

## **"Child Health Africa" by Malcom Coulthard**

Malcolm took us through the history from early times to current thinking and research into

**Kwashiorkor.**

### **The problem**

Sadly, malnutrition is still common in infants in many parts of the world. Severely affected children become very skinny, but with a swollen 'pot' belly (think of the pictures from Live Aid). This is called kwashiorkor, and happens because their bodies cannot deal with fluids properly. Infants with kwashiorkor are very vulnerable – if they catch a diarrhoea bug they quickly develop shock.

The treatment for these children has not changed for 40 years, and half of those who become shocked still die, even in good hospitals that follow the World Health Organisation (WHO) treatment guidelines. Every year, thousands of babies die from this in Africa.

**To many of us this was a little heard of disease by this name, with life threatening consequences. His talk was very engaging, scientific with clear explanations. He described some of the work of the charity in Ugandan hospitals and the difference it has made.**

**The dedication of himself and his co-workers shone through, the talk comes highly recommended.**

**If you would like to know more or feel you could help, go to <https://www.childhealthafrica.org>**