CEORL GLOBAL OUTREACH TRAVEL GRANT 2026

OBSERVERSHIP REPORT

April 30 – May 11, 2026

Uppsala, Sweden
Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Uppsala University Hospital

AKADEMISKA
SJUKHUSET

LÄKARE

Executive Summary

Following the award of the CEORL Global Outreach Travel Grant 2026, I had the privilege of attending the Congress of European ORL-HNS and subsequently undertaking a comprehensive observership at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Uppsala University Hospital in Sweden. The observership provided an exceptional opportunity for advanced clinical exposure, academic exchange, and professional networking within one of Scandinavia's highly organized tertiary academic healthcare systems.

The experience involved participation in operating theatre observations, multidisciplinary oncological discussions, outpatient clinics, day-care surgery systems, departmental academic meetings, and collaborative discussions regarding future institutional partnership.

Throughout the observership, I observed a wide range of advanced surgical procedures including Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS), septoplasty, skull-base surgery, neck dissections, stapedectomy, inner ear tumor surgery, facial plastic procedures, and cross-facial nerve grafting. Particularly impactful was the opportunity to witness the integration of multidisciplinary care pathways involving ENT surgeons, neurosurgeons, radiologists, oncologists, pathologists, audiologists, and specialized nursing teams.

The observership additionally facilitated important dialogue regarding future collaboration between Uppsala University Hospital and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and KCMC University in Tanzania. Potential areas discussed included academic exchange, surgical mentorship, telemedicine-supported education, resident observerships, collaborative research, and long-term institutional partnership.

Professional Background

I am a consultant otolaryngologist and lecturer at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and KCMC University in Moshi, Tanzania. My clinical and academic focus is centered around pediatric otolaryngology, pediatric airway surgery, airway reconstruction, and healthcare systems strengthening within low-resource environments.

In addition to clinical work, I remain actively involved in resident education, surgical mentorship, research activities, international collaboration, and humanitarian service. I also hold a PhD from Radboud University Medical Center in the Netherlands, an experience that further strengthened my commitment to global collaboration and healthcare development.

Introduction

International collaboration remains an essential component in strengthening modern otolaryngology practice, particularly in low-resource healthcare settings where access to subspecialized training and advanced technologies may remain limited. I believe the CEORL Global Outreach Travel Grant represents an important initiative aimed at reducing these gaps by creating opportunities for surgeons from developing healthcare systems to engage directly with advanced European ENT institutions.

As a Tanzanian pediatric otolaryngologist specialized in airway reconstruction surgery, this observership represented a major opportunity to gain exposure to advanced tertiary ENT care systems, multidisciplinary collaboration, healthcare organization, and modern surgical technologies. Beyond surgical observation, the observership served as an important platform for academic exchange, discussion of healthcare realities in Tanzania, and exploration of future partnership opportunities between institutions.

Participation in the Congress of European ORL-HNS

From April 25–29, 2026, I attended the Congress of European ORL-HNS, where I was formally recognized during the opening ceremony as a recipient of the CEORL Global Outreach Travel Grant. The congress brought together leading experts in rhinology, skull-base surgery, otology, pediatric ENT, head and neck oncology, facial plastics, and airway reconstruction.

The scientific sessions provided exposure to evolving technologies and contemporary surgical approaches including image-guided surgery, robotic-assisted surgery, minimally invasive skull-base approaches, AI-assisted diagnostics, and advanced hearing rehabilitation. The congress additionally provided extensive networking opportunities with surgeons, researchers, educators, and institutions from across Europe and beyond. I had a privilege to be a faculty as a chair also made 2 speeches:

1. Pediatric ENT Fellowship: Passing On Experience, African Perspective: Building Pediatric Ent Capacity for A Global Future.
2. ENT In Africa- First Priorities: Defining First Priorities for Global Health

Introduction to Uppsala University Hospital

The observership officially commenced on April 30, 2026 at Uppsala University Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Adnan Lidian, MD, PhD, Senior Consultant and Head of Rhinology. Upon arrival, I was warmly welcomed by Dr. Adnan Lidian and Professor Linda Marklund, who introduced me to the department, clinical structure, academic activities, and ongoing theatre schedules.

The atmosphere within the department reflected professionalism, teamwork, strong academic culture, and openness toward international collaboration. The introduction was followed by theatre observation activities and participation in tradition activity (Valborg) associated with the welcoming of spring celebrations at Carolina Rediviva in Uppsala.

HAPPY SPRING
FARMACEVTISKA STUDENTKÅREN
UPPSALA STUDENTKÅR

79
78

AKADEMISKA SJUKHUSET
100
101

Clinical Observership Activities

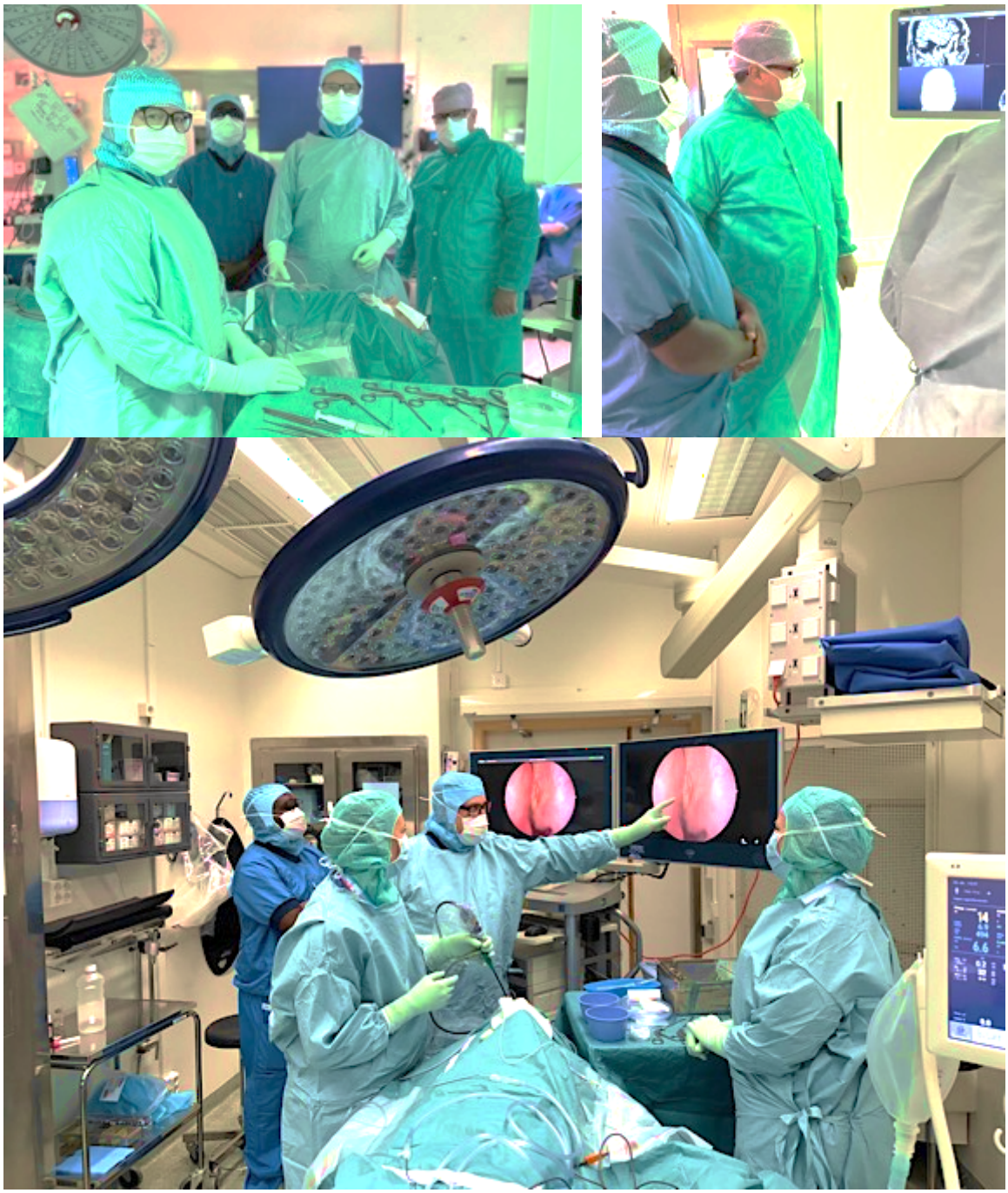
The observership involved broad exposure to multiple aspects of tertiary ENT practice including operating theatres, outpatient clinics, day-care surgery services, academic meetings, and multidisciplinary oncology conferences. The structure of the observership allowed observation of different subspecialties while simultaneously exposing me to Swedish healthcare organization and workflow systems.

Morning departmental meetings were highly structured and demonstrated strong communication between consultants, residents, nursing teams, and administrative staff. Discussions included patient reviews, operative planning, postoperative updates, and scheduling coordination. The efficiency of communication and departmental organization was particularly notable.

Surgical Exposure

A major component of the observership involved direct observation of advanced surgical procedures. During the observership I observed Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS), septoplasty, revision sinus surgery, neck dissections, stapedectomy, inner ear tumor surgery, skull-base surgery, facial plastics procedures, and facial nerve reconstruction including cross-facial nerve grafting.

Particularly impressive was the integration of modern technologies including high-definition endoscopy, navigation systems, operative microscopy, precision instrumentation, and structured perioperative planning. The operating theatre environment emphasized patient safety, efficiency, teamwork, and meticulous surgical technique.



Multidisciplinary Oncology and MDT Systems

One of the most educational aspects of the observership was exposure to multidisciplinary oncological care pathways. I participated in MDT tumor board meetings both through teleconference and on-site discussions involving ENT surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, neurosurgeons, audiologists, and specialized nursing teams.

These discussions demonstrated how integrated multidisciplinary collaboration contributes toward optimized patient-centered care. The coordinated approach to diagnostics, operative planning, adjuvant therapy, and rehabilitation highlighted the importance of communication and teamwork in managing complex ENT disease.

Academic Activities and Departmental Presentation

On May 8, 2026, I delivered a departmental presentation entitled "**ENT in Northern Tanzania: Defining First Priorities for Partnership.**" The presentation focused on the burden of ENT disease in Northern Tanzania, workforce limitations, pediatric airway challenges, access to specialized care, and opportunities for collaborative partnership.

The session was very well attended and generated extensive discussion regarding future collaboration between Uppsala University Hospital and KCMC/KCMC University. Topics discussed included resident exchange opportunities, virtual teaching initiatives, collaborative research, surgical mentorship, and pediatric airway training.

Reflections on Swedish Healthcare Systems

The observership provided valuable insight into Swedish healthcare organization and systems efficiency. Several strengths were consistently observed including multidisciplinary integration, strong patient safety culture, structured perioperative systems, digital medical records, efficient ambulatory care pathways, and highly coordinated communication between healthcare professionals.

The organization of day-care surgery services at Samariterhemmet Hospital was particularly impressive and demonstrated how ambulatory pathways can reduce inpatient burden while maintaining excellent patient outcomes. The experience reinforced the importance of systems organization in improving healthcare efficiency and quality.

Future Collaboration Opportunities

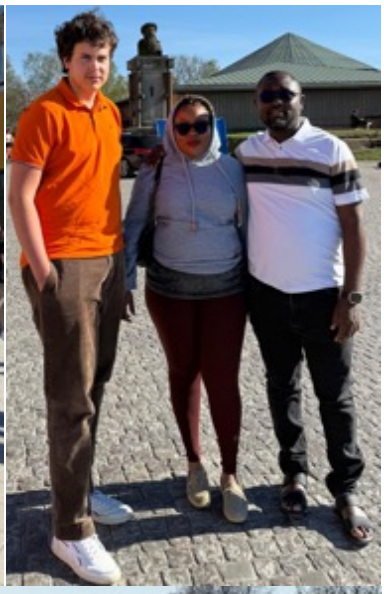
The observership created important opportunities for discussion regarding future collaboration between Uppsala University Hospital and institutions in Tanzania. Potential collaborative areas identified included resident and faculty exchange programs, virtual academic teaching, telemedicine-supported MDT discussions, joint research activities, pediatric airway mentorship, rhinology workshops, and collaborative grant development.

There is substantial potential for long-term institutional partnership that may contribute toward strengthening ENT education, surgical training, research, and patient care in Tanzania while simultaneously fostering global academic exchange and shared learning.

Cultural and Social Experience

Beyond the academic and clinical activities, the observership also provided important cultural and social experiences. Dr. Adnan Lidian kindly introduced me to the city of Uppsala, Swedish culture, and local academic traditions. Together with my wife, I had the privilege of visiting several historic sites within Uppsala and participating in social interactions that strengthened collegial relationships.

A particularly memorable experience was being invited to dinner at Dr. Adnan Lidian's home together with his son Daniel. These moments reflected the warmth, hospitality, and collegiality that characterized the entire observership experience.



Conclusion

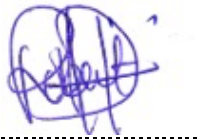
The CEORL Global Outreach Travel Grant 2026 provided an exceptionally valuable opportunity for academic exchange, professional development, and global collaboration. The observership at Uppsala University Hospital significantly broadened my understanding of advanced ENT surgical practice, multidisciplinary healthcare delivery, healthcare systems organization, and the importance of sustainable international partnership.

The experience will have lasting influence on my future clinical practice, academic work, surgical mentorship activities, and efforts toward strengthening pediatric ENT and airway surgery services in Tanzania. Most importantly, the observership established a strong foundation for future collaboration between Uppsala University Hospital and institutions in Tanzania in education, research, mentorship, and global surgery development.

Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank the Confederation of European ORL-HNS for awarding the CEORL Global Outreach Travel Grant 2026. I additionally extend profound gratitude to Uppsala University Hospital for hosting this observership, and particularly to Dr. Adnan Lidian for exceptional mentorship, hospitality, and academic guidance throughout the visit. I also thank Professor Linda Marklund and the entire Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery team for their openness, professionalism, and willingness to share their expertise.

Submitted on May 11, 2026



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