

# PTC NEWS

Edition 36

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## THIS EDITION

### IN THIS EDITION WE CELEBRATE A DECADE OF WORK IN LATIN AMERICA

- PTC in Latin America - 10 Years Report
- PTC Argentina - 2008-2011
- PTC Bolivia - 2008-2010
- PTC Chile
- PTC Dominican Republic
- PTC Guatemala since 2005
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- PTC Mexico - 2008-2010
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- PTC Paraguay - 2001-2010
- PTC Venezuela - 2005-2011

## PRIMARY TRAUMA CARE IN LATIN AMERICA

### TEN YEARS CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

It has been 10 years since the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Montreal, where Latin America first heard of PTC. Douglas Wilkinson and other representatives of PTCF decided to talk to Oscar Gonzalez Allen, from Paraguay, about it and entrust him to develop PTC in Latin America. PTC first sprouted in Paraguay in 2001, starting a decade of growth and expansion in Latin America.

We could say it has been 10 years of PTC spreading throughout Latin America but this suggests an easy expansion over flat land, ten years of easy success and achievements only. We would like to remember these 10 years as the time PTC took to become a reality: an alternative in trauma management education in the region. PTC took root in a continent where two main ideas ruled trauma management education: the fear of being blamed for failure, as imposed by other teaching programs, and the magnificent influence of the USA in many physician's academic training and in the world medical literature. Moreover, these two ideas also had a real consequence for future training courses, setting a high standard for trauma management education. This we took as a challenge

-- never as a disadvantage.

Just as our geography is vast and varied, the road PTC had to travel to attain its current size and importance has been full of steep peaks and easier plateaus. Not only is the language the same, but also social, economical and political realities are very similar, which has made PTC attractive to many of us. In this way, slowly at times and quickly at others, PTC reached 10 countries in Latin America and Suriname. In chronological order Paraguay, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Chile, Honduras, Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic took up the challenge to run PTC courses over these 10 years with the vital support of PTCF and the passion, dedication and conviction of PTC Latin American instructors helped in the very beginning by English instructors.

It has been 10 years of climbing the mountain and we have not reached the top yet, but we are well on our way. The quality, passion, conviction, dedication and a great deal of hard work by Latin American PTC instructors has made it possible get closer to the top of this mountain, filling the courses with their knowledge, skills and commitment to teaching and sharing their experiences. All of this has been possible with the exceptional social skills, shrewd guidance and labor of the indefatigable Oscar Gonzalez Allen, the real motor and heart of these 10 years. His motivation and total conviction about PTC philosophy have made this dream come true: To train over 2500 people in 11 countries in these ten years.

The challenge that PTC in Latin America now faces will be to take PTC beyond the point it is currently in. PTC is a very good, very practical trauma management teaching alternative in 11 countries of the region and very soon could be 12 or 13 countries. New countries will be always welcome, but the real challenge will be to make PTC suitable to the real health care in every country, updating the information delivered in the courses, making it standard for all of them and most importantly, taking PTC to be part of trauma management in the health care systems of the different countries.

We have not reached the top. We are climbing to it. For a while, we are renewing our strength and refilling our resources because the path yet to climb seems full of opportunities.

**JUAN CARLOS DUARTE GIRALDO**  
**PTC LATIN AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE**

**PTC ARGENTINA**  
**2008-2011**

Argentina has run 9 basic courses to teach PTC to 244 people and 3 instructor courses to train 35 physicians since the starting courses in may 2008. The most of the courses were organized in Rosario, one of the main cities in the country, where PTC Argentina has an enthusiastic activity.

The inaugural course in Corrientes had 27 people registered, including anesthesiologists, general surgeons and emergency physicians. 13 of them took the instructor course the day after.

5 basic courses have been run in Rosario, with a total amount of people trained being 138, including medical students, general physicians, general surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and paramedics. PTC Argentina has also organized 2 instructor courses in Rosario to teach PTC to 22 physicians.



The basic course celebrated as workshop in the program of 2009 Argentinean Anesthesia Congress had only 6 anaesthesiologists registered even they waited for 20 people. The main reason for such a low number was the decision of allows the registration only to people registered to the congress.

So, PTC Argentina suggested to allow to people not registered for the congress could attend to PTC courses held as a workshop in it. In this way, for the 39th Argentinean Anesthesia Congress, held in the

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Iguazu National Park (Iguazu falls), PTC Argentina organized a basic course as a congress workshop to which attended 43 people, most of them paramedics of the national park and some physicians, which was a real success.

Finally, a basic PTC course was held in Alem, a city close to the border with Paraguay and Brasil to teach PTC to 20 physicians, including general practitioners, anaesthesiologists, general surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons and clinical physicians.

For the next June 2011, PTC Argentina will run a basic course and an instructor course in Mendoza, close to border with Chile, trying to spread PTC to the south of the country.

**GUILLERMO NAVARRO**  
**PTC ARGENTINA REPRESENTATIVE**

**PTC BOLIVIA**  
**2008-2010**

PTC Bolivia was born in 2008 because of interest and motivation of Juan Carlos Duarte to promote trauma care in the region. The first course, coordinated by Oscar Gonzalez, was run in Sucre in October 2008, and then 3 more basic courses have been run in other cities of this country, 02 in 2009 (Sucre and La Paz) and 01 in Santa Cruz in 2010.

PTC Bolivia has trained 84 people in 4 basic courses, included anaesthesiologists, general surgeons, paediatricians and general practitioners, and 27 PTC instructors in 02 Instructor courses, 11 in Sucre 2008 and 16 in La Paz 2009.

Our main difficulty to run more courses has been to get money enough to pay travel expenses for the visiting instructors and other expenses generated by the courses, because of pharmaceutical houses use not to give away money for these activities and many of the local branches of our national society of anaesthesiologists are so small (20- 30 members) so we need an extra help.

We use to use some equipment from Bolivian Anesthesia Society to run the courses as for example 04 manikins for ventilation and CPR, 01 pediatric manikin allowing ventilation, intubation and IO access, and 01 adult intubation manikin.





nstructors, committed with PTC organization, available to run more courses supported by local branches of Bolivian Anesthesia Society.

**TERESA AMBOLUMBET**  
**PTC COORDINATOR - BOLIVIA**

### **PTC CHILE**

PTC landed in Chile for the first time in April 2005 but unfortunately this time there was not repercussions due the most of the 13 people who attended to the basic course were not interested to take the instructor course. They were a mixed group including anesthesiology residents, general practitioners and paramedics.

Once again, PTC tried to start its activities in Chile in January 2007 running a basic course for 10 physicians, including 3 foreign anesthesiologists, 2 from Colombia (CLASA's president and the representative of WFSA committee on education for LA) and 1 from Argentina. 9 of them took the instructor course and sadly all of these 9 have not continued as instructors up to date. In this time, the courses were planned to run before 1st summit of PTC LA to which attended Dr. Douglas Wilkinson and Dr. Frank Walters.

Absolutely convinced of paramount importance of Chile in the region, PTC LA didn't stop to look for someone who could be able to work with, and finally we met Dr. Juan Pablo Ilic, Anesthesiologist and ICU, from Santiago, starting in this way the new era of PTC Chile. Dr. Ilic and 3 of his colleagues took the challenge and traveled to Quito, Ecuador, to take the basic and instructor course in May 2010. In this way, they became PTC instructors and 4 months later, at the end of September 2010, organized one new 2x1 PTC course in Santiago with the

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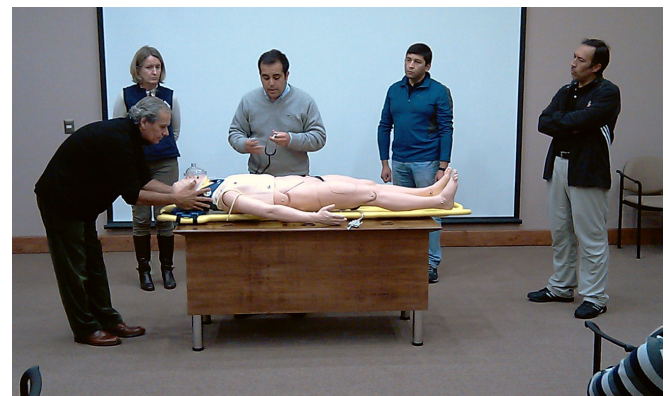
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participation of 3 foreign instructors to train 16 people, including anesthesiologists, general surgeons, residents of anesthesiology, ICU Anesthesiologists and students from last year of school of medicine. 14 of them took the instructor course and the challenge to develop, together with another 4 instructors trained in Ecuador, the PTC in Chile and take it to every corner of the country.

Since October 2010 and up to date, PTC Chile has run 5 more basic courses and 1 instructor course training physicians from different specialties and medical students. 2 of the basic course and the instructor course were run in Temuco and Puerto Montt, in the south of the country. PTC Chile has signed a deal with Universidad del Desarrollo, in Santiago, to train medical students of its school of medicine, and also have got a deal with La Mutual, one of the 2 companies dedicated to health care of the employees in all the country.

In the next months, PTC Chile hopes to get the support of MOH to make easier take the courses to all of the regions of this long country.



**JUAN PABLO ILIC**  
**PTC CHILE REPRESENTATIVE**

**JUAN CARLOS DUARTE**  
**PTC LA REPRESENTATIVE**

### **PTC IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

PTC in Dominican Republic has had only one activity, which was the inaugural course in October 2008. Sponsored by Dominican society of Anesthesiologists and Universidad Iberoamericana, 22 physicians, including anesthesiologists general surgeons, anaesthesiology residents and



traumatologists, attended to basic course, showing interested and enthusiastic. 16 people were selected then for the instructor course, leading this group Tomás Lambertus, MD, Senior anaesthesiologist working in a main trauma hospital of the country.

Unfortunately, even many efforts to motivate and help them to organize more PTC courses, up to date we have no more basic courses run in Dominican Republic. We don't know what's going on there but our efforts will continue.

**JUAN CARLOS DUARTE**  
**PTC LATINAMERICA REPRESENTATIVE**

### **PTC IN GUATEMALA SINCE 2005**

PTC Guatemala has trained approximately 297 people in 19 basic courses since 2005, running courses in Guatemala City and two other cities of the country. Also, 20 PTC instructors have been trained to teach PTC courses.

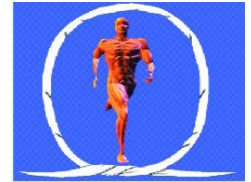
In June 2005, inaugural courses were held in Guatemala City and then 2 more basic courses in the same year for a total amount of 33 people trained, all of them being MDs (General surgeons,



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Anaesthesiologists, general practitioners and anaesthesiology residents). 20 MDs attended to 02 basic courses in 2006 and 22 to 02 basic courses in 2007. 03 courses were organized in 2008 with 44 people trained, including 30 MDs (mainly anaesthesiologists and general surgeons) and 14 medical students. In 2009, PTC Guatemala ran 03 courses for teaching to 75 people, all of the MDs of different specialties, including anaesthesiologists, general surgeons, paediatrics, orthopaedic surgeons and internal medicine. Finally, in 2010, 103 MDs attended to 05 basic courses, including one basic course as "pre-congress workshop" of IX Congreso Centroamericano y del Caribe de Anestesiología y IX Congreso Guatemalteco de Anestesiología.

PTC Guatemala has trained 22 PTC instructors in 02 instructor courses, one in 2005 and other in 2007. This is a multidisciplinary team with anaesthesiologists, surgeons, ICU on board. There was one instructor course in 2003 but there is not a file about it. One of the 22 instructors was trained in a international course in Ecuador 2010.

**VICTOR PINEDA**  
**GUATEMALA PTC COORDINATOR**

### **PTC IN HONDURAS 2007-2010**

Honduras has run 3 basic courses and 2 instructor courses since April 2007 when PTC was launched in the country. 88 people have been trained in the 3 basic courses and 34 of them became PTC instructors after attending one of the 2 instructor courses organized.

In April 2007 PTC started with an "international" course because of representatives of all of countries running PTC for that date were attending to the second summit PTC LA in Tegucigalpa. So, 31 people were registered for the first basic course, including 8 general physicians, 21 specialized physicians (mostly anaesthesiologists) and 2 nurses. 17 of them, all anaesthesiologists, took the instructor course following the basic one.

The second basic and instructor course was held in July 2008 in San Pedro Sula, the second important city of the country, and maybe the main financial



city, training 34 people; 15 general physicians, 11 specialized physicians (anaesthesiologists, orthopaedic surgeons and general surgeon) and 8 nurses. Once again, 17 of the basic course participants took the following instructor course.

Finally, the third basic course took place in La Ceiba, another important city of the country, in August 2010, where 23 people registered for it, including 11 general physicians, 8 specialized physicians and 4 nurses. This time there was not an instructor course.



For this 2011, PTC Honduras is planning to have one basic course for training medical and paramedic team of new one general public hospital in LaCeiba, and for 2012 another basic course in Comayagua, other of the important cities of the country.

**CAROLINA HAYLOCK, MD**  
**SOCIEDAD HONDURENA DE**  
**ANESTESIOLOGIA, REANIMACION Y**  
**DOLOR**  
**PTC HONDURAS PERSON IN CHARGE**

#### **PTC MEXICO** **2008-2010**

PTC in Mexico started in September 2008 in Mexicali, a city on the north of the country in the border with USA. The Federacion Mexicana de Anestesiologia made the request for the starting courses and 15 people registered and were present the totality of time of first basic course, 14 being anaesthesiologists and 1 ICU doctor. 7 anaesthesiologists and the ICU doctor decided took the instructor course and completed it.

Nobody in this group of 8 instructors has shown interest to continue teaching PTC courses at this time unfortunately.

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The Colegio Mexicano de Anestesiologia, organization collecting mainly anaesthesiologists of Mexico DF, took the challenge to restart PTC courses in November - December 2009, organizing 2 basic courses and 1 instructor course. 17 people (9 for the first and 8 for the second) attended to the inaugural basic courses in Mexico DF, including anaesthesiologists, general surgeons, trauma surgeons and a doctor working in prehospital medical emergencies. After complete basic course, 9 people were selected for the following instructor course (6 anaesthesiologists, 1 general surgeon, 1 trauma surgeon and 1 doctor working in prehospital medical emergencies).

Since November 2009, PTC Mexico ran 2 basic courses and 2 instructor courses in 2010. All of the courses were held in Mexico DF. In the first basic course were trained 26 people, 25 anaesthesiologists and 1 general surgeon. 29 people attended to the second basic course including anaesthesiologists, maxillofacial surgeon, general physicians and emergency physicians.

In 2010 there were also 2 instructor courses for 8 people the first one and 10 for the second one. This group of instructors includes anaesthesiologists, 1 general surgeon, 1 maxillofacial surgeon and 2 emergency physicians.



In summary, PTC Mexico has trained 87 people in 4 basic courses and has taught PTC method to 35 instructors since September 2008.

**JAIME RIVERA FLORES**  
**PTC MEXICO REPRESENTATIVE**

## PTC NICARAGUA

On 11, 12 & 13 of July 2011, Nicaragua will become in the PTC LA country number 12, including Suriname. Dr. Becket Arguello, anesthesiologist and ICU, took the challenge to be the first Nicaraguan PTC instructor and to get it aveled to Mexico in June 2010. Since that time, he has been in touch with Dr. Oscar Gonzalez at the beginning, and after with me with the goal of organising the 2x1 PTC inaugural courses in Managua, capital of the country.

Finally the time has come and soon Dr. Arguello will have the opportunity to lead the PTC team of Nicaraguan instructors trained in these courses to take PTC to everywhere it is requested.

## SUMMARY PTC PARAGUAY 2001-2010

In Paraguay we have run 54 PTC courses (Basic), and 3 instructor courses (2002, 2003 and 2006), 34 instructors came to light but today only a few remain active, no more than seven. 864 participants all these years

Out of the 54 courses, 7 PTC light(8 hours) took place, then 46 basic courses were the full ones. 7 PTC light courses( 74 participants) and 46 PTC full basic courses: 790 participants

498 medical graduated doctors

87 medical students of the last 2 courses

104 paramedics

43 dentists

8 maxilofacial Surgeons

12 fire man

38 medical students of the first 2 years



This 2011 we run 2 full basic PTC courses already and 2 more are coming for July and August.

**DR. OSCAR GONZALEZ ALLEN**  
**PRESIDENT APTC-PARAGUAY**

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## SUMMARY OF PTC ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA 2005-2011

Since February 2005, when PTC was launched in Venezuela, until February 2011, PTC Venezuela has trained 458 people, including MD, nurses and paramedics who attended to 23 basic courses, and 33 PTC instructors in 03 instructor courses

06 basic courses to train 95 people were performed in 2005, followed for 05 basic courses to teach 95 people as well in 2006. In 2007, PTC Venezuela suffered an 8 months interruption because of administrative issues and we only ran 02 basic courses for 36 people, but 2008 became the new era's start for PTC Venezuela training 89 people in 04 courses. 67 people trained in 03 courses in 2009 and 32 people trained in 02 courses in 2010 showed us the real effect of socio-economical crisis of the country, which take us to redesign the promotional strategy, so we joined PTC to 171 Foundation, a nonprofit organization included in CEIPEM (Centre of training and instruction for medical emergencies), for taking advantage of its wide spread through social networks reaching almost every corner in our country. We saw the first result in February 2011 when 44 people registered to attend first PTC of this year and now we have another 40 people waiting for the next course in May 2011.



15 of the 23 basic courses were held in Caracas, 03 in Valencia, 02 in Barinas, 01 in Valera, 01 in Puerto La Cruz and 01 in Margarita Island. 02 of 03 instructor courses were held in Caracas and 01 in Valencia (the last one in August 2009).



We have trained 458 people from different areas of health care around the country. We have had people from more than 20 places of Venezuela and we are proud to have taught 261 MD (general practitioners, residents from different specialties and many anaesthesiologists, ICU, general surgeons and orthopaedic surgeons), 117 medical students (mainly from 5th and 6th year of medical school), 24 nurses working in Emergency department, ICU or Operating Rooms, and finally 56 paramedics, including all others involved in prehospital trauma care. PTC Venezuela has trained 33 instructors in our country, and we have another 2 instructors trained in international courses in Honduras and Mexico. Only 16 of all of them keep active the instructor interest in the courses.

PTC Venezuela has been endorsed by Sociedad Venezolana de Anestesiología since August 2005 and we have always had the support of Escuela de Medicina Jose Maria Vargas of the Universidad Central de Venezuela for run the courses in Caracas at its classrooms.

**JUAN CARLOS DUARTE**

**PTC COORDINATOR 2005 - 2010**

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**(These reports are also now available to view online at [www.primarytraumacare.org](http://www.primarytraumacare.org))**

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**We welcome contributions for forthcoming issues of the Newsletter**

- **Course reports and photographs**
- **Upcoming course details**
- **Country visits**
- **All PTC news welcome**

**Please send items to:**

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