

## **PTC REPORT**

**Beirut, Lebanon**

**16-20 June 2012**

### **Purpose**

The purpose was to launch the process of PTC training in Lebanon. In this visit we aimed to train 40 candidates in the Foundation course and 20 in the Instructors' course.

The participants were selected from a range of medical services covering Lebanon:

The Ministry of Public Health  
The Syndicate of Private Hospitals  
The Islamic Health Society  
The Palestinian Red Crescent Society

### **Executive Summary**

This was a successful and productive series of courses resulting in a strong expectation that they will be able to cascade throughout Lebanon in future.

The participants came from a range of hospital systems and health organisations. The courses were hosted by the Ministry of Public Health and MSF Switzerland.

### **Report**

The courses were made possible by the Lebanon office of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Head of Mission: Fabio Forgiione), who assisted greatly in the planning process and sponsored the team's visit.

Dr Jeanne Frossard and Charles Clayton arrived early to make on-site preparations with the kind assistance of MSF. Together they met with leaders of the various participating bodies on 14 & 15 June and ensured the facilities were set up. The other four members of the international PTC team arrived in Beirut on 15 June and the first course started on the morning of Saturday 16 June.

The training facilities were at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital in Beirut. All skill stations, discussion areas and support desks were situated in one, large meeting room, making it easier to manage the overall course processes. Projection equipment was available for the teaching and a slaughtered goat was brought in for the demonstrations of chest drain insertions. The courses were conducted as planned in the “2-1-2” format.

### **Days 1 & 2: The first foundation course**

The overseas faculty consisted of:

Dr Jeanne Frossard, Consultant Anaesthetist, London UK. (Course leader)  
Dr Mohammed Alousi, Consultant Anaesthetist, London UK  
Dr Khaled Dawas, Consultant Surgeon, London UK  
Dr Basel Almahdi, Consultant Anaesthetist, London UK  
Dr Nawfal Mubarak, Pediatric Intensive Care specialist, Basra, Iraq

Between them the faculty have led PTC courses in 10 different countries.

The teaching was conducted in English supplemented by Arabic. The instructors used as many teaching methods as possible; for example, during lectures a question-and-answer dialogue helped to maintain engagement and understanding. It was very much appreciated that the faculty could speak Arabic as this greatly facilitated the scenarios and discussion groups.

Many of the participants were already familiar with trauma management techniques and some had experience in parts of the training curriculum. The emphasis of this PTC course, therefore, was on embedding the processes and keeping them simple. When a power cut caused temporary failure of the lighting and projection equipment, the instructor continued teaching anyway. This demonstrated that it was indeed possible to teach a good course with only minimal equipment.

The results of the Multiple Choice Questionnaire were very positive. The average increase in scores from the beginning to the end was 26%, and one person increased by 109%. At the start of the course the minimum score was 16/28 and at the end the maximum was 26/28. These are excellent results.

A total of 23 attended and completed the first foundation course (see following page).

**Participants – Days 1 & 2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
1. Dr Abdel Aziz Hammoud	general physician	ER doctor	
2. Dr Adnan Hosseini	pediatrician	medical director	
3. Dr Ali Chalhoub	general surgeon	medical director	
4. Dr Ayed Abu Hussein	general physician	ER doctor	
5. Dr Fathallah Fattouh	cardiovascular thoracic surgery	ER director	
6. Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah	plastic surgeon		
7. Dr Hicham Al Mawla	ER resident		
8. Dr Ibrahim Saleh	ER resident		
9. Dr Imad Makki	general surgeon		
10. Dr Jihad Awad	general surgeon		
11. Dr Luay Tawil	nephrologist	ER doctor	
12. Dr Mariam Hassan	pediatrician	ER director	
13. Dr Mohamad Mazen Halawi	Anasthesia & reanimation	Head dept OR & anesthesiology	
14. Dr Mohammed Korkomaz	general surgeon		
15. Dr Mohammed Moussawi	general physician	ER doctor	
16. Dr Mouwafac Hassoun	Plastic/gen surgry		
17. Dr Omar Ayache	Anasthesia & ICU		
18. Dr Pierre Braid	Internist	head of ER	
19. Dr Raed El Hajj	orthopedic surgn		
20. Dr Wael Harb	general physician	ER doctor	
21. Dr Wassim Darwiche	orthopedic surgn	Chief, surgery dept	
22. Mr Hani Haider	registered nurse	medical team leadr	
23. Mr Houssein Kataya	registered nurse	nurse supervisor	

### **Day 3: Instructor course**

All participants in Course 1 were accepted for the Instructor training as their standard was so high, and 21 were able to attend; eight of them were selected to teach course 2.

Normally the overseas PTC team selects the instructors but a new format was chosen this time as there were five candidates from each group. The instructors were preselected by the local institutions before the course began so that they could be allocated time off to run the course on days 4 & 5. This method proved very successful as it meant that excellent teachers who could commit time and energy to PTC were selected. The new instructors had been chosen so that all specialties were represented, i.e. paramedics, surgery and anaesthesia, and the standard format was followed. The participants were given lectures and practice sessions on presentation styles. Pictures of teaching from the course 1 were used to illustrate the talks in the instructor course.

Following the instructor course there was a brainstorming session in order to prepare for the future of PTC in Lebanon. We agreed that the courses must cover all types of hospitals and emergency rooms. Participants will include doctors, nursing staff and paramedics. Later there could be courses for first responders such as the civil defense and fire service. Courses could start with small numbers, e.g. 6 people, in order to overcome logistical barriers.

Representatives were selected for four areas of the country: Beka, North, Beirut and South. There was an oral agreement that instructors from different groups would help with the courses in order to get the cascade starting rapidly. MSF will continue to support the logistics for this and an email forum will be used to keep in touch.

There was a particularly helpful discussion about the motivation for instructors and cascades. There are extensive needs in the country with a constant risk of war, yet existing standards of care are mixed. The health professionals desire professional competence and their motivation for future training is helped if there is some system of recognition, feedback and refreshment.

A total of 21 attended and completed the instructor course (see following page)

**Participants – Instructor Course**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
1. Dr Abdel Aziz Hammoud	General physician	ER doctor	
2. Dr Adnan Hosseini	pediatrician	medical director	
3. Dr Ali Chalhoub	general surgeon	medical director	
4. Dr Ayed Abu Hussein	general physician	ER doctor	
5. Dr Fathallah Fattouh	cardiovascular thoracic surgery	ER director	
6. Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah	plastic surgeon		
7. Dr Hicham Al Mawla	ER resident		
8. Dr Ibrahim Saleh	ER resident		
9. Dr Imad Makki	general surgeon		
10. Dr Jihad Awad	general surgeon		
11. Dr Mariam Hassan	pediatrician	ER director	
12. Dr Mohamad Mazen Halawi	Anasthesia and reanimation	Head dept OR & anesthesiology	
13. Dr Mohammed Korkomaz	general surgeon		
14. Dr Mohammed Moussawi	general physician	ER doctor	
15. Dr Mouwafac Hassoun	Plastic/gen surgry		
16. Dr Omar Ayache	Anasthesia & ICU		
17. Dr Pierre Braid	Internist	head of ER	
18. Dr Wael Harb	general physician	ER doctor	
19. Dr Wassim Darwiche	orthopedic surgn	Chief, surg dept	
20. Mr Hani Haider	registered nurse	medical team ldr	
21. Mr Houssein Kataya	registered nurse	nurse supervisor	

**Days 4 & 5: Second foundation course, led by eight new instructors**

The selected instructors were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr Fathallah Fattouh	cardiovascular thoracic surgery	ER director	
Dr Wassim Darwiche	orthopedic surgery	chief of surgery department	
Dr Ali Chalhoub	general surgery	medical director	
Dr Mohammed Moussawi	general physician	ER doctor	
Mr Hani Haider	registered nurse	medical team leader	
Dr Omar Ayache	Anasthesia & ICU		
Dr Wael Harb	general physician	ER doctor	
Dr Mariam Hassan	pediatrician	ER director	

These new instructors performed extremely well, establishing a good rapport with the new group and illustrating their teaching material with their own photographs of local trauma situations.

The overseas faculty were present throughout second course to coach the new instructors as needed. The feedback continued to be positive; at the end of the course 5 new candidates were selected and will be trained as instructors later on.

As plans develop for the future, if needed some of the international team could return to help with the instructor courses and to monitor progress.

There were 12 participants for the course on days 4 & 5 (see following page). Seven more were expected but roadblocks in the city of Beirut prevented their travel.

Name	Specialty	Position	Email
1. Dr Hassan Joumaa	general physician	1st yr res, intl med	
2. Dr Khaleda Azzam	general physician	ER doctor	
3. Dr Nizar Zahr	general physician	ER doctor	
4. Dr Rita Mitri	Internal medicine	ER doctor	
5. Dr Nada Shamseddine	Internal medicine - Infectious diseases	Head of ER	
6. Dr Raffi Banjarian	orthopedic surgeon		
7. Dr Said Khoury	Gastroenterology	ER doctor	
8. Dr Tarek Mansour	military surgery	ER doctor and ICU	
9. Dr Jihad Boutros	general surgery		
10. Mr Mohammed Cheayto	registered nurse		
11. Dr Samer Saadi	general physician	ER resident	
12. Dr Amer-El Sammak	orthopedic surgeon		

### Meeting with the ATLS leadership

On the last day some of the PTC team (Ghada Abou Mrad, Jeanne Frossard and Charles Clayton) met with two representatives of the Lebanon Chapter of ATLS. They were: George Abi Saad, MD, FACS (Chairman) and Diana Ch. El Skaff (National Course Coordinator).

In Lebanon the Committee on Trauma (COT) organises the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course for doctors, the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course for paramedics and the Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) course for nurses.

This was a productive and informative meeting. We clarified that the PTC courses exist to encourage and equip various types health professional to achieve the highest possible standards of clinical practice in situations where the equipment and facilities are lacking, or where they cannot afford high fees. ATLS clarified that their courses are for a developed context, which at the moment limits its scope. We all expressed our desire to see both systems succeed to the maximum extent. The ATLS leaders kindly offered to publicise the PTC courses on their website.

## **Acknowledgments**

We are grateful to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) for sponsoring and promoting these courses and to the Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH) for the use of their facilities.

In particular we wish to thank MSF's Mr Fabio Forgione (Head of Mission), Ms Allison Jones (Medical Coordinator) and Dr Ghada Abou Mrad (Deputy Medical Coordinator) for their very effective planning and delivery of the programme.

The following leaders in Lebanon's health systems also advised us, expressed support, and sent delegates or observers:

- Mr Hassan Ammar, Head of the Scientific Committee of the Syndicate of Private Hospitals.
- Dr Adnan Husainy, Medical Director of the Islamic Health Society.
- Dr Fathallah M. Fattouh, Director of the Emergency and Outpatients Departments of the Rafik Hariri University Hospital.
- Dr Samer Hussein Chehade, Director of Projects Unit, on behalf of Dr Salah El Ahmed, Director of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.
- Ms Nisreen Bazarbachi, President of the Lebanese Society of Emergency Medicine.
- Dr Antoine Zoghbi, Chief of the Department of Emergencies at the Hotel Dieu de France.

**PTCF**  
**Oxford**  
**22 June 2012**

This report was written by Charles Clayton and Jeanne Frossard. It is sent to the Lebanese PTC hosts with copies to PTCF in Oxford and to all participating instructors.