

OFFICIAL REPORT OF PTC VENEZUELA, Feb.18-21.2005

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

To run two PTC courses, one PTC basic or conventional and one PTC instructor's to Venezuelan Doctors. and to spread the concept of PTC in this new country.

PLANNING AND COORDINATING

The real - great effort lies on Dr.Juan Carlos Duarte, a local anaesthesiologist, interested in a new method of learning Trauma management, and then teach Trauma management to others.

We must also thank Dr.Pedro Ibarra, our actual Latinamerican leader of the Educational Committee of the WFSA in this region.

They made contact with me, as regional PTC Chairman, to coordinate all things related to PTC Courses, and Dr.JC Duarte did a great job in a record time of less than 2 months!!

We are really convinced that PTC is a valuable tool from now on in Venezuela.

COURSE PARTICIPANTS

17 Doctors took place on the Basic course: 8 anaesthesiologist, 5 surgeons, 2 traumatologist. 1 nurse(Male in ICU), 1 fireman and 1 intensive care Doctor. They all completed the 2 day course and received the certificates at the end.

12 Doctors took the instructor's course, 4 anaesthesiologist, 5 surgeons, 2 traumatologist, 1 ICU Doctor.

They all received the 2 full day instructor's course and got they Diplomas at the end.

There are 12 new PTC Instructors in Venezuela.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Genuine PTC instructors from 3 countries were in Caracas leading the 4 day 2-courses. From Ecuador, Dra.Nelly Castro, From Chile: Dr.Italo Zamudio, From Paraguay, Dr.Roberto López, Dr.Hugo Gomez(PTC Paraguay leader) and Dr.Oscar González Allen.

This was a second line, South american Team, with various courses behind them.

DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES

The arrival to Caracas took several hours from one instructor to another. Roberto Lopez and Oscar González Allen arrive together 3 am on day 17 february. Dr.Hugo Gomez midday on the 17th, Nelly Castro, pm on the 16th, first to arrive, and Italo , late on the 17th.

They all together stayed at the Hotel"Paseo Las Mercedes", in Center Caracas, a modern, very convenient environment, with a big mall included, all facilities on hand for all.

The venue for the Courses was the Central University of Caracas, Escuela de Medicina;"Dr.José María Vargas", de Caracas, a place about 20 Kms from the Hotel. Local Doctors drove us everyday, early morning and evening, specially because there is a huge traffic in Caracas at all times. That is why nobody spent one dolar in transportation.

The venue was very convenient, and the main speakers room was easy to handle during the day. The use of an In Focus device was available the 4 days long, during the instructors course, the OHP was out from the beginning (on instructor's course) and the students had to use the flipchart straight ahead without much problems(Flexibility!!), and they did very well.

Food and coffee was provided with no problems at all, also beverages and sweets, just in case somebody need it.

At the end they print the Diplomas at the same venue and were rendered to the new assistants and instructors, as well as to each members of the crew.

Everything went well in the venue, and the only small inconvenience perhaps was the big distance from the Hotel, but we had in mind that this was good because we all had the chance to see Caracas in various places, day and evening, a huge, modern city.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Nil. We encouraged them for future events to promote further the PTC courses to the media.

COMMENTS ON PTC BASIC

Feb.18-19, a two day conventional course, following the same structure that we normally run on a type course like this. The performance during the test was great, from 85 to 100% correct answers, they were all(90%), ATLS students and instructors, and did not surprise us at all. We knew it beforehand.

All of the students participated very actively and they all received their Diplomas, included the Fire man-rescuer officer, the ICU nurse. The 5 member crew had one particular topic to go through, and all went uneventfully well.

COMMENTS OF PTC INSTRUCTOR'S

12 out of 17 Doctors participated actively, and only after the end of day 1, they all said that the Instructor's course is very interesting, and even better, at the end of day 2, they all claimed: "This is the best instructor's course we ever had before in Venezuela, included the ATLS ones, and PHTLS".

We were so surprised at the beginning, and we all feel very proud of our general performance. It was very demanding, high standards of knowledge from all participants, and finally we could feel that PTC has a good future in Venezuela.

The final 3 part presentations from the students was just excellent, and they were very happy the way we taught them, the scenarios were just perfect and all learned a lot.

RELEVANCE OF THE VISIT

After the end of the instructor's course, Dr.Juan Carlos Duarte(Venezuelan PTC Leader), took me for dinner and introduced me to Dra.Gioconda de Lizarraga, President of the SVA, Dr.Xavier Marquez, Secretary(Next President), and Dra.Beatriz Maneiro.

After a cool starting, I explained them the spreading of the PTC project during the last 7 years and they finally understood that PTC is possible in Venezuela, and in the next course they will participate as students, to become part of the course project.

I am very grateful to Dr.Juan Carlos Duarte(Anaesthesiologist), and Dr.Enrique Montbrun(Surgeon), and first hand to Juan Carlos, they will run PTC courses in the future, and I can assure that they will do it in the best way possible. They both are

ATLS and PHTLS Instructors, but now married to a new and best model, the PTC project.

PTC CRITIQUE FORMS

We had them from all students, our lowest qualification was 2 and mostly we had 3 to 5 in their opinion about PTC and us. We are quite happy after that.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The Venezuelans are planning to run many PTC courses from now on. The seed is there, and will grow fast I guess. They think that 7 courses per year at least they can run there without much problems. I told them it is not that easy, and wish them luck. I warn Dr.JC Duarte that in many situations the leader can feel very abandoned and lonely, but I am sure he will find the way, Enrique is very, very good as well. We trust them for the brilliant future of PTC in Venezuela.

MATERIALS PROVIDED FOR THE COURSE

They all had the PTC Manual, well in advance. The high standards on both test, showed that reality. This was the strongest group that we ever taught so far, and is a great opportunity for us instructors to improve even more our teaching skills.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PTC Latin America is tremendously indebted to Dr.Juan Carlos Duarte, the Venezuelan PTC Leader, and also to Dr.Enrique Montbrun, both very active Doctors in Anaesthesia and Surgery. The future of PTC is brilliant in their hands.

As Chairman of PTC Latin America I am very grateful to all instructors that had the opportunity to visit Caracas and run perhaps and so far, the most important and "non return" step of PTC towards success!!

Thanks to my friends from Paraguay, Dr.Hugo Gomez, and Dr.Roberto López. My special and warm thanks to Dra,Nelly Castro from Quito, Ecuador, and our fellow instructor and friend, Dr.Italo Zamudio, from Santiago de Chile.

This was a great PTC Course, and for the future we see a sparkling light ahead of the PTC project.

A special thanks to Dra.Angela Enright, to Dear Ruth Hooper, Dr.Frank Walters, our natural liaison, Dr.Michael Dobson and wife and Dr.Douglas Wilkinson.

To Abbott Venezuela and Organon Venezuela, and of course to the "Escuela de Medicina, Jose Maria Vargas", de Caracas, Venezuela.

To all Venezuelan colleagues that treated us like real friends, and acted as taxi drivers for us all, at all times.

My many thanks to all of you

Dr.Oscar González Allen
Chairman PTC Latin America