



PRESS RELEASE

No: 77/2018

Date: 12th February 2018

The GHA Welcomes Visit by Specialist Surgeon

A Specialist Consultant Surgeon visited St Bernard's Hospital this past week to perform a number of surgeries and follow up clinics.

Mr Johnathan Bernstein, who undertakes both NHS and private practice at The Royal Marsden in London, is also Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London. Mr Bernstein specialises in thyroid cancer surgery, head and neck surgical oncology and reconstructive surgery. He arrived in Gibraltar last week, as the GHA continue to offer treatments locally, which would have previously required patients to travel abroad to tertiary centres.

The visit was part of the GHA's extensive Visiting Consultants Programme, which continues to develop further, in a bid to repatriate as many treatments as possible. Hosting Consultants to carry out clinics locally, is very much driven by the core clinical policy, that offering patients treatment locally wherever possible, will avoid the stress and inconvenience of having to travel abroad.

The GHA's Medical Director, Dr Daniel Cassaglia, said: "Successfully repatriating a clinical service to the GHA, requires meticulous forward planning and effective teamwork, between many different professionals involved in the care pathway. GHA staff were also able to take advantage of specialist training to upgrade their skills. This initiative has enabled the GHA to provide top quality care from a specialist at a leading institution like the Royal Marsden Hospital in London at home in Gibraltar. I would like to thank all those members of GHA staff involved in making sure that this visit was a success."

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Honourable Neil F. Costa MP, spoke about the visit: "I am pleased that the GHA hosted Mr Bernstein's visit; a very experienced and highly qualified surgeon in his field. To repatriate treatments, wherever possible, is one of our top priorities. It is vital that we continue to develop our Visiting Consultants Programme, primarily, for the comfort and well-being of our patients. To travel abroad for treatment can be a traumatic experience, although, unfortunately, for certain cases it may be unavoidable. We will continue to work, however, to repatriate as many services as possible so as to minimise the procedures for which our patients need to travel abroad."

Ministry of Health, Care and Justice

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