

Report on the PTC Foundation Course Yaoundé, Cameroun, Oct 23-28 2017



Summary

This report describes the first PTC courses in Cameroun, organised and supported by Mercy Ships.

We trained 16 local participants on the first course, then chose eight instructors who we trained on a one-day instructor course, and who then immediately went on to deliver a PTC course to 17 more participants.

Overall MCQ marks were high; we were delighted that on both PTC courses - that delivered by foreign faculty, and the one by the newly trained instructors, the MCQ scores increased substantially (17%)

I have begun the process of getting our Camerounian colleagues to set up a national PTC committee. They aim to submit proposals by the time of the next courses to be held in Douala in December.

Background

Cameroun, a country of 24 million people and has never had a PTC course. In this first 2:1:2 PTC course our main aim was to produce a group of local instructors able to teach on the subsequent planned courses in December and March.

Looking at road trauma alone gives an indication of the challenge faced by our colleagues in Cameroun. In the UK, there are on average 2.9 road deaths per 100,000 population annually. In Cameroun that figure is 27.6. If we look at road deaths per 100,000 vehicles, in UK the figure is 5.1; in Cameroun it is a horrifying 1385. That means that one of every thousand vehicles you see will kill someone this year!

Planning and coordinating

Advance arrangements were made for us by Mercy Ships, by Ms Tsiferana Rakotoarisoa and her team, from whom we received a wonderful amount of help and support. They were present with us throughout the course, and provided logistics, administration, a venue (CABTAL centre), publicity, provided comfortable hotel accommodation for visiting faculty, printed all the manuals and course documentation, and many other vital jobs. It was a delight

to work with them. Tsiferana's language skills, planning and management ability are amazing, and allowed our team to focus on their main role of teaching.

As in other francophone countries, we decided in advance that the course would be delivered entirely in French. We now have a full set of French teaching materials including the PTC manual, slide set, instructor manual, scenarios, teaching notes and logistics manual. All were circulated to the team 5 months in advance, and Mercy Ships arranged to have manuals printed for participants, together with an A5 folder for instructors and trainee instructors containing everything they needed; in addition, all new instructors received a USB stick containing the PTC slides and manual.

Preparation and Venue

The venue was a purpose-designed conference room, with plenty of space to accommodate lectures and 3-4 skill stations (balcony space allowed us to expand except during the occasional storm). Refreshments and meals for faculty and students were provided in the venue, and were of good quality.

The ministry of health insisted on making the selection of participants, and this turned out better than expected, with plenty of generalists, but several anaesthetists, surgeons and an emergency medicine specialist. There were also one or two nurses

We delivered a standard PTC 2:1:2 package – a 2 day PTC course, followed by a 1-day instructor course, then the newly-trained instructors then immediately delivering a second PTC course to a new group of students. They were more than capable of doing this, incorporating things they had learned on the instructor course as well as adding some excellent creative ideas of their own.

The second group of participants was similar in composition to the first, and we noticed at least one more potential instructor suitable to attend the Douala instructor course.

Names and contact details of all participants are tabulated in Appendix 1.

Course faculty

Course 1

Dr Mike Dobson, Oxford, UK (Course Director)

Dr Patricia Matondo, Consultant Anaesthetist, Matadi, Democratic Republic of Congo

Dr Olivier Sampo, Flying Doctor Service, Ndola, Zambia

Dr Toky Lapasoa Raharimanana, Emergency Doctor, Madagascar

Dr Colm Lanigan, Consultant Anaesthetist, London.

Instructor Course

As for Course 1

Course 2 (see below for full names)

Dr Serge(Chairman Day 1)

Dr Olga

Dr Marie Paule

Dr Michael

Dr Marie-Therèse (Chairman, day 2)

Dr Staelle

Dr Bonaventure

Dr Aimé

Formal teaching roles were assigned in advance; faculty meetings on the afternoon preceding each course allocated remaining jobs, including leadership of small groups, and essential non-academic roles such as timekeeping and whiteboard scribe.

Given that the newly-trained instructors necessarily only received their teaching assignments at 16.00 on Wednesday, and that many of them would have a 90-minute commute, they were astonishingly well prepared when they arrived to teach at 7.30 on Thursday morning!

Content and structure of the courses

We followed closely the specimen timetables for the PTC and instructor courses as shown in the instructor manual. I have not reproduced them again here.

At the end of the week we held a meeting of all faculty of both courses to consider future options for the growth of PTC in Cameroun. A senior surgeon (Dr Ernest), present for course 2, has kindly offered to be a senior adviser; Major Alain from the Army Medical Corps believes that the armed forces, which have no equivalent training to PTC, would be interested in having one or more PTC courses in the future. I have given him a one-page summary of PTC to present to the head of the army's medical department.

The locally-trained instructors will consider how to form a local association or committee, and will produce an outline plan by the time of the next PTC courses in Douala.

Personal Note and commentary

It has been an immense pleasure to lead this course, not only because it was well received and fulfilled all our aims, but because the faculty who delivered it represent the outworking of PTC strategy to devolve vital functions quickly to local people. I want to illustrate this with thumbnail sketched of some of our team:



Dr Olivier Somp was a participant on a PTC course, where we also trained him as an instructor, in Ndola, Zambia, in 2014. He is a Congolese national, and although he has perfect English it was clear that having been trained he would be able to transfer his skills equally well in French. He is a dynamic and gifted teacher, and accepted my (text) request to teach in Cameroun within half an hour of receiving it. He is well able to understand the difficulties of African medicine - he told me that when he started to study medicine there were 1050 students in first year - by the time of graduation he was one of just 50 who had made it to the end of the course!



Dr Toky participated in the first Mercy Ships/PTC course held on board "Africa Mercy" in Tamatave, Madagascar 2015. She then led on a course in Antananarivo. She is a superbly organised person, inspiring teacher and a great role model for PTC course participants and trainee instructors.



Dr Patricia Matondo, is a consultant anaesthetist in Matadi (DRC) - in fact the only physician anaesthetist in the province of Congo Central. She trained as a PTC instructor under the supervision of Dr Liz Tissinghe (part of the Kings/Kongo project) who was herself trained on the Mercy Ships/Antananarivo course which Toky led.

Three of our five instructors in Yaoundé were African-trained in PTC, and are inspiring role models to course participants. PTC should not, and does not depend on regular infusions of personnel from Europe. This is how development is supposed to work, and it is a privilege to be a part of it.

Acknowledgments

We are most grateful to Mercy Ships for help in planning and preparation, provision of support staff during the course, provision of accommodation and food for all the team members, and all travel expenses for the three instructors based in Africa. Profound thanks are due to our international faculty, and to Tsiferana and her team who gave us outstanding support.

Mike Dobson

October 28th 2017

APPENDIX: List of participants

PTC COURSE 23-24 OCTOBER

Last Name	First Name	m/f	Specialty
Dr Bege	Marie Paule	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Bell	Olga	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Mbega	Romain Charlie	M	Gen. Phys
Dr Gwenang	Dominique Lima	M	Gen. Phys
Dr Akono	Ondo Laryssa	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Nko'o Amvene	Michael Robert	M	Gen. Phys
Dr Ngouatna Djeumakou	Serge Rawlings	M	Anaesthetist
Dr Hollong	Bonaventure	M	Em phys.
Mr Yantilka	Binzamin	M	Nurse
Dr Mbono Edoa	Doriane Murielle	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Ngo Nsoga	Marie Thérèse	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Kemloh Toukam	Astrid Diane	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Zambo	Guy Axel	M	Gen. Phys
Dr Mbonda	Noula Aimé Gilbert	M	22Gen. Phys
Dr Fokam Gamgne	Staelle	F	Gen. Phys
Dr Deffo Kengne	Alain William	M	Gen. Phys
Dr Abouna	Franck David Noel	M	Gen. Phys

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PTC COURSE 26-27 OCTOBER

Last Name	First Name	Gender	Specialty
Mr Ndakeyi	Juslen Fangang	M	Infirmiere Diplômée d'Etat
Dr Njoh	Simone	F	Médecin généraliste
Mr Anoko A Kandi	Fernand Cyrille	M	Infirmiere Diplômée d'Etat
Me Ngo Nyobe	Sophie Corine	F	Infirmiere Diplômée d'Etat
Me Dongmo	Christelle Annick	F	Infirmiere Diplômée d'Etat
Dr Kemme Kemme	Marileine Pricyle Eulalie	F	Médecin généraliste22
Dr Ngoungoure Njoya	Amina	F	MD, Cordo UPEC
Dr Ntone	Samuel	M	Médecin généraliste
Dr Elock Hen	Achille	M	Médecin généraliste
Dr Mvogo	Alain	M	Doctor Lieutenant Colonel
Dr Che	Ernest Ngwa	M	Chirurgien ortho-trauma
Dr Dzukou Tammedjou	Romuald	M	22Chirurgien ortho-trauma
Efe De Melingui	Nelly Rachel	F	Médecin généraliste
Dr Kanouo	Francine	F	Médecin généraliste
Dr Mbenà	Jean De Dieu	M	Médecin généraliste
Mlle Adawa Bamyo	Manuela Kevine	F	Medical student
Dr Toko Mangan	Ivan	M	Médecin généraliste

Dr Abouna was unable to teach on course 2, needs to work as instructor under supervision on Douala Dec 2017 course

Dr Ernest Che, senior specialist (orthopaedics) agreed to act as senior adviser to PTC committee, when formed.

Lt-Col Alain Mvogo, participant, course 2, will present PTC to his commanding officer to consider adopting PTC in the armed services of Cameroun