

**Report on the PTC Foundation Course, May 5-9  
2014  
Mercy Ships, Pointe Noire, République du  
Congo**



***Summary***

*We trained 14 local participants on the first course, from whom we selected a group for training as instructors to receive a PTC instructors course; these went on to deliver a second PTC course to 13 more participants.*

*We were delighted with the improvement in mean scores between MCQ's. On the first course they improved by 77%. (13/30 to 23/30) – but even more delighted that on the second course, taught largely by our Congolese colleagues, the MCQ scores improved by 120% (9/30 to 20/30). Average scores on the PTC confidence matrix rose for course participants (Course One 3.3 to 4.3; Course Two 2.9 to 4.0, Instructor Course 1.9 to 3.9)*

*During the 5 days of teaching we trained 27 Congolese doctors in PTC and 5 went on to train as PTC instructors (of whom 4 went on to teach immediately on the second PTC course).*

## ***Background***

Mercy Ships is a well known Christian charitable group, currently operating the third of a series of large hospital ships, the “Africa Mercy” on the West African coast, bringing life-changing surgery – for example cleft palates, club foot, and eye surgery to people who would otherwise have little hope of treatment. To its excellent service role, the ship has recently begun to provide local health professionals with medical educational courses. The ship was berthed in Pointe Noire, République du Congo, from August 2013 to May 2014. We were invited to bring a PTC course to be taught in the ships educational facility, with the full administrative and financial support of Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships operate under government agreements, usually on the basis of a personal invitation from the country's president. Their agreements with government facilitate visa-free entry for their own staff, and for anyone (in this case us) working in collaboration with them. For further information on Mercy Ships please see [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)

## ***Preparation and Venue***

Although the ship is normally an anglophone working environment, we decided in advance and in consultation with Dr Michelle White, on board consultant anaesthetist and head of theatres, that it would be more helpful for our course participants to deliver the course entirely in French, their professional working language. Pointe Noire is a large coastal city (pop 700,000 in 2007 census). 48% of the population is aged less than 20 years, and 33% of adults are without paid employment.

PTC materials have been available in French for a number of years, but since a newly revised version of the PTC (English) manual is currently in the last stages of publication, we thought it right to use the newest version, and thanks to Dr Tarek Boutefouchenet, one of our UK faculty, the initial translation was completed in record time, just a week before the beginning of the course.

Mercy Ships kindly provided clinical teaching equipment, data projection and other teaching materials.

The course printed materials were emailed to the ship and printed before the arrival of the team by the Mercy Ships' office. They also visited local hospitals, sent out invitations to local doctors, and arranged to pick them up each day and transport them into the high security area of the docks.

We delivered a standard PTC 2:1:2 package – a 2-day PTC course, followed by a 1-day instructor course, the newly-trained instructors then immediately delivering a second PTC course to a new group of students. Teaching was done in a mix of styles – some traditional lectures with slides, some interactive classroom teaching, small group discussions, skill stations and workshops. A second room was available when needed for practical and breakout sessions.

## ***Course participants***

The participants were a group of emergency doctors and surgeons, with an interest in trauma. At the end of the first 2 days we invited 8 participants to attend for the instructor course, of whom 5 were able to attend, and qualified as PTC instructors.

For the second course a further group of doctors attended and were taught by our newly-trained Congolese instructors (with “old” faculty in support) Names of all participants are tabulated in Appendix 1.

## ***Course faculty***

### ***Course 1 (May 5/6)***

Dr Mike Dobson,	Consultant Anaesthetist, Oxford, UK (Course Director)
Dr Michelle White	Consultant Anaesthetist, Africa Mercy
Dr Chris Lambert	Anaesthetist (ST6), Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Medicine, Wales Deanery
Dr Tarek Boutefouchenet	Orthopaedic specialist registrar,, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire
Dr Caroline Janes	Locum Consultant Anaesthetist, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

### ***Instructor Course (May 7)***

Dr Mike Dobson (Course director)  
Dr Chris Lambert  
Small group facilitators: Dr Caroline Janes, Dr Tarek Boutefouchenet

### ***Course 2 (May 8/9)***

Dr Ulrich Kie  
Dr Mireille Yawenda  
Dr Paulin Mavoungu  
Dr Vincent Leboutou  
Dr Sebastien Nana

Formal teaching roles were assigned in advance; faculty meetings on the afternoon preceding each course allocated remaining jobs, including leadership of small groups, and essential non-academic roles such as timekeeping and whiteboard scribe.

## ***Content and structure of the courses***

See appendix 2

## ***Feedback***

In addition to pre and post-course MCQ's, we used pre and post course confidence matrix assessments to judge how much candidates had gained from the courses, as well as standard feedback forms – overall a similar data set to that being collected in the PTC COSECSA countries.

The overall average marks in the MCQ improved in both courses.  
The scores on the confidence matrices improved on both PTC courses and on the instructor course (which uses a skill set of teaching rather than clinical skills)

The average feedback score for the PTC teaching sessions was 4.4/5

## ***Possible developments***

### ***Congo (RoC)***

The provision of courses to train 27 Congolese doctors in PTC, as well as 5 instructors, is a significant benefit to the medical community and the people of Pointe Noire, a busy city of a million people which is nevertheless without an educational programme for its doctors. This was all done courtesy of Mercy Ships. We are sincerely grateful to them for their kindness and generosity, and for the welcome and care we received from them. Our visit to Congo was not part of a PTC country-based strategy, but PTC in turn needs to think how we can give continued support to those we have trained here.

This course has not only produced a first cadre of PTC trained Francophone providers and instructors, but also has given impetus to the necessary revision of our teaching materials in French. The recruitment and training of 5 new francophone instructors has significantly improved our capacity for outreach to African Francophone countries (including of course further activity in RoC itself) There are many Francophone countries that would welcome PTC courses. In addition to various Europe-based PTC instructors who happen to speak French, we now have 5 Congolese instructors trained in Pointe Noire, and at least another 4 trained in Rwanda & Zambia through the COSECSA collaboration.

### ***West African College of Surgeons***

During our time on the ship, our course was visited on a number of occasions by Professor Koffi Yangni-Agate, President of the West African College of Surgeons.

Discussions with him (which he instigated, having sampled the course), led to an invitation to PTCF to participate in the WACS congress to be held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from March 1-7 2015 with a view both the facilitating PTCF startups in West Africa, and a possible joint programme with WACS similar to the PTCF/COSECESA collaboration. Prof. Agate has already (since my return) sent a formal invitation to PTC to attend the Abidjan meeting.

The course was also visited by the Ambassador of Cameroun, together with the principal Health secretary and a delegation of officials.

### ***Mercy Ships***

The staff of Mercy Ships were enthusiastic about possible future co-operation with PTC. The "Africa Mercy" will shortly be sailing for maintenance in the Canary islands, and thereafter for a spell of service in Benin. Preparations have started for possible future visits to Guinea, DRC (Matadi) and Cameroun. Dr Michelle White would welcome further discussions with PTC about possible future collaborations.

### ***Acknowledgements & thanks***

The key to the success of the course was the excellent preparation done in the months before our team arrived the Mercy Ships team. Dr Michelle White, who invited PTC to collaborate with Mercy Ships in the course, managed to give us superb support while at the same time still maintaining a full programme of her own clinical work and looking after two other groups of visitors.

I would particularly like to thank Krissy Close (Hospital Projects Manager) who gave us the best admin support I have ever experienced on any PTC course. Thank you also to Keith Brinkman (Programs Administrator) and the office team for making all our travel arrangements and smoothing our passage, and the entire crew and staff of "Africa Mercy" for their welcome, friendship, and care.

We thank and congratulate Ulrich, Mireille, Paulin and Sebastien who having completed training in PTC took on the task of teaching it to their colleagues. Caroline, Tarek and Chris, gave their time and talent, putting in a huge amount of work, not only on the course but in the preparation and revision of a new set of teaching and course materials in French.

Mike Dobson  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014

Appendix 1 – Class lists

Dr.	LEMAIRE	Nieme	Neuro	HGL	044135988	JV	9	17
Dr.	MALANDI	Danielle	Generaliste	HGAS	055390456	JV	13	25
Dr.	NKODIA	Omer	Chirurgie	HGL	055260963	JV		22
Dr.	OKO LOSSAMBO	Christelle	Generaliste	HGL	066639447	JV	3	15
Dr.	OTSATSA	Xavier Felix	Chirurgie	HGAS	055533499	JV		
Dr.	PORTELLA	Chantal	Urgences Medicales	HGAS	066628424	JV	11	22
Dr.	TCHILOEMBA	Devin	Cardio	HGL	068015405	JV	10	23
Dr.	ONGOYOYI	Justin	Urgences Medicales	HGAS	055395293	MJ	16	8
Mr.	MAKANGA	Jean Francois	Anesthesia Nurse	HGL	055231913	JV	3	23
Dr.	DOMBI-MABIALA	Amedee	Urgences Medicales	HGAS	066722297	JV		
Dr.	KIE	Ferrand Ulrich	Urgentist	Guenin	066290061	LMMJ	14	26
Dr.	LEBOUTOU	Vincent	Chirurgie	HGAS	066278249	LMM	19	23
Dr.	MAVOUNGOU	Paulin	Reanimation	HGAS	05573250	LMMJ	13	24
Dr.	YAWENDA	Mireille	Generaliste	HGL	066225248/05140854	LMMJ	16	19
Dr.	NAMA	Simeon Sebastien	Urgentist	Guenin	055752546	MMJ	27	
Dr.	AHOUE	Gabriel	Generaliste	HGL	066642469	LM	12	21
Dr.	BAKOUDISSA	Rolphe William	Neuro	HGL	068306184	LM	14	26
Dr.	BAMBELA	Claire Nice	Traumato Orthopedie	HGAS		LM	13	23
Dr.	GOMO-MKOMBO	Autis Wilson	Urgences Chiurgicales	HGAS		LM	11	26
Dr	MBAMA	Idriss	Generaliste	HGL	069760115	LM	15	18
Dr.	OLANDZOBO	Geraldine	Generaliste	HGL	069504509	LM	11	24
Dr.	TATY	Lucie Prudence	Urgences Medicales	HGAS	050127948	LM	7	16

## Appendix 2 – Course programmes

### PTC course day 1

		<b>Professeur Stage I lundi/mardi</b>	<b>Professeur Stage II jeudi/vendredi</b>
09.00 – 09.15	Bienvenue	Krissy	Mike
09.15 – 09.30	Perspective globale de trauma	Tarek	Tarek
09.30 – 10.30	Introduction au PTC et MCQ	Mike	Ulrich
10.30 – 11.00	ABCDE et évaluation primaire	Caroline	Sebastien
11.00 - 11.15	Voies aériennes et respiration	Chris	Paulin
11.15 – 11.30	Circulation et choc	Caroline	Mireille
11.30 – 12.15	<b>Déjeuner</b>		
12.15 - 13.45	Postes de techniques (2/3)	TOUS	Ulrich, Sebasten, Mireille, Paulin
	- 1.Voie aérienne avancée	Caroline	Paulin
	- 2 Voie aérienne essentielle	Michelle	Paulin
	- 3.Drainage thoracique	Tarek	Ulrich
	- 4. Rachis	Mike	Sebastien
13.45 – 14.15	Trauma thoracique	Mike	Mike
14.15 – 14.45	Trauma abdominal	Chris	Chris
14.45 – 15.15	<b>Thé</b>		
15.15 – 16.00	Scénario démonstratif / Scénarios (évaluation primaire)	TOUS	Ulrich, Sebasten, Mireille, Paulin
16.00-16.30	Sommaire de la journée	Tarek	Ulrich, Mike

### Day 2 (Tuesday/Friday)

		<b>Stage I lundi/mardi</b>	<b>Stage II jeudi/vendredi</b>
09.00 - 09.30	Introduction	Mike	Mike
09.30- 10.00	Trauma crânien & du rachis	Tarek	Tarek
10.00 – 10.30	Trauma en pédiatrie et de la femme enceinte	Chris /Mike	Mireille
10.30 – 11.00	Evaluation secondaire	Caroline	Ulrich
11.00 - 11.30	Trauma des membres & brûlures	Tarek	Tarek
11.30-12:15	<b>Déjeuner</b>		
12 :15 – 14.00	Ateliers: (3/3)		
	- Analgésie	Mike	Mike
	- Transportation du malade	Chris	Chris
	- Evaluation neurologique	Caroline	Caroline
14.00 - 14.20	Prise en charge des désastres	Chris	Ulrich
14.20 - 15.40	Scenarios (évaluation primaire et secondaire)	tous	Mireille, Ulrich
15.40 - 16.00	MCQ et évaluation (questionnaire)		
16.00.- 16.20	<b>Thé</b> (évaluation des MCQ, choix d'instructeurs)		
16.15 - 16.30	Retour d'expérience, les certificats Adieux	Mike	Mike Michelle

**Stage de formation d'instructeurs de PTC - Pointe Noire**  
**mercredi 7 mai**

09.00 - 09.10	Accueil et le message de bienvenue Remplissement de questionnaires	Michelle
09.10 - 09.25	Introduction aux buts et méthodes de la journée	Mike
09.25 - 09.35	Vue d'ensemble de PTC	Entrevue Tarek/Mike
09.35 - 10.00.	Formation en enseignement: les premiers pas; comment apprennent les adultes; Préparation	Mike
10.00 - 10.20	<i>Atelier 1:</i> Préparation d'un thème (en groupes)	Groupes: Michelle, Tarek, Chris,
10.20 - 10.40	Comment donner des présentations effectives	Mike
10.50 - 11.30	<i>Atelier 2:</i> Présentations individuels des thèmes déjà préparés	
11.30 - 12.30	Dejeuner	
12.30 - 13.45	<i>Atelier 3:</i> L'enseignement interactif - théorie et pratique	Introduction: Mike Groupes: Caroline, Tarek, Chris
13.45 - 15.00	<i>Atelier 4:</i> Comment enseigner une technique et organiser un carrousel d'activités - théorie et pratique	Introduction: Chris Groupes: Michelle, Tarek, Chris,
15.00 - 15.15	Comment démarrer et développer un stage de PTC	Mike
15.15 - 15.25	Remplissement de questionnaires	
15.25 - 15.40	Rédiger un rapport	Mike/Chris
15.40 - 16.00	Thé	
16.00 - 16.20	Développement d'une stratégie locale (discussion)	Tarek
16.20 - 16.30	Résumé et conclusions. Distribution des certificats.	Michelle
16.30 - 17.30	Planification pour demain	Les nouveaux instructeurs