

## **Suriname PTC Course report, January 2010**

**Introduction:** PTC started in Suriname in 2002, since then 20 student courses were held, in the first years mainly for doctors, in more recent years at least half of the courses have been organized for nurses. Two instructor courses have been organized and one refresher course. In 2003 PTC became part of SPAOGS, the Organization for Post Graduate Education in Suriname.

### **Courses:**

In 2008 we changed the set-up for the PTC courses. Instead of organizing everything: the venue, catering, all the paperwork, we started offering the course to specific organizations. They would do all the logistics and we would just be concerned with recruiting the instructors and “do” the course. This turned out to be a very good arrangement. The first time we held the course in this way was for the personnel of the rescue heli team. The course was held in a hangar on the local airport. We sometimes had to interrupt the lectures because of the noise of planes arriving or taking off. The second course in this manner was a course organized for the Emergency department of the Academic hospital of Paramaribo. The course was held in the Surgery Policlinic with four small offices to have the workshops and scenarios and the large waiting room for the lectures. We asked a small fee for the certificates and other costs and everybody was very satisfied.

In 2009 we planned some courses, but due to all kinds of circumstances they didn't materialize.

End of 2009 the Emergency Department of the Academic Hospital asked if we could organize a course for the recently arrived doctors in their department. Also the Regional Health Service wanted to participate, because they are planning to set up several small trauma centers outside the capital Paramaribo, to be able to take some of the burden of the frequently overcrowded big Emergency Department of the Academic Hospital in Paramaribo.

So a well attended PTC course was held on the 23<sup>d</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2010.

### **Participants:**

12 doctors from the Emergency Department of the Academic Hospital

15 doctors from Regional Health Centers

Two of the participants didn't finish the course for unknown reasons.

For the second time the courses were held in the spacious Surgery Department, with ample room for the different workshops and skill stations.

Both courses followed the usual PTC pattern, including a very much appreciated workshop on X-rays, where the students were trained to interpret X rays of the cervical spine, thorax and pelvis.

Nearly all slides as well as the student manual have been translated in Dutch, the official language in Suriname.

Again we used the most recent MCQ list - also translated in Dutch- which turned out to be less equivocal than the old one. As usual the results of the pre-test

were not very good, even though the students received their manual at least a week before the course. To our relief the second MCQ showed an impressive improvement (pretest mean number of faults 8.7 – posttest 3.36). During the group-sessions there were very interesting discussions about the working conditions in the different parts of the country.

### **Instructors:**

The instructors for the courses were:

Y.Chou-Lie, M.Tjon Sie Fat, anesthesiologists.

L.Akrum- Jong A Kiem, general practitioner,

L.Liauw Kie Fa medical director of the Academic Hospital

E.Kafiluddin, neurologist, M.Baptista, assistant neurologist

R.Ramtahalsingh radiologist,

A.van Kanten, surgeon

Course director for the course was A.de Wit

### **Finances:**

Because the course was held in the Academic Hospital, the PTC organization didn't make high costs and furthermore these were paid for by the Academic Hospital .

Most of the course material is owned by the Surinam PTC foundation and where necessary, supplemented privately.

### **Conclusion:**

A successful PTC student course for doctors was held in Paramaribo.

The group turned out very interested and enthusiastic; one of the reasons why the course went very smoothly.

It has become clear that there is an urgent need to recruit new instructors. The same instructors turn up every time and the burden upon them is very heavy. Also the demand for courses is growing, because of more awareness of disaster management. Already at this moment there has been a request for two PTC courses for the nurses working at the Emergency Department or for the Regional Health Service. The Ministry of Health wants to organize courses for health workers involved in disaster management and has asked PTC-Suriname to participate.

Plans to incorporate the PTC course in the medical curriculum have not materialized up till now.

And every year we keep hoping that in the very near future some members of the South American PTC organization or even some hotshots from headquarters in Oxford will be able to come to Suriname to breathe some fresh air into our rooted PTC routines.

Aagje P.M.de Wit  
PTC representative for Suriname

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