

**The following report is written by Edward Warren, one of the training faculty at Oxford University.**

The group learned that the world is facing an unprecedented epidemic of trauma. A disproportionate amount of this trauma occurs in developing countries. The morbidity and mortality associated with such trauma can be reduced by early and effective medical management.

We came to appreciate that the Primary Trauma Care Foundation (PTCF) is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to train healthcare professionals to manage trauma in resource-limited settings. The course focusses on the rapid assessment, resuscitation and stabilisation of patients with life-threatening injuries.

The PTCF's first pilot course for medical students in the UK was run on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Twenty one students from the University of Oxford undertook a two day course to provide them with the knowledge and practical skills needed to manage victims of trauma in resource-limited settings. The course was taught by an enthusiastic team of clinicians from a broad range of specialities.

There was a strong emphasis on small group teaching, interactive practical skills sessions and clinical moulages. The two days began with seminars on an ABCDE approach to trauma, before moving on to more advanced cases such as burns, paediatric and obstetric trauma and disaster management. As well as discussions on imaging, triaging, damage control surgery and massive haemorrhage, students were able to practise practical skills such as intermediate airway management, chest drain insertion, gaining intraosseous access and managing patients with suspected cervical spine injuries, all under expert guidance.

Each day ended with clinical moulages based on real life scenarios allowing students to practise their newfound knowledge and skills. Students were challenged with leading their own trauma team and their approach assessed by an experienced clinician. The scenarios allowed students to identify areas requiring improvement and they were also given constructive feedback by their colleagues and assessor. Despite the huge amount of important material covered, the course was run in an informal style with the active encouragement of discussion and ingenuity.

The feedback from students was very encouraging and the hope is to run the course regularly for 5<sup>th</sup> year medical students.

#### **Endorsements Received following the course:**

*"I would like to feedback following the Primary Trauma course to express what a valuable weekend it was. Despite giving up a sunny weekend I felt it was incredibly well organised and I genuinely feel a lot more confident in trauma skills and knowledge and my ability to deal with critically ill patients on the ward. With no more trauma teaching until F1, I thought it was an invaluable day. I hope the medical school continues supporting its activity. I think my improvement score pre course MCQ from 77% to 97% really reflects the amount of learning. I highly recommend this course to any Oxford medical student! In addition it was so enjoyable to practice the moulage situations with such experienced clinicians!"*

Eliz Kilich – Final Year Student

*“At the weekend I was one of the students fortunate enough to attend the PTC course organised by Noel Peter. I just wanted to feedback what a useful and enjoyable experience it was. With electives on the horizon following this course I felt much more able to deal with trauma in these situations, it also encouraged me with my long held ambitions to spend time working as a doctor in places of low resources and high need. Oxford has always prided itself on being a pioneer and I feel that this is another opportunity for us as a medical school to forge ahead. Thanks and best wishes.”*

Josephine Holland – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Graduate Entry Medical Student