

# PTC NEWS

Edition 33

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**FEBRUARY 2011**

## THIS EDITION

In this edition, we feature: **PACIFIC REGION**

- **PTC Report - Savaii, Samoa (June 2010)**

### 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



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.

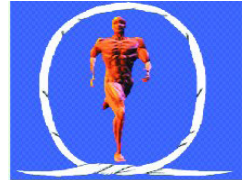


Dr. Tapa Fidow presenting

#### 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 system.

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 Faamatata** 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. **Tautia 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. **Asuir Agauli** Driver MT2  
 21. **Sesilia Taofinau** EN Sataua District Hoapital  
 22. **Sera Semaia** MT2  
 23. **Talalelai Suesue** Lab MT2

**PTC NEWS**

FEBRUARY 2011

page 4



24. **Tuamasaga Tupai** Amb Driver MT2  
 25. **Sakalia Paplii** Driver MT2  
 26. **Faavella Teauanoe** 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. **Aiufi S.Bayer** RM Sataua District Hospital  
 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

**Report compiled by Dr. Bryce Curran**

**(This report is 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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