

PTC course activity in PNG
Report to the PTC Foundation
June 2007

(For the 2008 World Conference of Anaesthesiologists)

Brief overview of the history of the programme

The PTC course was introduced to PNG in 2002, when AusAID supported a resident emergency physician and visits by seven others to promote the development of emergency medicine there. Since then various funding sources have been tapped to maintain a series of visits by emergency physicians to build the emergency medicine programme. One activity of the programme has been the support of local emergency medicine trainees and other leaders in emergency medicine in the provision of PTC courses at provincial hospitals. In May 2006 PNG doctors attended a PTC Instructor course for the first time. A PTC Instructor course will be conducted in PNG for the first time in August 2007. It is hoped that with increasing capacity within the local medical community, PNG doctors will be providing PTC courses without outside assistance in the near future.

Courses presented

2004	2 sites, 3 courses		
Date	Site	PNG Instructors	visiting
Instructors			
March	Lae	Kambue, Mathew	Curry
	Port Moresby	Yockopua, Seve, Amai	Curry, Chenhall
August	Port Moresby	Seve, Amai	Symmons
2005	7 sites, 12 courses		
Date	Site	PNG Instructors	visiting
Instructors			
February	Mt Hagen	Lester, Kibob,	Jensen
March	Madang	Atua, Didei,	Curry
May	Goroka	Lester, Kibob, Dala,	Symmons
	Lae	Kambue,	Symmons
June	Mt Hagen	Lester, Kibob,	Hodge
	Rabaul	Plinduo,	Todhunter
July	Madang	Atua, Didei,	Gunja
	Kimbe	Kambue	
August	Port Moresby	Yockopua, Raka, Aisi, Marjen ,	Inglis, Rennie
September	Goroka	Kambue, Yockopua, Atua,	
		Lester, Kibob,	Rennie
November	Lae	Kambue,	Chenhall
	Rabaul	Plinduo,	Chenhall
2006	8 sites, 14 courses		
Date	Site	PNG Instructors	visiting
Instructors			
February	Mt Hagen	Kibob,	
	Symmons		

	Goroka	Dala, Robert,	Symmons
March	Port Moresby	Yockopua, Raka, Lester, Marjen,	Curry
	Rabaul	Plinduo,	Curry
April	Alotau	Samof, Yaubihi, Seta,	Lee
June	Madang	Atua,	Rennie, Kruk
	Port Moresby	Kambue, Raka, Lester, Aisi, Marjen, Kila,	Curry
August	Rabaul	Plinduo,	Grainger
	Goroka	Kambue,	Jensen
	Alotau	Samof, Yaubihi, Seta, Tokabilula,	Jensen
September	Kimbe	Seneca,	Spillane
October	Mt Hagen	Kibob	Symmons
November	Madang	Atua	Rennie, Hui
	Wewak	Turharus, Sr Joseph	Rennie, Hui

2007

Date	Site	PNG Instructors	visiting
June	Lae	Kambue, Kibob	Hall
	Alotau	Samof, Yaubihi, Seta, Tokabilula	Hall, Hui
	Wewak	Turharus, Sr Joseph, Atua	Hall, Hui

Participants

Numbers of participants have varied from 15 to 60 (at the first course of any sort ever presented in Wewak). All courses have included a mix of doctors, health extension officers (HEO), nurses, anaesthetic technical officers, community health workers, and trainees. The mix has varied, with more doctors in early courses in Port Moresby and more Health Centre staff (HEOs, nurses, community health workers) in the more rural provincial hospitals (eg Alotau, Kimbe, Wewak).

Names and contact details of active Instructors

The leading organiser of PTC courses in PNG has been Chris Curry.

Chris Curry

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Five instructors participated in the PTC Instructor Course conducted in Melbourne in May 2006.

PNG:	Yongoe Kambue:	kambue22@yahoo.com.au
	Sam Yockopua:	nungasyockus@yahoo.com
	Vincent Atua:	vincent_atua@hotmail.com
Australia:	Antony Chenhall:	Antony.CHENHALL@svhm.org.au
	Georgina Phillips:	Georgina.PHILLIPS@svhm.org.au

Feedback from courses

Feedback has been positive. An example is provided:

The first course in Alotau, April 2006

Email from Lucas Samof, Anaesthetist, Alotau Hospital, Milne Bay:

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“Marian Lee, Emergency Physician from Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, came and conducted the first Primary Trauma Care course in Alotau, 5/6 April 2006.

It was a great success, in light of me being only there for two weeks, with the support of Drs. Geof Mataio the CEO, Noel Yaubihi the DMS, Westin Seta the Surgeon.

There was the PNG record of 40 participants and 4 instructors. Dr. Yaubihi did a very good job of preparing the program. Everybody enjoyed themselves for the two days. There were a lot of scenarios and adequate lectures/seminars.

Everybody was so impressed and excited about the scene that I put on according to Dr. Lee's case of a drunken man involved in a MVA sustaining a left tension pneumothorax. I tried my best to breath using my right chest, it seemed to work well.

Dr. Seta our surgeon talked on chest-tube insertion, abdominal trauma, and limb injuries. He was so happy that we had involved him. He later told everybody that nobody recognized him as a resourceful person until the PTC Course came along to Alotau.

Local expertise and resources, with an International System of care: that is what the PTC course offers.

BIG CHEERS to EVERYBODY!!”

The second course in Alotau, August 2006

Letter from Lucas Samof to Rob McDougall:

“Subject: Brief Report on PTC Course, Alotau, Papua New Guinea.

We have completed another successful PTC Course here in Alotau, with assistance from Simon Jensen, Emergency Physician from Queensland, Australia.

Westin Seta our surgeon, now the acting Director Medical Services, who participated in the two courses as an instructor, in his closing remarks said the second PTC Course has improved markedly from the first one. He was so impressed and excited. And so too Noel Yaubihi, who was the DMS and helped in the first course. He is now the acting Chief Executive Officer, and helped with the printing of the Manual, MCQs, and Course Evaluation.

We started with detailed planning on Monday August 21, involving our Medical Officer in-charge of the Emergency Department, Greg Tokabilula, who had just completed the EMST Course. It worked out so well for Simon and me, with Greg's involvement. The idea was to get him exposed to the planning and execution of the course so that he would help with subsequent courses.

We also involved our Nursing Officer in-charge of the Emergency Department. She was very helpful in the skill stations. Dr. Jensen thought she could have been a Medical Officer.

The course presentations were shared between Dr. Jensen, Dr. Tokabilula, Dr. Seta, and myself, whereas the skill stations, case scenarios, demonstrations of Primary & Secondary survey, and log roll were done by Drs. Jensen, Tokabilula, and myself, with assistance from our Nurse from the Emergency Department, Sister Kila Koupere.

There were 33 participants, due to incorporation of Alotau General Hospital's disaster plan. Dr. Seta is the chairman of the hospital disaster committee, which has recommended that all hospital staff in strategic locations must undergo the PTC Course, and the staff from Rural Health facilities as well. Hence, we had six medical officers, two health

extension officers, seven nursing officers, and seven nurse aids from the hospital. The Rural Health facilities supplied two health extension officers, five nursing officers, and four nurse aids.

We started the course on Tuesday morning with introduction, prayers, and opening by the Alotau Hospital's acting CEO, Noel Yaubihi. He mentioned his intention of the importance of certification from this course as a requisite for employment in the hospital.

After the formalities, we presented the scenario of Alotau Emergency Department receiving a trauma patient with tension pneumothorax and open fractured femur. Bleeding was attended to first and the patient died. After the Primary Survey presentation, the scenario was demonstrated correctly. Everybody was impressed and so excited. The senior and experienced officers even admitted later that their inappropriate immediate management had resulted in so much unnecessary morbidity and mortality. I replied and said that is the reason why this course was formulated, and I took a special interest in it because it is relevant and addresses the problems of preventable morbidity and mortality, not only in trauma cases, also attending to any critical patient. There must be a structured approach, starting with Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Neurological assessment, Exposure, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Primary Trauma Care Course is the simplest course that offers such an approach. For 30 of the participants, this was the first time they had undergone such a course. Most of them had graduated from their colleges 10-15 years ago, one was 20 years ago. The health extension officer from the private palm oil company invited me to go to his facility and run the course in his area. I told him to organize it and I will go with my team from the hospital.

With assistance from Assoc. Prof. Chris Curry and his team of hard working emergency physicians, Marian Lee and Simon Jensen, plus my senior colleagues Noel Yaubihi (former chief anaesthetist, A/CEO), and Westin Seta (surgeon, a/DMS), we have now built a team in Alotau that can continue to prosper. This includes our Emergency Department and anaesthetic personnel.

On behalf of the Alotau Hospital, the participants, the people in Alotau and Papua New Guinea, I would like to sincerely thank the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthetists and the team above for something worthwhile. The PTC Course, the EMST Course, the CCrISP Course and the Course on Emergency & Disaster Medicine that I have attended are the courses that Papua New Guinean medical officers must be exposed to in order to contribute meaningfully to the immediate care of critical care patients in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you very much.

Lucas Samof

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Financial Summary

The major supporters of visits by PTC instructors to PNG have been:

- MONAHP – Medical Officer Nurse Allied Health Project – of AusAID
- MONAHP Trust Fund – established by the RACP for training in PNG
- MSSP – Medical School Support Project – of AusAID

- ACEM – Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
- THS – Tertiary Health Services project – of AusAID

Other providers of funding have included:

- CBSC – Capacity Building Service Centre – of AusAID
- ASA – Australasian Society of Anaesthetists
- OilSearch of PNG
- St Vincents Hospital, Melbourne

Visiting instructors have contributed from leave/conference/study/educational allowances and from personal resources.

Future Plans

Instructor Course

School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of PNG, August 2007

Planning is advanced for the provision of an Instructor Course in Port Moresby for local instructors. This will be followed by a Provider Course, giving instructors the opportunity to practice new skills.

It is hoped that PNG national instructors will be able to run PTC courses in their own hospitals without outside support in the near future.

Chris Curry

8 June 2007