

Report on the PTC Foundation Course Douala, Cameroun, Dec 11-15, 2017



Summary

This report describes the second of three 2/1/2 PTC courses in Cameroun, organised and supported by Mercy Ships.

A team of four instructors who had completed the instructor training course in October travelled from Yaounde to lead this 2/1/2 course. They were supported by 2 overseas faculty instructors

19 local participants were trained on the first course, 11 instructors candidates were chosen for the TOT of whom 10 participated on the one-day instructor course, and whom 8 then immediately went on to deliver a PTC course to 17 more participants

Dr Georges Etoundi came to visit the course from the Ministry of Health and was very supportive

We were delighted that on both PTC courses, the first delivered by the Yaounde faculty, and the one by the newly trained instructors, the MCQ scores increased substantially.

PTC has now signed an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with MSF (Medicins Sans Frontieres) and it was a great pleasure to have two Camerounian medical personnel from MSF Camerouns to train as instructors and thus help the MSF cascade as quickly as possible

Background

There has been a strong link with Mercy Ships and PTC from some time now and Mercy Ships has supported PTC in Pointe Noire, Madagascar, Benin and Camerouns

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 (La Falaise Hotel), publicity and printed all the manuals and course documentation, and many other vital jobs. As usual, Tsiferana's language skills, planning and management ability are amazing, and allowed the team to focus on their main role of teaching.

The course was delivered entirely in French. The French teaching materials still have some mistakes and since MSF have kindly volunteered to provide professional proof reading of all the materials, Mercy ships are awaiting these. The A5 folders for instructors and trainee instructors proved a success as did the the USB sticks.

Preparation and Venue

The venue was an hotel with a well proportioned room that could accommodate the faculty and all the skill stations. The faculty from Yaounde and overseas mentors stayed here. The catering was good but sadly the management of the hotel were extremely disorganized and on both courses it seemed impossible for them to provide either coffee breaks or meals on time which was extremely disruptive and challenging for the instructors. A larger room was booked for days 4/5 and it was very difficult to work here due to the noise from a large conference being held behind a cloth partition!!.

The standard PTC 2:1:2 package was delivered – 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. The local instructors did an excellent job delivering the course and then delivered the entire instructor course with the mentorship of the foreign faculty. They demonstrated excellent teaching skills.

The second group of participants was similar in composition to the first.

Course faculty

Oversea PTC Faculty (mentors)

Dr Jeanne Frossard (Consultant Anaesthetist, UCLH NHS Trust, London)

Professor Nicole Rakotoarison (Professor of anaesthesia, Antananarivo, Madagascar}

Course 1 instructors

Dr Serge Ngouatna Djeumakou (co-ordinator)

Dr Olga Bell

Dr Marie Paule Bege

Dr Marie-Therèse Ngsoga

Instructor Course

As for Course 1

Course 2

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.

The newly trained instructors were extremely enthusiastic and insisted on arriving at 7am on day 4 which was very commendable

Content and structure of the courses

We followed closely the specimen timetables for the PTC and instructor courses as shown in the instructor manual. These have not been reproduced

The results of the MCQ and confidence matrix were very satisfactory

	MCQ % change	Confidence matrix % change		
Day 1/2	11.4	23.3		
TOT		24		
Day 4/5	21	22.2		

At the end of the week the local instructors had a meeting (attended by Professor Nicole and Dr Jeanne). A full PTC committee was formed, with President, Vice president, treasurer and secretary. Plans were made with the MSF instructors for collaboration, which would be excellent for both parties

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 team, including all travel expenses for the foreign faculty and the Yaounde instructors. Heart felt thanks to Tsiferana and her team who gave us outstanding support.

Jeanne Frossard