

# **REPORT OF THE PTC REPRESENTATION AT THE SURGICAL SOCIETY OF KENYA (SSK) CONFERENCE IN MOMBASA APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> TO 26<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

## **PREAMBLE**

PTC was introduced to Kenya in 2011 by a team of visiting UK Orthopaedic surgeons who had been operating on projects at Nanyuki District Hospital (NDH) since 2009. They were working within a project called the Kenya Orthopaedic Project (KOP) lead by Dr Lucy Obolensky, supported by another UK charity-MEAK. Through discussions with two Kenyan surgeons Drs Ndanya an Orthopaedic surgeon and Dr Mathenge a general surgeon they had come to the common conclusion that there existed a dire need for primary trauma care training among the emergency staff at NDH.

Several possibilities were discussed but none was found particularly suited to the rural and resource poor setting of this district hospital in the rift valley province of Kenya 200Km north of the capital Nairobi. The available courses were inappropriate for a setting where nearly all the trauma patients presenting at the hospital are first treated by nurses and clinical officers. In setting where the only radiological investigation available is plain radiography and even that not on a 24hour basis. The courses available were also prohibitively expensive.

It therefore came as a great relief when Dr Obolensky Learnt of the PTC course while attending a conference in London. PTC courses were already happening in Africa led by Dr David Oloruntoba working in South Africa, who immediately put his team together and came to Nanyuki to join the UK team. The two surgeons in Nanyuki, senior clinical officers, and senior medical officers, immediately took up PTC and were trained as trainers in the first course in November 2011. Anecdotally positive changes have been observed in initial care and documentation for trauma patients in our hospital since training of our emergency department staff.

The Surgical Society of Kenya(SSK) is a 250 member organization which is the umbrella body of all surgical organizations in Kenya. The SSK champions the advancement of surgical training and practice in Kenya as well as the welfare of Surgeons in the country. Every year SSK holds a conference to coincide with its annual general meeting and in recent years this has become

the flagship surgical conference in Kenya. The theme for this year's conference was Trauma Care-Practice and Challenges, which provided a good opportunity to introduce PTC to the wider surgical audience in Kenya.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Following discussions between Dr Mathenge and the Kenya COOL project country lead Dr Lucy Obolensky, a formal request was made to the CEO PTCF Mr Charles Clayton for PTC to sponsor representation at the SSK annual conference. Mr Clayton graciously agreed and approved the project.

The local team then proceeded to plan for the project and after reviewing various proposals with Annette Clack the PTC administrator, it was agreed that PTC would sponsor a stand where PTC brochures would be distributed and information provided regarding PTC course and the courses in Kenya.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The conference was held between the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at the Mombasa continental resort on the Kenyan coast. It was well attended by over 200 delegates from all over Kenya and the greater East African region. The key note address was delivered by Dr William Cioffi professor of surgery at Brown University in the USA and current secretary of the American College of Surgeons.

The PTC representatives consisted of Dr Mathenge Nduhiu- general surgeon and PTC trainer, Dr Josephine Ohas medical officer and PTC trainer, and Dr Esther Ogola a PTC trained medical officer, all of the Nanyuki District Hospital. The PTC stand was set up on the 26<sup>th</sup> with two banners, one displaying basic information on PTC extracted from the PTCF website and another showing pictures of courses held in various parts of the world.



# PTC Primary Trauma Care Foundation



First Kenyan Instructors course  
Nanyuki - October 2011

The Primary Trauma Care Foundation exists to promote and enable the training of medical professionals in the developing world in the management of severe injury.

The desired outcome is that lives are saved and disabilities are avoided.

Although the initial training is often done by visiting instructors from other countries, we strongly encourage the local team to take it forward from there.

A local PTC committee is formed in each country in order to prioritise and organise the subsequent courses.



Dr Ndanya delivering lecture  
Nanyuki - December 2012



Laikipia Nurses training in church hall  
October 2011



Demonstration scenario

### Upcoming courses

- Kitale – April 2013
- Nairobi – June 2013
- Kisumu – August 2013
- Narok – October 2013



Improvised Pelvic binder demonstration  
Nanyuki – December 2012

The Primary Trauma Care Foundation | PO Box 880, Oxford OX1 9PG, UK  
Patron: Sir Terence English KBE, FRCS, FRCP | Website: [www.primarytraumacare.org](http://www.primarytraumacare.org)  
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The Banners; Local courses above international pictures below.



Iraq

## PTC Primary Trauma Care Foundation



China



Gaza



Malawi



Belgium-MSF



[www.primarytraumacare.org](http://www.primarytraumacare.org)



West Bank



Jordan

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On the display table were PTC brochures, Manuals, and a visitor's book.



Dr Ohas presents a brochure to a busy surgeon!

We received at least 60 guests, 50 of whom signed the visitor's book and most expressed interest in the course. The incoming SSK Chairman Prof. Hassan Saidi who had never heard of PTC before this conference expressed interest and promised SSK support to develop the training in Kenya. Out of the visitors five indicated immediate need for PTC training for their organizations or institutions. These were the Kenya Navy, The Kenya Army, Siaya District Hospital, Kakamega Provincial General Hospital, and Voi District Hospital.

Other key guests included lecturers in the two major teaching hospitals in Kenya, University of Nairobi and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospitals. Dr James Kisia deputy secretary general and head of operations at the Kenya Red Cross visited and also met with Dr Mathenge, and expressed interest in collaboration with the PTC volunteers in Kenya.

Dr Mathenge delivered a lecture on 28<sup>th</sup> April about PTC courses in general and PTC activities in Kenya following which many of the delegates visited the stand and received information and brochures. Following the PTC presence at this conference Drs Mathenge and Dr Ndanya were seconded into the SSK trauma committee which has been mandated to lead the development of trauma registries in Kenya and promote research and exchange of information on trauma management in Kenya.



Dr Mathenge delivers lecture

## **Summary**

We the Kenya PTC fraternity feel our representation of PTC at this SSK conference was very successful. We have stimulated interest in the wider Kenyan surgical audience about PTC and believe this interest will result in a wider distribution of the training in Kenya. We also made key contacts in the

two major medical schools in Kenya which will be instrumental in future considerations of incorporation of trauma care training in Kenyan medical schools. Contacts made with the Kenya Defence Forces surgeons, and the Kenya Red Cross Society portend exciting possibilities for collaboration in the near future.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are extremely grateful to the PTC CEO Mr. Charles Clayton for giving us his full support in this endeavor without which it would not have happened. Annette Clack administrator at PTCF many thanks for always being there for us. We also owe a big debt of gratitude to Dr Jeanne Frossard who generously shared her vast experience in PTC in the form of ideas and even pictures enriching our presentation and even future Kenya PTC courses immensely. To Dr Lee Van Rensburg Orthopaedic surgeon Cambridge UK and PTC volunteer, many thanks for creating the template for the brochures from scratch over breakfast on that bright Malawian morning. Last but not least to all PTC volunteers in Kenya/UK many thanks for your continued selfless efforts and sacrifices.

Report prepared by Dr Mathenge Nduhiu.