

## SUMMARY OF THE INAUGURAL PTC COURSES IN NICARAGUA JULY 11th, 12th AND 13th, 2011

### PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

To start the PTC activities and program in Nicaragua through the inaugural courses 2-1, to form new PTC Instructors that will be in charge of spreading PTC in Nicaragua.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After his first contact with PTC in 2010, Dr.Beckett Argüello was advised to think about running a 2-1 PTC course to form instructors in Nicaragua. July 11th,12th and 13th were the dates elected to run the inaugural courses during the II Medical International Congress organized by Hospital Central de Nicaragua, Dr.Cesar Amador Kuhl, as a Pre Congress workshop.

Six international PTC instructors were invited, 3 from Guatemala, 2 from Mexico and 1 from Venezuela whom will run the 2-1 courses. Dr.Argüello was advised to invite experienced Doctors in the management of trauma as well as experienced in teaching medicine, with the possibility of influencing other groups of Doctors and medical students, to assure the PTC teaching in Nicaragua for the future. There were 30 participants on the inaugural course from several regions of Nicaragua as well as Doctors from Costa Rica and Guatemala, and 16 Doctors from different specialities took part in the Instructors Course, day 3.

The courses ran smoothly thanks to the materials used specially during the practical sessions and the good quality of the hotel facilities. The level of the participants on both courses was exceptional and has created a great deal of confidence among them towards the future of PTC in Nicaragua.

### KEY PERSONS ON THE PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Oscar González Allen and Jaime Rivera Flores could direct Dr.Beckett Argüello's enthusiasm to finally realize the courses. Beckett Argüello was the engine organizing the courses and finding the right participants, the dates and the ideal venue, making possible PTC became a reality in Nicaragua.

### PROFFESIONAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT

Nicaragua, as the vast majority of Latin American countries, is the ideal place to start PTC because they have limited diagnostic and therapeutic technology access to treat trauma patients as well as a deficient teaching in primary trauma care at the school of Medicine and at the post graduated level. This is why we consider very important that Nicaragua is already a PTC country and will have strong influence teaching PTC not only in Nicaragua, but in the Central American region as well.

### PARTICIPANTS ON THE PTC COURSE

- 1-Dr.Douglas Navarro, ANESTHESIOLOGIST
- 2-Dr.José Quezada, SURGEON
- 3-Dr.Carlos Salinas, SURGEON
- 4-Dra.Xochilt Espinoza, PHYSIATRIST

5-Dr. Leonel Argüello, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 6-Dra. Judith Zarate, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 7-Dr. Carlos Gomez, ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
 8-Dr. Ervin Plata Gallegos, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 9- Dr. Jury Cerda Flores, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 10-Dr. Julio Jose Flores Rivas, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 11-Dr. Roberto Zapata, SURGEON  
 12-Dra. Carolina Ulloa González, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 13-Dr. Jaime Rodríguez Castillo, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 14-Dr. Marcos Fonseca, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 15-Dr. Ignacio Gonzalez, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 16-Dr. Eddy Lopez Reyes, ORTHOPEDIST  
 17-Dr. Luis Aleman Morales, ORTHOPEDIST  
 18-Dra. Mireya Perez Lacayo, EMERGENCIOLOGIST  
 19-Dr. Juan Ariel Brandón, ORTHOPEDIST  
 20-Dr. Carlos Gonzalez, ORTHOPEDIST  
 21-Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, INTERNAL MEDICINE  
 22-Dra. Maria Eugenia Espinoza, ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
 23-Dra. Maria José Rodríguez, SURGEON  
 24-Dra Hannia Vargas, GENERAL PRACTITIONER ( Costa Rica)  
 25-Dr. Norlan Rodríguez, GENERAL PRACTITIONER (Costa Rica)  
 26-Dr. Roberto Macías Gomez, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 27-Dr. Mario José Baez, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 28-Dr. Sergio García, ORTHOPEDIST  
 29-LIC. Lea Echeverría, PSYCHOLOGIST (Guatemala)  
 30-Dr. Melvin Martinez, GENERAL PRACTITIONER  
 31-Dr. Orlando Morales, ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
 32-Dra. Nora Herrero, GYNAECOLOGIST

#### PTC INSTRUCTORS

1-Dr. Jaime Rivera Flores, Anesthesiologist, Mexico (Paid by Nicaragua)  
 2-Dr. Jaime Vazquez, Anesthesiologist, Mexico (Paid by Nicaragua)  
 3-Dr. Victor Pineda, Anesthesiologist, Guatemala, (Paid by WFSA)  
 4-Dr. Omar Pamech, Surgeon, Guatemala, (Paid by WFSA)  
 5-Dr. Beckett Arguello, Anesthesiologist & ICU, Nicaragua  
 6-Dr. Juan Carlos Duarte, Anesthesiologist, Venezuela, (Paid by WFSA)  
 Unfortunately at the last minute, due to personal problems Dr. Napoleón Mendez from Guatemala could not attend the courses, and for that reason all the above mentioned instructors took over his duties during the 2-1 courses.

#### DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES

The starting of the course had a 30 minutes delay due to late arrival of a few participants on day 1. The PTC courses took place during the II International Medical Congress organized by the Hospital central de Managua, Dr. Cesar Amador Kuhl, as pre congress workshop, open to all doctors from different specialities. There were 2 rooms assigned for the courses, being the first one big enough for all participants, logistics and instructors, with multimedia equipment plus all facilities for comfort, and a smaller second room where it was possible to run one of the practical sessions every day as well

as simulation of clinical scenarios. It was planned to respect the timing during the course but finally on day one we had a 60 minutes delay at the end of the day. On day 2 the delay for the starting was 30 minutes and the overall delay at the end was 60 minutes again. The theoretical part of the course was very actively endorsed by all participants and as usual they were very interactive, whereas the practical sessions took place normally with the minimal materials necessary for the practical skill sessions by all participants.

The demonstration of the clinical scenarios by the instructors was of high quality and exemplified what we expected later on from the participants on the moulage. The general group was divided in 3 groups to fulfill all steps of the practical sessions, each group with 10 participants and 2 instructors per rotatory stations to guide and coach to all participants. For the individual presentation of clinical scenarios, the group was subdivided in 4 groups, 3 of 8 people and 1 with 6, allowing to all participants face a simulated clinical scenario. The breaks for food and beverages were adapted to the dynamics of the courses and did not cause any unnecessary delays. There were backup personnel and proper logistics and we have nothing to change on the following steps during the course.

## SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

It was possible to convey a meeting with the Deans of the Faculty of Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and the Dean of a Private University and a common point of discussion was the necessity for which all Medical personnel and non Doctors working on the emergency Hospitals have access to PTC courses. Both of the Deans and the Financial group INVERCASA( sponsor of the Medical congress and PTC) set the steps to follow stating that is important for all medical students of the last year in these 2 faculties to take PTC courses in a compulsory way. This meeting was possible thanks to the efforts of Dr. Raúl Amador Torres,, President of the INVERCASA Financial Group.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

A varied strategy took place to promote PTC in Nicaragua during the Medical Congress as a workshop and a TV appearance as well as radio station promotions were the natural steps that followed during the duration of the PTC courses. The media coverage was a real asset and is an example to follow in our region, because this coverage was not possible before in any PTC regional country. An example to follow indeed.

## POST COURSE

The initial score reached by participants on test 1 had an interesting average of 50% correct answers, distributed from 17% to 76%. In the test 2 the average jumped to 70% of correct answers, from 47% to 97%. These results gave us the feeling that we could fill up our expectations and the possibility that the message was given to the participants about the PTC mechanics and is an excellent trigger to believe that the primary trauma care in Nicaragua will reach better standards by the rescue personnel in the near future.

## SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION OF THE PTC COURSES BY PARTICIPANTS

As in the majority of cases after ending PTC courses in our region, participants are quite happy to agree that the strength of PTC lies on the practical sessions and the demonstration of the various clinical scenarios and as weak point, most of them agree that during the course there is a big need to increase the time given to the practical scenarios. One important point was the importance of having warm instructors as persons, dedicated to the teaching process of PTC.

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE INSTRUCTORS COURSE DAY 3

- 1-Dr.Orlando Morales Navarrete
- 2-Dr.Carlos Humberto Salinas
- 3-Dr.Jaime Eduardo Rodríguez Castillo
- 4-Dra.Maria Eugenia Espinoza Delgado
- 5-Dra.Maria José Rodríguez Arguello
- 6-Dr.Luis Alfredo Alemán Morales
- 7-Dra.Mireya Perez Lacayo
- 8-Dr.Leonel Argüello Irigoyen
- 9-Dr.Juan Ariel Brandon
- 10-Dr.José B. Quezada rivera
- 11-Dra.Carolina Ulloa González
- 12-Dr.Marcos Fonseca Laguna
- 13-Dr.Ignacio González Oporta
- 14-Dr.Roberto Zapata Guerrero
- 15-Dr.Ervin Plata Gallegos
- 16-Dr.Jury Cerda Flores

## SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION OF THE PTC COURSE BY THE PARTICIPANTS

All participants stated that the course itself and specially the Instructors were very professionals, the importance of the huge amount of information collected during the course that will be very relevant for future courses, pointing out that the positive environment during the teaching process as well as the practical sessions were the hallmark for success during these courses, and finally suggesting that the instructors course should last 2 days in the future.

## EVALUATION OF SUCCESS AND RELEVANCE OF THE VISIT

Judging by the results at sight, the participation on the courses, the assistance to them, the satisfaction of the participants after the end of each day, the results of the tests on day 1 and 2, evaluation of the basic and instructor's courses, the level shown by all participants on the instructors course, the importance of the media coverage on both courses, the meeting of the 2 Deans of the Faculties of Medicine of 2 important universities in the country and the compromise generated after that meeting pointing to the importance of PTC as a tool for the students of the last year of medicine in both institutions from 2011, we can finally state that this opening of PTC in Nicaragua was very relevant and without any doubt was quite different from other openings in other

countries previously, specially because the promise that PTC will be compulsory for the students of medicine of the last year, will perhaps mark the difference in the near future and perhaps will be the guiding light for all countries in our region.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special mention to Dr.Beckett Arguello, the real engine of this proyect towards the initiation of PTC in Nicaragua. Thanks to his interest, motivation and dedicated work to the proyect PTC was an asset in Nicaragua reaching a high qualification. To the Directors of the Hospital Central de Nicaragua, Dr “Cesar Amador Kuhl”, specially to its Director, DrAlvaro Guerra, as well as the organizing committee of the II International Medical Congress leaded by Lic. Raul Amador Torres and the Nicaraguan-American Medical Association for including PTC in the program of this international event. To all people of INVERCASA involved in the logistics and diffusion of the 2 courses through the media, recognizing that without their help nothing of this could have reach the high standards achieved in Nicaragua.

Finally, to Lic. Raul Amador Torres, president of the INVERCASA Group and President of the organizing Committee of the II International Medical Congress for understanding, valuating and promoting PTC as a valuable tool to teach Primary Trauma care in Nicaragua

**JUAN CARLOS DUARTE GIRALDO**  
**CHAIRMAN OF PTC LATIN AMERICA 2011**