brigid and Madho in London after the conference.

## Presentation at the RCOG World Congress

David and Professor Iryna Megalovkena co-presented at the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists World Conference on the effects of armed conflict on women and children.

Iryna is the lead programme director for our project, 'Supporting perinatal care disrupted by the ongoing war in 61 hospitals in Ukraine'. [You can learn more here.](#)

Organised by Brigid, this was a fantastic opportunity to get MCAI's message across to a worldwide audience, which was very well-received.



## Introducing our new trustee

We are delighted to share with you news that Dr Mesfin Zbelo has become a trustee. Mesfin joins us with over 15 years of experience in strengthening health systems in low-resource settings across national, sub-regional, and international levels.

We know Mesfin and his work well through his role at the WHO. He has also been a patron of

MCAI for over 10 years. He is bringing so much knowledge and experience to his new position on the board of trustees, and we are very excited for the future.

### Ultrasound training for obstetric outreach

At the end of last year, we collaborated with obstetric sonographer Yvette Lovis to film an immersive course in basic pregnancy ultrasound scanning. It follows David's journey to use this technique to identify key foetal and maternal anatomy, guided by Yvette.

### OUR THREE EXPERTS WILL GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY



DR. BRIGID HAYDEN  
CONSULTANT OBSTETRICIAN & GYNAECOLOGIST



YVETTE LOVIS  
CLINICAL SPECIALIST SONOGRAPHER



PROF. DAVID SOUTHALL  
PROFESSOR OF PAEDIATRICS

Built with low-resource and conflict-affected environments in mind, this online course is taught using a range of affordable portable ultrasound machines.

This course is now available as training material for all of MCAI's future work, and we hope to also share it with allied causes.

You can watch our highlight video here:

<https://portableultrasoundmachines.co.uk/training/ultrasound-training-for-obstetric-outreach/>



Above: Jake modelling his new MCAI charity dog coat.

### **Jake's dreamcoat**

Jake MacDonald, the MCAI charity dog, has previously accompanied David and Madho to Ukraine.

In recognition of his work, he now has his new 'charity dog' coat and is looking forward to representing MCAI in future projects.