

REPORT
PRIMARY TRAUMA CARE (PTC) COURSES
PTC INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Apia, Samoa
4-8 April 2005

Introduction

Samoa (formerly Western Samoa) is in the South Pacific, about half-way between New Zealand and Hawaii. It consists of two main islands, Upolu and Savai'i. The population of Samoa is about 200,000. The National Hospital (Tupua Tamasese Meaole II Hospital, TTM II) is in the capital, Apia, on the island of Upolu.

Summary

Two 2-day PTC courses and one PTC Instructor Course were held in Apia during the week of 4-8 April 2005. This was the first time PTC has been taught in Samoa.

Participants in the first course were mainly doctors and nurses; participants in the second course included district nurses, ambulance drivers and fire officers.

Course Instructors

1. Dr Tia Va'ai
(Local organiser)
Anaesthetist, TTM II Hospital, Apia
2. Dr Wayne Morriss
(Overseas organiser)
Anaesthetist, Christchurch, New Zealand
3. Dr Douglas Pikacha
Surgeon, Lautoka, Fiji
4. Dr Salamasina Aiono
Anaesthetist, Auckland, New Zealand

Dr Tala Taavao and Dr Navy Collins also both assisted with practical sessions during the first course.

Course Participants

See Appendix 1

23 people attended both days of the first course, mainly doctors and nurses from TTM II Hospital. About 10 other people attended parts of the course when clinical duties allowed. A number of course participants had attended PTC courses when they were medical students in Fiji.

9 people attended the one-day Instructor Course.

About 35 people attended the second PTC. The course was almost entirely taught by the newly trained instructors. Dr Va'ai had arranged for participants to come from all over Samoa and the group included firemen officers, ambulance drivers and district nurses. The Fire / Police Service is equipped with basic first aid equipment and plays a very important role in initial trauma management in Samoa.

Course Programmes

The first course followed a standard 2-day programme.

The timetable for the Instructor Course was very similar to the timetable in the manual but we spent more time practising presentation techniques.

During the second 2-day course, we reduced the time spent on Secondary Survey topics and covered Disaster Management and Triage in more detail. Most of the lectures were delivered in Samoan with English slides.

Venue and Course Presentation

The courses were all held in the Ministry of Health Conference Room, next to TTM II Hospital. This was an excellent venue: a large room with air-conditioning and fans. There was enough room for 5 scenario stations.

A computer data projector, loaned by the Samoan Medical Association, was used for all courses.

Media Coverage

A photo and article about the course appeared in the Samoa Observer newspaper; a story about the courses was also broadcast on SBC One television channel.

Participant Feedback

Course evaluation forms were received 17 participants after the first 2-day course. Feedback was very positive with a number of requests for repeat courses. Several people commented on the scenarios being very helpful and a few thought the lectures were too detailed. A couple of people suggested having more equipment for the skill stations and scenarios.

32 forms were received after the second 2-day course. Feedback was also very positive with 11 people asking for more courses in the future. Five participants thought that the medical terminology needed more explanation or simplification and a couple suggested translating the course into Samoan.

Success and Relevance of the Visit

Our main objective was to introduce PTC to Samoa. It was very pleasing that a number of doctors now working in Samoa had previously done the course in Fiji and were familiar with many PTC principles.

The participants in the first course were mainly TTM II Hospital staff; the second course involved a wider cross-section, with participants coming from a variety of medical and non-medical backgrounds. Dr Tia Va'ai did a great job in organising participants from all over Samoa.

We also trained a strong group of instructors. In my experience, it is often difficult for newly trained instructors to get additional time off clinical duties to put their skills into practice, so it was very pleasing that the second two-day course was almost entirely taught by new instructors.

The second course was modified to take into account the different backgrounds of the participants. Many of these are involved in the initial response to trauma and we felt it was important to concentrate on Primary Survey topics, triage and disaster management.

Plans for the Future

I discussed the possibility of more PTC courses in Samoa with Dr Tia Va'ai, Dr Stanley Dean (Assistant Chief Executive Officer) and some of the instructors. I hope that future courses could be run at minimal cost, possibly annually, and I would be very happy to help from an organisational point of view. A couple of people suggested that it would be very helpful if more staff members from the Outpatient & Emergency Department (OPED) could attend future courses.

Dr Dean, Dr Aiono and others suggested translating the slides and manuals into Samoan. This would undoubtedly improve understanding for many course participants.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr Tia Va'ai, Dr Stanley Dean and Dr Tala Tava'ao for their hard work organising the course, including the meals! We are also very grateful to Ms Palanitina Toelupe, Chief Executive Officer, and the Ministry of Health.

Thanks also to Dr Douglas Pikacha and all the instructors for their hard work and enthusiasm. I also appreciate the support of senior medical and nursing officers who allowed their staff to attend the courses.

The PTC courses were largely funded by the Pacific Island Project (AusAID), administered by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons – thanks very much to Karen McKay and Narelle O'Sullivan. I am also very grateful for the assistance of the Annette and the PTC Foundation.

Wayne Morriss

17 April 2005

Appendix 1

PTC Course 1 (4-5 April 2005)

Instructors

Morriss, Pikacha, Aiono, Collins, Ta'avao

Participants

TTM II Hospital

1. Fiona Hunt, Intern 1, Paediatrics
2. Rossana Tofaeono Tile, Intern 1, Paediatrics
3. L'amour Hansell, Intern 2, Paediatrics
4. Navy Collins, Registrar, Surgery
5. Suesue Lagaaia, Registrar, Ophthalmology
6. Fuifatu Tevaga, Registrar, O&G
7. Pesa Une, Registrar, Anaesthesia
8. Loudeen Lam, Registrar, OPED
9. Natasha Mamea, Nurse, OT
10. Makalita Etuale, Nurse, OT
11. Tainefu Faaleolea, Nurse, OT
12. Florence Collins, Nurse, AC7
13. Rosa Taape, Nurse, AC7

14. Masele P, Nurse, AC8
15. Juliana Tuimavave, Nurse, AC8
16. Fa'amano Sua, Maternity
17. Tamalii Nielsen, Nurse, OPED
18. Fetii Isaako, Nurse, OPED
19. Lindsay Hill, elective student
20. Matagofie Alofega, RN, Paediatrics
21. F. Soti, Ministry of Sports, Education and Culture (first day)

Savai'i

22. Dyxon Hansell, Registrar 1, Savai'i
23. Ima Solofa, Registrar 1, Savai'i

At least 10 other people attended parts of the course when clinical duties allowed.

PTC Instructor Course (6 April)

Instructors

Morriss, Pikacha

Participants

1. Navy Collins, Surgical Registrar
2. L'amour Hansell, Intern 2
3. Dyxon Hansell, rural rotation, Savai'i
4. Ima Solofa, rural rotation, Savai'i
5. Tala Tava'ao, Othopaedic / General Surgeon
6. Fuifatu Tevaga, O&G Registrar
7. Loudeen Lam, ENT / OPED Registrar
8. Suesue Lagaaia, Ophthalmology Registrar
9. Pesa Une, Anaesthetic Registrar

PTC Course 2 (7-8 April)

Instructors

Collins, Une, Va'ai, Lam, Lagaaia, Tevaga, L Hansell, Morriss, Pikacha

Participants

1. Liulauulu Faaleolea, RN, Lalomanu Hospital, Upolu
2. Tapuni Tanielu, Nurse, Tuasivi Hospital, Savai'i
3. Lupe Leuila, RN, Tuasivi Hospital
4. Leaso Tiatia, Nurse, Safotu, Savai'i
5. Moe Pua, RN, Sataua Hospital, Savai'i
6. Setefano Leota, RN, Lufilufi Hospital, Upolu
7. Luse Vaeluaga, Community Nurse, Upolu
8. Joseph Aukuso Sua, Community Nurse, Upolu
9. Seira Taueva, Community Nurse, Upolu
10. Valelia Ilalio, RN, Foalalo Health Centre, Savai'i
11. Saufua S T, Nurse, TTM II
12. Luisa Popo, RN, OT, TTM II Hospital
13. Aitofele Lafaele, Airport Authority
14. Ioane Iosefo, Airport Authority
15. Goretti Wulf, Samoa Red Cross

16. Tavita Fesolai, Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture
17. Faamoemoe Soti, MESC (second day)
18. Karanita Enari, MESC
19. Imo Alani, Ambulance Driver
20. Uloaga Ulisipati, Ambulance Driver
21. Tuamasaga Tupai, Driver, Tuasivi Hospital
22. Sam Lagaaia, Driver, Tuasivi Hospital
23. Solofua Tafa, Ambulance Driver, Tuasivi Hospital
24. Falaniko Naniseni, Ambulance Driver, Tuasivi Hospital
25. Logomu Laulu, Driver
26. Moaga Misipati, Ambulance Driver
27. Rupe Une, Physiotherapist, TTM II
28. Malagamaalii Levi, Fire Service
29. Tony Hill, Fire Service
30. Tavita Faasoo, Fire Service
31. Laupama Maiava, Fire Service
32. Veli Lalogafau, Fire Service
33. Petelo Telefa, Fire Service
34. Ianeta Meleisea, Fire Service
35. Fuafiva Aleaga, Fire Service
36. Vaalele Tofa, Fire Service
37. Tapa Fidow, Medical Student

Appendix 2: Course Programme: 7-8 April 2005

DAY 1

0830-0845	Introduction		WM
0845-0900	Local Trauma Perspective		Loudeen
0900-0930	Primary Survey		Tia
0930-1000	Airway and Breathing		Pesa
<i>1000-1015</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>		
1015-1045	Circulation		Navy
1045-1200	Skill Stations	Basic airway opening	Pesa
		Bag-mask	Fatu
		Cervical Spine	Loudeen
		Log roll	Navy
		Needle decompression	Lamour
<i>1200-1300</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>		
1300-1330	Demonstration Scenario (bad and good)		All
1330-1500	Scenarios (five)	All (Lamour, Pesa, Navy, Fatu, Suesue, Loudeen)	
<i>1500-1515</i>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		
1515-1545	Secondary survey		Lamour
1545-1615	Chest Trauma		Suesue

DAY 2

0830-0915	Abdominal and Limb Injuries		Navy / Suesue
-----------	-----------------------------	--	---------------

0915-1000	Head and Spinal Injuries		Loudeen / Lamour
1000-1030	Paediatric and Obstetric Trauma		Fatu
<i>1030-1045</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>		
1045-1115	Burns		Pesa
1115-1230	Workshops (2 x 3)	Analgesia, transportation Paediatrics Neuro	All
<i>1230-1315</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>		
1315-1430	Disaster Management: (Aeroplane crash at Faleolo Airport)		Navy
1430-1515	Scenario (Bus crash – 10 victims – triage, communication etc)		All
<i>1515-1530</i>	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
1530-1615	MCQs and discussion		
1615	Close		