

## **Primary Trauma Care Programme in Sri Lanka**

Primary trauma care programme was started in Sri Lanka in the year 2003. The first instructor programme saw 10 consultant Anaesthetists and 10 surgeons trained in the management of victims of trauma. The College of Anaesthesiologists was instrumental in getting down the resource personnel with the help of the World Federation of the societies of Anaesthesiologists and The world health organization.

The College of Anaesthesiologists thereafter took upon their shoulders to propagate the course island wide and to train the junior as well as senior doctors in primary trauma care under the leadership of Dr. Shirani Hapuarachchi. This was well accepted as the country was fighting a war with a rebel group and was experiencing a fair share of trauma island wide.

Our vision was to ensure that the victim of trauma received proper medical care from the time of injury. The target group was the doctors in the entire country barring the area under the rebel group which was only a part of the north and east. To achieve this our plan was to visit the base and provincial hospitals in the entire country as this would give us a good coverage of the entire country due to the very good network of hospitals in the country covering all areas. In fact every 20 kilometers has at least one medical post even in the remotest of areas.

This gigantic task was started in January 2003 with the instructor course which was our first exposure to a well conducted trauma workshop. The mission got off the ground the very next month in February from the North central province. We covered almost the entire country with several workshops in the more vulnerable areas where the number of accidents have been high.

To date we have trained 1079 doctors. We now run a monthly workshop at the National Hospital Sri Lanka every third Thursday. The two day workshop has been reduced to a one day workshop. This is because we cater to any doctor from any part of the country and if it was 2 days then accommodation would become a problem specially in Colombo, as it is quite costly.

Funding was a problem but we did not allow that to hinder our progress. Initially when we were going round the country we found our own transport. The manual was printed by a pharmaceutical company and they provided the lunch and tea for the participants as well. At present as we are holding it in the National hospital where the team is based we have no problem with transport. The "americares" a non governmental organization who came to the country following the tsunami is extending support to us by way of printing the manual and providing tea and lunch for the participants. The director of the Accident and emergency department prints the certificate funded by the government and any other workshops done outside the National Hospital we print the certificates with our private funds. So far we have had 48 workshops.

Future of the programme is very sound. We will continue to have the workshops at the National hospital monthly. Wide publicity has been given to the workshop by the participants themselves and every single doctor is well aware of the programme. All medical students of the Colombo medical faculty is lectured on Primary and secondary survey in their trauma module by Dr. Shirani Hapuarachchi.

Our vision is to ensure proper trauma care to every person who is a victim of trauma in this country. Our mission is to ensure excellent prehospital care and hospital care to the victim of trauma as early as possible and to the best of our ability.

Therefore in the future our objectives are to extend the prehospital care programme 110 to every corner of our country with the help of the fire brigade in the local authorities and with the help of NGOs in the remote areas. At present we have two role models for these two types. Local authority – Colombo Municipal council fire brigade and in Hikkaduwa in the South with the help of Medical Teams International.

Hospital trauma care – Every doctor who mans the accident and emergency departments of hospitals to have completed the Primary trauma care workshop conducted by us. To this end we have established a trauma secretariat under the auspices of the Ministry of Health who will make representations to the ministry on an advisory capacity for future planning of trauma care in the country.

### **Resource personnel**

Dr. Shirani Hapuarachchi	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Ranjith Ellawala	-	Consultant trauma surgeon
Dr. Abeyajeeva	-	Consultant trauma surgeon
Dr. Aluthge	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Pinto	-	Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Dr. Manjula Kularatne	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Tilak Hapuarachchi	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Mahanama	-	Consultant Surgeon
Dr. Ranmali Kulasiri	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Saman Karunatileke	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Hemantha Rajapakse	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Keshari	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Dushyanthi Perera	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Lakmali Samaraweera	-	Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Asantha De Silva	-	Consultant Anaesthetist