

## **Surinam PTC Course Report, July and September 2004-09-13**

### **Introduction:**

The first Surinam PTC-courses were held in February 2002, together with an instructor course. Since then the courses were repeated in 2003, with two Dutch, and several local instructors, two of them having attended an official "Oxford" instructor course. Both of those acted as course director during the four 2003 sessions.

Two of the 2003 courses were held for paramedics and nurses. All of them were very much appreciated.

Much logistic support was given by the College of Medicine of Suriname and this support has proved to be sustainable.

In the beginning of 2003 some of the Surinamese PTC members "of the first hour" founded the Organization for Post Academic Education in Surinam, to unite all activities in different fields of Medicine associated with Post Graduate training.

### **Courses:**

In July 2004 two PTC student courses were organized, one for doctors and one for nurses, mostly ICU and ER nurses. For the last course there were so many applications that we decided to repeat the course in September. Between the two July courses we also organized an instructor course, recruiting doctors from earlier courses and the one held in July, some of who participated in the September course. We needed new instructors because several of the ones trained in 2002 have left the country already, a common occurrence in less affluent countries.

Many of the doctors who attended the July course were recently graduated from the College of Medicine and employed in the Emergency Department of the Academic Hospital of Paramaribo. Others are working in the districts or in the sparsely populated rainforest area of Southern Suriname.

The course for doctors followed the usual PTC pattern; the one for nurses was kept a little bit more basic; inserting chest drains was replaced by a session in B.L.S. For the nurses the manual and some of the slides were translated in Dutch.

As we experienced before, during the first day people were a bit shy, but on the second day most people had become very enthusiastic and especially appreciative about the scenario training.

The second MCQ assessment showed an impressive improvement compared to the first in all groups. The only students with no errors in the final test turned out to be a physiotherapist! During the discussion of the MCQ's a heated but justifiable protest arose about one question, which lead us to change that question in the next course.

The instructor course was a one-day affair. A very enthusiastic professional trainer in communicative skills with an educational background made this course very interesting and effective even for the experienced "old" instructors. We were so happy with her skills that we asked her to attend one of the following student courses, where she gave very valuable comments and advice.

**Instructors:**

The instructors for the first two courses were:

Y.Chou-Lie, anaesthesiologist, Deaconess Hospital, Paramaribo

E.Irving, G.P and head of the Skills Lab of the College of Medicine, Paramaribo

L.Akrum-Jong A Kiem, G.P. Paramaribo

E.Kafiluddin, neurologist, Acad. Hospital Paramaribo

M.Jubitana, G.P. Paramaribo

J.Ashruf, registrar in Surgery, Deaconess Hospital, Paramaribo

A.de Wit, anaesthesiologist, St. Vincent Hospital, Paramaribo, course director

For the third course:

Y.Chou, E.Irving, A.de Wit ,J.Ashruf, E.Kafiluddin, joined by newly trained instructors:

E.Jessurun, A.Niekoop, L.Liauw Kie Fa, and C.Fung A Foek.

The new instructors performed remarkably well.

**Local Arrangements:**

All courses were held in the Medical Scientific Institute (MWI), where we were provided with a lecture room and three smaller rooms for skill stations etc. For the lectures power point presentation was used, this functioned very well. Administrative help was excellently given by the secretary of the Skills Lab., a very fortunate arrangement.

Food was good as usual and provided by the MWI-cafeteria.

**Funding:**

A moderate registration fee was asked from the participants to cover the costs made for the courses: meals, refreshments, paperwork, copying, manuals, rabbits for the chest drain skill station, payment for the trainer in communication skills and for the secretary, etc. etc. For the nurses the registration fee was nearly always paid for by their employer.

Most course material like intubation manikins, stiff necks etc. etc. are kept in the Skills Lab. and readily available for the courses. Some of the course material had to be borrowed from the different hospitals, like tubes, masks, laryngoscopes etc. This was never a problem and free of charge.

**Accommodation:**

All instructors and most of the students were from Paramaribo. The rest found accommodation with family in Paramaribo so there was no need for hotel accommodation.

**Conclusion:**

Three successful PTC student courses and a very rewarding PTC instructor course were held in July and September 2004.

Ten new and enthusiastic PTC instructors joined our ranks, which were slowly diminishing, due to departure from Suriname of some "old" instructors.

PTC-courses will be a regular item on the year-program of the Organization of Postgraduate Training in Suriname.

Plans are made to incorporate the PTC course as part of the medical training. In the near future this will be discussed with the Dean of the College of Medicine.

The Surinam PTC committee is exploring the possibility of founding a Caribbean PTC Organization, to make it possible to start courses – with English as official language- in the

Caribbean region. Joining the South American PTC Organization may be difficult because of language differences, since many of the Caribbean countries are English-speaking.

The PTC faculty in Surinam is seeking sponsoring to send one of their very active members to an official PTC instructor course in Oxford, to prepare her for her role as course director.

**On behalf of the PTC-Faculty Suriname 2004,**

**Aagje P.M.de Wit**

Paramaribo, 14-09-2004