

PTC NEWS

Edition 21

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FEBRUARY 2010

THIS EDITION

In this edition, we feature:

- PTC Course Report from Samoa
- PTC Iran - A National Success Story
- PTC Course - Polo Grounds, New Delhi

3 DAY PTC COURSE

One Day Instructors Course - 4th August
Two Day Instructors Course - 5-6th August
Apia Samoa
August 2009

The geography of Samoa and its Challenges

Samoa is located just east of the international dateline and south of the equator. The population is about 200,000. There are ten islands in the group - the two larger islands of Upolu and Savaii and the adjacent islets of Manono, Apolima, Nuutele, Nuulua, Namua, Fanuatapu, Nuusafee, and Nuulopa.

Upolu is the most populated island with the capital of Apia located on the north coast. The national hospital of Samoa is the 'Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital' (TTM Hospital) which is situated in Apia.

The less populated island of Savaii is reached by a one-hour ferry trip. A small triage hospital is located in Tuasivi and staffed by doctors on rotation from the main TTM Hospital. At present, Samoa has no air retrieval facility, and a rudimentary road ambulance service.

PTC in Samoa summary

A PTC course was last held in 2005. It was great to have the continuing support of previous instructors **Tia Vaai** (HOD Anaesthesia) and **Stanley Dean** (Hospital Manager) both Anaesthetists who attended the instructor course in 2005.

A one-day Instructors course was held initially followed by a two-day PTC course.

This resulted in 9 new instructors for Samoa and 25 Samoan participants. The participants were a mixture of healthcare workers, fire service and community members. (See below). A fact in Samoa is that first responders may not be paramedic or healthcare workers.

Generous funding was 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. Aus AID also funded the purchase of an intubating manikin which was handed over to the NHS by Matt Anderson the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa in a ceremony at the conclusion of the PTC course. In attendance at this ceremony also was **Dr. Stanley Dean** GM for NHS Samoa who received the gift on behalf of the hospital.

Full support for the current PTC course was offered from the Samoan Ministry of Health.

The purchase of Manikin and printing of course materials was organised by **Wayne Morriss** and transported from New Zealand by **Dr Bryce Curran**.



Samoa is currently facing some very acute medical challenges

The Road Switch

On September 7th Samoa is taking the controversial step to switch sides of the road for driving. Despite publicity and attempts to improve road markings, many locals feel that the switch is unnecessary and certainly dangerous. The switch has given added impetus for the local Samoan instructors to organise PTC courses prior to the switch. Plans are in place for two more 2-day courses to be held prior to the switch (One course in Apia and one course on the island of Savaii).

Influenza H1N1

At the time of the 3-day PTC course the constant threat of the swine flu pandemic was felt. Sadly Samoa's first swine flu death occurred during the

PTC course at the National Hospital. As a consequence of this case, a number of the anaesthesia instructors were very busy in the ICU during the course, but to their credit the course ran smoothly despite this constant threat

Facilities

The course was held in the Samoan Medical Association Room. Initial plans were to utilise an air-conditioned room but unfortunately this was not available due to its use as the swine flu ward!

A computer projector was available and thankfully the several power cuts that occurred did so at non-disruptive times.

Food and drinks provided from external caterers were excellent.

The course was held in a mixture of Samoan and English. The PTC slides have not yet been translated into Samoan and this task awaits a suitable volunteer?

The participants included a mixture of people from medical and non-medical backgrounds. We did our best to adapt the course content as appropriate to the audience. An effort was made to explain all medical terminology.

Media Exposure and Publicity

A newspaper article appeared in the Samoan Observer on 13th August entitled "Training Boosts Trauma Care" This was an accurate and empowering advertisement of the PTC vision. "But what is so good about this training has been the opportunity to allow Samoans to qualify as instructors in primary trauma care. This will save lives"

http://www.samoobserver.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11839:training-boosts&catid=57:health&Itemid=67

Samoan television reporters also interviewed **Dr Loudeen Lam** and **Dr Bryce Curran** on Wednesday Aug 5th.

MCQs

The shortened version of the MCQ test was presented before and after the 2 day course Pretest:

Total number of participants = 31

Total number > 50% = 14

Total number < 50% = 17

Post test:

Total number of participants = 30

Total number > 50 % = 30

Total number < 50 % = 0

Feedback

24 feedback forms were submitted

PTC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

page 2



Comments:

Should be a PTC course for Savaii Island

Too much English Speaking

Simplify the medical terms

Translate into Samoan

More trainings, more frequently

Language too medical

Different course for medical vs non-medical people

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.

The mixture of participants on the PTC course itself was very appropriate to the geography and resources available within Samoa. Some adaptation was made to the course to allow for non-healthcare workers to still benefit from the teaching. Avoidance or explanation of medical terminology in Samoan language helped. Discussion groups included brainstorming how to improve ambulance and transport in Samoa.

Plans for the future

PTC is firmly established in Samoa with a strong team of PTC Instructors available. Two further PTC two-day courses are planned in the very near future, hopefully before the road switch. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the new Instructors to consolidate their newly acquired skills. A course in Savaii should take priority.

It would be great to see a commitment to at least annual PTC workshops. There is now an appreciation that in Samoa, to take PTC fully to the roadside it is necessary to train Fire, Police and Rural Nurse providers. The current course has shown that this can be successful. Translating the slides and manuals into Samoan would also aid this process.

Instructors' Course, Apia Samoa

Tuesday 4 August

Visiting Instructors:

Dr. Bryce Curran Anaesthesia, Christchurch, NZ

Dr Sam Yockopua A&E, Port Moresby, PNG

Dr. Dyxon Hansell Surgery, Suva Fiji

Local Instructors:

Dr. Loudeen Lam Surgery, Apia, Samoa
Dr. Pesamino Une Anaesthesia, Apia, Samoa

Participants:

- 1. Dr. Mika Ah Kuoi** Registrar A&E
- 2. Dr. Pai Enosa** Registrar A&E
- 3. Dr. Toloa Enosa** Senior Registrar Surgery
- 4. Dr. Petueli Emose** Registrar Surgery
- 5. Dr. Sione Pifeleti** Registrar Surgery
- 6. Dr. Aiga Sesega** Registrar Paediatrics
- 7. Dr. Lamour Hansell**
Senior Registrar Anaesthesia
- 8. Dr. Dina Tuitama** Registrar Anaesthesia
- 9. Dr. Teariki Puni** Registrar O&G

Observers:

Kapuana Ainuu OUM Medical Student
Emmanuel Chan Chui OUM Medical Student

PTC 2 day Course, Apia Samoa

Wednesday August 5th & Thursday August 6th



Two Day PTC Course Instructors

Dr. Bryce Curran Anaesthesia, Christchurch, NZ
Dr Sam Yokopua A&E, Port Moresby, PNG
Dr. Dyxon Hansell Surgery, Suva, Fiji
Dr. Loudeen Lam Surgery, Apia, Samoa
Dr. Pesamino Une Anaesthesia, Apia, Samoa
Dr. Mika Ah Kuoi Registrar A&E
Dr. Pai Enosa Registrar A&E
Dr. Toloa Enosa Senior Registrar Surgery
Dr. Petueli Emose Registrar Surgery
Dr. Sione Pifeleti Registrar Surgery
Dr. Aiga Sesega Registrar Paediatrics
Dr. Lamour Hansell Senior Registrar Anaesthesia
Dr. Dina Tuitama Registrar Anaesthesia
Dr. Teariki Puni Registrar O&G

Two Day PTC Course Participants

Laupama Maiava
FESA (Ministry of Fire & Emergency Service)
Matua Esau Lotu FESA
Steven Williams FESA (Australian Volunteer)
Kemma Solia Police
Tapelu Tapelu Police

PTC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

page 3



Ione Tavai Police
Lanuola AhCheung Police
Lamepa Motootua Police
Alofa Falaniko EPC (Electric Power Corporation)
Shinn Ete EPC
Filomena Nelson Disaster Management Office
Senetenari Makisua
MESC (Ministry of Education - Sports)
Tuua Tamala MESC
Taateo Lavea MESC
Ivanhoe Patu
Private Sector-Paramedical Assistance Trainer
Lupeautino Luamanu TTMH
Shaun Mauiliu TTMH
Aleki Fuimaono TTMH
Nelle Fautua MT2H
Lapa Potoi Tofilau SRC (Samoa Red Cross)
Tasi Young SRC
Sefo Folau SRC
Kosetatino Manase SRC
Kapuana Ainuu OUM Medical Student
Emmanuel ChanChui OUM Medical Student
Julia Lubig
University Of Regensburg Elective Medical Student
Johannev Sleinmann
University Of Regensburg Elective Medical Student

(The full report is now available to read online at www.primarytraumacare.org)

PTC IRAN – A NATIONAL SUCCESS STORY

“It shouldn’t take one much effort to realize why thousands of people lose their lives on the roads throughout the country. Official estimates put the annual death and injury toll as a result of accidents in Iran at 25,000 and 250,000 respectively. Iran’s roads are regarded as among the most dangerous in the world.

(Iran Daily/Islamic Republic News Agency, Nov 10th 2005)

Early in 2007 the first PTC courses were held in Iran in collaboration with Iran University of Medical Sciences & Health Services (IUMS). A small team of foreign instructors from Pakistan and the UK conducted a PTC course followed by an instructor course - in accordance with our usual practice the

newly-trained instructors then ran their own course, with the foreigners in the back seat.

Because of inter-governmental tensions, communications since 2007 have been rather restricted. We were very impressed by the skills and dedication of our colleagues, but had been wondering if any further progress has been made. There have been some encouraging reports, but it has only been in the last month that we have heard the details from our country director, Dr Hossein Saidi:-

“The total number of persons who have been trained by PTC now stands at about 1700! About half these are from Southern Iran, - some doctors working for the oil company and others from the universities in Khoozestan and Bushehr. All the expenses have been met by the inviting institutions At university level, medical students, interns and emergency medicine residents have enrolled in the course. Teaching materials have been provided by the Emergency Department of Hazrat-e-Rasoul medical complex. All the activities by insisting on the name of PTC at our university level were completely free to participants.

In addition the PTC team have designed a new course named PHTC. In this new course the weak points in PTC are targeted and comprehensively described. For example patient transport, and disasters. A series of additional teaching slides have been produced to deal specifically with local needs. PTC is now a very well known name in Iran. It started several years ago is just like a growing tree whose root was placed in our hearts and its leaves grow skywards.

God bless all of you guys.”

Many congratulations to the Iran PTC team for such a huge achievement.

The Original Iranian Team of PTC instructors



PTC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

page 4



PTC COURSE – POLO GROUNDS NEW DELHI

Trauma Care India with IHIF recently held a PTC course at the Polo Grounds, New Delhi.

The course was for players, ground staff, ambulance drivers and others who would reach the injured at Polo ground in case of any trauma.

The report is in video format and is viewable on the PTC website

<http://www.primarytraumacare.org/>

then select:

[PTC WORLD - ASIA - INDIA - VIDEO](#)

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:

admin@primarytraumacare.org