

Report on Module 4, 2016 – Trauma

The Trauma module was held at the National Referral Hospital Conference room in Honiara Solomon Islands from February 1st to 11th, 2016. There were 7 trainees in this module. They are Dr. James Tewa'ani from Solomon Islands, Dr. Kabiri Itaka from Kiribati, Dr. Areta Samuelu from Samoa, Dr. Basil Leodoro from Vanuatu, Dr Mark Rokobuli from Fiji and we welcomed new trainees Dr. Naseri Aitaoto from American Samoa and Dr. Felix Diaku from PNG. The lectures were delivered by Dr. Vaughan Poutawera from New Zealand, Dr. Jochen Ruckstuhl and Dr. Gerold Lusser from Switzerland, Dr. Matt Hope from Brisbane, Dr. Des Soares from Brisbane and Dr. Patrick Houasia from Solomon Islands. In addition our senior trainees Stephen Kodovaru, Alex Munamua, George Kabwere and James Tewa'ani also delivered lectures. This helps them to consolidate what they have learnt before and prepares them to continue the program in the future. Dr. Paul Hitchen from Sydney also provided assistance to the team with clinical support. PIOA is now privileged to train 11 candidates from 7 Pacific Island countries.



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In the Trauma module the students were taught a systematic approach to the management of trauma which is an epidemic in the Pacific. This included clinical history taking and a thorough clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the management of trauma including an understanding of the biomechanical principles and management of specific fractures.

The students were assessed with an examination on the final day of the course including a written paper. In addition the students performed various practical tasks each day including external and internal fixation on various fracture configurations in plastic bones. Overall the 10 day module was intense and it was obvious the students were stimulated to learn. There was a marked improvement in their clinical examination skills. They spent most evenings revising the material as each day always commenced with a review session of the material taught the day before. The students are now already reading ahead to prepare for the next module on Spine commencing on 30 May 2016.

Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing four patients and getting the students to present the history and clinical signs of the patients. Their management was then discussed and suggestions for improvement were made. This was a useful exercise as we were able to improve clinical skills. It was also helpful to try and elucidate clinical reasoning and decision making and help with developing these skills.



In the afternoons we did a practical exercise involving a surgical skill. The focus was on trauma, including external and internal fixation of upper and lower limb such as an “open” tibial fracture and mid shaft forearm radius fracture were performed using plastic “bones”. These were greatly appreciated by the students as they were directly relevant to clinical problems they face daily.

Our thanks to the staff and patients of the National Referral Hospital Honiara and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Islands Government for the use of the Conference room and for allowing us to conduct the course there. Our thanks also to our caterers from the Mothers Union Women’s group who provided nutritious food for the duration of the course. Finally this module would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Peace Nexus Foundation and Hans Joerg Wyss and AO Alliance Foundation.