

Primary Trauma Care Foundation Samoa 2010

Malietoa Tanumafili II Hospital, Tuasivi, Savaii, Samoa June 2010

5 Day PTC Programme

One-Day Tour of Healthcare Facilities Savaii by PTC Instructors 14 June

Two-Day Training Course 15-16 June

Two-Day Training Course 17-18 June

Report compiled by Dr. Bryce Curran



Malietoa Tanumafili II Hospital (Tuasivi Hospital)

Recent events in Samoa

The PTC programme is now well established in Samoa. There is a pool of motivated local instructors and courses have been run regularly since the inception of the program in 2005.

Immediately following the August 2009 programme, local instructors independently organised a 2-day course on Savaii based at Tuasivi Hospital. It was at this course that a trauma disaster plan using the principles of the PTC course was initiated. (“The Savaii Model”)

The provision of the 2009 courses at both Apia and then Savaii were indeed serendipitous as the islands were hit on September 29 by a destructive Tsunami which followed a Magnitude 8.1 earthquake at 06:48 local time. More than 189 people were killed by this Tsunami in the Pacific most of them in Samoa.

Many islanders have expressed gratitude that the PTC program was in place before the Tsunami. It gave them confidence to initiate their own disaster triage response, and a means of managing the trauma patients as they eventually reached Apia. The earthquake and tsunami were frightening events but the Samoan medics were confident that they had a system in place to cope with the mass casualties that did arrive. They coped very well indeed.

Facilities

The course was held in the education room of the Tuasivi Hospital. A computer projector was available and although not air conditioned the facility was very suitable. The covered veranda of the hospital functioned well as an outdoor room for the workshops and skill stations. Food and drinks provided from external caterers were excellent. Adequate manikins, medical equipment and teaching materials were organised beforehand. The course was held in a mixture of Samoan and English.



Dr. Tapa Fidow presenting

Funding and support

Full support for the current PTC course was offered from the Samoan Ministry of Health. Generous funding was also provided from Aus AID via the Pacific Islands Project, with Lito de Silva of the Australian and New Zealand College of Surgeons assisting in a coordinating role. Kate Newell an administrator from The Australian College of Surgeons also attended the courses as an observer. Bryce Curran Anaesthetist from Christchurch, New Zealand attended as overseas instructor. Germaine Sandford Critical Care Nurse Educator from Christchurch assisted with workshops.

Participants

A real effort was made to enrol participants on the courses to reflect the needs of Savaii Island. The main hospital is located at Tuasivi Hospital which is staffed predominantly with medical staff on rotation from Apia, supervised by L' amour Hansell (Anaesthetist) who has been posted to Tuasivi hospital as Medical Director. Most of the medical staff on rotation have completed the PTC course.

The perceived need for training for this course was to concentrate on nursing staff from both MT2 and the 3 District Clinics (Foailalo District Hospital, Sataua District Hospital and Sofutu District Hospital). Also there was recognition of the need to up-skill the hospital drivers who are transitioning into Ambulance Drivers, we ensured that most Drivers attended the course.

Media Exposure and Publicity

An article has appeared in the RACS newsletter "Surgical News". In the International Development section an article appears titled "Prepared for Trauma. -Samoa was able to set up an effective system after the tsunami due to the skills learned at the Primary Trauma Course."

Prepared for trauma

Samoa was able to set up an effective system after the tsunami due to the skills learned at the Primary Trauma Course

Last year, the serendipitous timing in the provision of AusAID -sponsored, College-managed trauma training to Samoa assisted local medical staff to cope with the unprecedented stresses caused by the September 30 tsunami that devastated the small island nation.

The emergency response plan that grew out of the trauma course - now known as the "Savaii model" after the Samoan island upon which it was developed - enabled the Samoan health authorities to set up an effective triage and management system before international aid arrived.

It was a defining moment for the local people as it represented the first time that international medical teams could start work immediately within a crisis management system already in place.

Such has been the enthusiasm in Samoa for the success of the Savaii model, that this year two more Primary Trauma Courses (PTC) have been held there to provide further training to a broader range of emergency responders such as fire officers, police and remote clinic nurses.

The wider professional selection was made this year because medical personnel are not always the first on the scene at many accidents, given that Samoa does not have a national ambulance service.

The main course presenters this year were Dr Loudeen Lam and Dr Tapa Fidow, both local surgical registrars, and Dr Bryce Curran, an anaesthetist from New Zealand, with the training provided at the Tuasivi Hospital on Savaii.

The PTC program was developed to provide affordable emergency and trauma skills to health workers in developing countries, presenting similar principles to the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) program.

Dr Curran said it was particularly effective because the skills taught could be applied to any situation, and any patient, and gave people a common language of emergency response through-out the world.

He said this was his third international trip to teach the course, and his second to Samoa.



"The best part of this education package, is that the PTC combines both knowledge and experience for the participants who get a chance to practice the theory of resuscitation in a range of well-developed scenarios.

"People's imaginations were captured in Samoa by their capacity to cope with the tsunami so this year we provided an hour-long disaster simulation session on how to manage mass casualties."

Dr. Curran said the main techniques presented in the course were in stabilising patients, managing air-ways, breathing and circulation, otherwise known as the ABC of trauma care.

He said that in the absence of a national ambulance service, the transport of trauma patients was mostly undertaken by nursing staff while remote clinic nurses were also frequently the prime responders.

"This year we particularly focussed on their needs in terms of teaching the participants how they can start to treat patients from the minute of their arrival," he said.

"We go into that in great detail; what to look out for, how to treat shock, how to recognise internal bleeding.

"We also looked more broadly at what local disaster management plans might look like.

"Both aspects empower people and give them the skills and the confidence to know they can cope with what can be infrequent but frightening events."

Dr Curran said the PTC course was also of great value in that it encouraged team building and boosted networking opportunities between local health workers in different parts of the country.

"The people of Samoa are fantastic and hugely enthusiastic and keen to learn," he said. "It's all very well for overseas aid programs to come in and build a hospital or a clinic but education and training are the key and I like being involved in that.

"It's particularly rewarding to help people introduce systems that they can then finesse to fit within their own geographical and social framework like the Samoans did with the Savaii model."

This year's provision of the PTC course was a joint effort between the College-coordinated Pacific Islands Project (supported by AusAID) and the Health Ministry of Samoa.

Feedback

Predominantly positive feedback.

“Exciting practical course”

“Good to involve remote clinic nurses and drivers”

Request to minimize English

Some participants found some content too technical/medical

Success and Relevance of Visit

It was very encouraging to see previously trained Samoan PTC instructors rally and organise a very successful PTC workshop. With instructors trained from both the 2005 and 2009 courses Samoa now has a strong team of talented and very capable PTC instructors.

Prior to the PTC course itself a one-day tour of the district hospitals was made by Dr. Bryce Curran, Dr. Loudeen Lam and Dr. Mika Ah Kuoi. This trip was useful in terms of empowering and organising attendance of the remote hospital staff at the course later in the week. Also it was very useful to see exactly what equipment and resources were available and gain an appreciation of the distances and difficulties involved in transferring a patient to the main hospital in Savaii. It was really great to see a good number of nursing staff from the district hospitals subsequently attend. Their enthusiasm for the course was noted. It is often the remote hospital nurses that are the first responders to significant trauma on the island and they were keen to learn the PTC system. We would welcome their attendance again at future courses.

Transport of patients around Savaii remains a challenge. Following the Tsunami disaster 3 ambulances have been donated to Tuasivi Hospital by the Japanese Government. To utilise these ambulances effectively will involve training the drivers in pre-hospital care and coordinating the hospital medical/nursing response. Radio communication is still unreliable in parts of the island. Significant trauma arriving at Tuasivi that requires major surgery requires transfer to the mainland by ferry. So transport of critically unwell patients to the mainland does require forward planning and coordination.

Plans for the future

PTC is firmly established in Samoa. It has been rewarding as an outside facilitator to witness the transformation in trauma service as the Samoan Instructors have taken ownership of the course. The Tsunami response was a true test of the efforts that have been made to date. The Samoa PTC community should feel proud of the fact that they have indeed made a difference.

Areas of need and development

1. Budgeting and planning for annual courses from Samoan Ministry of Health
2. Next PTC programme to include an instructors day
3. Integration and training of ambulance drivers as part of PTC
4. Further integration of disaster planning in PTC course “The Savaii model”
5. Samoan translation of PTC slides, manual.
6. Standardising trauma resources throughout all hospitals.



Dr. Loudeen Lam Instructing

PTC 2 + 2 day Course, Savaii, Samoa,

PTC Course Instructors

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Loudeen Lam | Surgery, Apia |
| 2. Dr. Tapa Fidow | O&G Apia |
| 3. Dr. L'amour Hansell | Medical Director, Anaesthesia Savaii |
| 4. Dr. Teariki Puni | O&G Apia |
| 5. Dr. Pai Enosa | Emergency Medicine, Apia |
| 6. Dr. Mika Ah Kuoi | Emergency Medicine, Apia |
| 7. Dr. Bryce Curran | Anaesthesia, Christchurch Public Hospital |

Tuesday June 15th & Wednesday June 16th

Two-Day PTC Course Participants

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bowles Noa | RN | MT2 |
| 2. Ruse Suniula | RN | MT2 |
| 3. Mataiva Ugapo | RN | MT2 |
| 4. Vaoiva Mase | EN | MT2 |
| 5. Munai N.Livi | EN | MT2 |
| 6. Rosita Tagitagamoo | EN | MT2 |
| 7. Niutao Fasi | Dental | MT2 |
| 8. Samuelu Leavai | Dental | MT2 |
| 9. Faimata Tiatia | Dental | MT2 |
| 10. Tasi Leo | Nurse | MT2 |
| 11. Vincent Lam Dam | Nurse | MT2 |
| 12. Malae Faamatala | Nurse | MT2 |
| 13. Vincent Tupufia | Nurse | MT2 |
| 14. Peteli Solo | Nurse | MT2 |
| 15. Sauomalae W.Savelio | EN | Sofutu District Hospital |
| 16. Taena Misimoa leti | RN | Sofutu District Hoapital |
| 17. Ripine A.Ioane | RN | Sofutu District Hospital |
| 18. Peresia Ioane | EN | Sofutu District Hospital |
| 19. Maria Taulai | EN | Sofutu District Hospital |
| 20. Tima Meaole | RN | Sataua District Hospital |
| 21. Moapapa Lava | EN | Sataua District Hospital |
| 22. Mu Aumalaga | RN | Sataua District Hospital |
| 23. Sianufe Mu'a | RN | Sataua District Hospital |
| 24. Itulagi P.Seinafo Elisara | EN | Foailalo District Hospital |
| 25. Feiloaiga Feterika | EN | MT2 |
| 26. Fa'aleaga Mapuiata | RN | Foailalo District Hospital |
| 27. Fa'ala'a Epati | RN | Foailalo District Hospital |
| 28. Mose Matautia | RN | Sataua District Hospital |
| 29. Kate Newell | | RACS |

Thursday June 17th & Friday June 18th***Two-Day PTC Course Participants***

1. Fiti Aleki Mulipola	RM/RN	Vaiola High School
2. Vaivasa Ateria	Dental	MT2
3. Naoupu Tauilili Pelesasa	Dental	MT2
4. Tauamafili Lealaiauloto	EN	MT2
5. Ileini S. Taituave	EN	MT2
6. Taeleomanu Kanuti	RN	MT2
7. Tepatasi Niusila	RN	MT2
8. Tauatia Malaki	EN	MT2
9. Etelini Fono	EN	MT2
10. Evelini Niue	EN	MT2
11. Nelile Fantua	RN	MT2
12. Saoma Tapuae	EN	MT2
13. Naoupu Tiatia	EN	MT2
14. Feogai Ioelu	EN	Foailalo District Hospital
15. Lee Papalii	Driver	MT2
16. Falaniko Naniseni	Amb Driver	MT2
17. Guainauga	Porter	MT2
18. Maria S. Gatoloai		MT2
19. Tina F		MT2
20. Asouir Agauali	Driver	MT2
21. Sesilia Taofinau	EN	Sataua District Hoospital
22. Sera Semaia		MT2
23. Talalelai Suesue	Lab	MT2
24. Tuamasaga Tupai	Amb Driver	MT2
25. Sakalia Paplii	Driver	MT2
26. Faavella Teuanoe	Driver	MT2
27. Sailivale Ifeuafi	Driver	MT2
28. Raent Evagelia		MT2
29. Risiti Sosaiete		MT2
30. Tuatupu Faalii		Sataua Distric Hospital
31. Koketi Tupai	X-Ray	MT2
32. Faatai Tuese	CNC	Foailalo District Hospital
33. Aiufii S.Bayer	RM	Sataua District Hoospital
34. Sivaimauge Sialo	Porter	MT2
35. Olotuli Suesue	Amb Driver	MT2
36. Siuaimauga Sido	Porter	MT2
37. Kate Newell		RACS
38. Germaine Sandford	RN	Christchurch Public Hospital

Timetable Template used for 2-day courses

DAY 1

Opening Ceremony

0800-0900 Prayers / Singing / Welcome and Introductions

PTC Course

0900-0915 Regional Trauma Perspective

0915-0930 MCQs

0930-1000 ABCDE, Primary Survey

1000-1030 Morning tea

1030-1100 Airway and Breathing

1100-1130 Circulation

1130-1230	Skill Stations	Airway 1	Bag & Mask + Accessories
		Airway 2	Intubation Equipment
		Airway 3	Paediatric Airway
		CSpine	Collar/stabilisation

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1400 Demonstration Scenarios

1400-1515 Scenarios (four)

1515-1530 Afternoon Tea

1530-1600 Secondary survey

1600-1630 Chest Trauma

1630-1645 Day 1 Summary

DAY 2

0830-0900 Abdominal and Pelvic Injuries

0900-0930 Head and Spinal Injuries

0930-0945 Limb Trauma

0945-1000 Paediatric and Obsteric Trauma

1000-1030 Morning Tea

1030-1100 Burns

1100-1215	Workshops	Trauma Management Planning (Samoa)
		Paediatrics
		Transportation and Analgesia
		Analgesia/Splints/Wound Management

1215-1245 LUNCH

1245-1330 Disaster Management

1330-1400 MCQs and discussion

1400-1530 Mass Casualty Simulation

1530-1545 Feedback

1545-1600 Presentation Certificates

1600-1630 *CLOSE & Afternoon tea*

1630-1700 Instructors Debrief and clean-up