The second international workshop of COST-Africa took place over 5 days from Monday 3\textsuperscript{rd} September to Friday 7\textsuperscript{th} September at Mika Lodge, Lusaka, Zambia. This five year collaboration (2011-15), which will evaluate the health impact of surgical training of Clinical Officers in Africa, is funded by the European Union under its FP7 and is led by Professor Ruairí Brugha, Head of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine at RCSI. The purpose of COST-Africa is to demonstrate that life-saving emergency and basic major surgery is a cost effective intervention that can be made available at district hospitals in Africa, thereby serving the essential needs of the rural poor. The four-country collaboration includes two African and two European institutions: College of Medicine Malawi (CoM), Surgical Society of Zambia (SSZ), University of Nijimegen Netherlands (RUNMC) and RCSI.

Consortium members including the coordinator of COST-Africa Prof Ruairí Brugha, Zambia principal investigator Dr. John Kachimba and the Malawi principal investigator Prof Eric Borgstein were in attendance. Staff from RCSI including Dr. Tracey Mc Cauley, Dr. Elaine Byrne and Laura Phelan also attended the COST-Africa meeting. Wednesday 5\textsuperscript{th} September saw the meeting of important stakeholders including Dr Peter Mwaba, the Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health. (Photo 1)

On Thursday Researchers from RCSI, SSZ, CoM and RUNMC visited Liteta district hospital to assess surgical capacity and record systems at a typical district hospital (Photo 2).
Photo 1. Among participant at the stakeholder’s day were (left to right): Dr. John Kachimba (Zambia PI), Dr Peter Mwaba (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health), Dr Yotham Phiri (Director, Chainama College).

Photo 2. Visit to Liteta district hospital (left to right): Dr. Elaine Byrne (RCSI), Professor Ruairi Brugha (RCSI), Mr Edward Chibwili (SSZ), Dr. Leon Bijlmakers (RUNMC), Stephan Ruppert (RUNMC) and Mr. Gerald Mwapasa (CoM).