

Report on Module 1, 2017 – Introduction to Orthopaedics

Module 1 was held at the Lautoka Hospital Conference room in Lautoka, Fiji from January 30th to February 8th, 2017. This is the first time PIOA has held a module in Fiji. There were 8 trainees in this module including 6 new trainees. They are Dr. Alois Mouemuem from Popondetta in Papua New Guinea(PNG), Dr. Thomas Kiele from Kavieng in PNG, Dr. Raymond Saulep from Wapenamanda in PNG, Dr. Henao Asa from Port Moresby in PNG (currently working in Tauranga, NZ), Dr Johnny Hedson from Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Dr. Pita Sovanivalu from Suva, Fiji, Dr. Alfredo Adams from Apia, Samoa and Dr. Naseri Aiotato from Pago Pago, American Samoa. In addition, Dr Stephen Kodovaru from Solomon Islands and Dr Mark Rokobuli from Fiji helped with the module.



The lectures were delivered by Dr. Tim Gregg, Dr Roy Craig and Dr. David Bartle, all from New Zealand and Dr. Des Soares from Brisbane with assistance from Stephen and Mark.

In the Introductory module the students were taught a systematic approach to diagnosis in orthopaedics. This included clinical history taking and a thorough clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the examination of bones and joints. Each lecture consisted of a practical demonstration of the clinical examination followed by a detailed explanation and then an opportunity for the students to practice the examination skills on each other. In addition there were focussed lectures on investigation and the use of radiological and other imaging investigations.

The students were assessed with a written and practical examination on the final day of the course. Overall the 10 day module was intense and it was obvious the students were stimulated to learn. There was a marked improvement in their clinical examination skills. They spent most evenings revising the material as each day always commenced with a review session of the material taught the day before. The students are now already reading ahead to prepare for the next module on the Infection, Inflammation and the Professional topics commencing on 5 June 2017.

Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing two or three patients and getting the students to present the history and clinical signs of the patients. Their management was then discussed and suggestions for improvement were made. This was a useful exercise as we were able to improve clinical skills. It was also helpful to try and elucidate clinical reasoning and decision making and help with developing these skills. There are still some frustrations with suboptimal management of trauma but there is ongoing improvement.

In the afternoons we did a practical exercise involving a surgical skill. The focus was on closed management of fractures as well as on practical workshops on internal and external fixation of fractures using plastic “bones”. These were greatly appreciated by the students as they were directly relevant to clinical problems they face daily. These involved basic trauma skills (learning the principle of the lag screw and tension band wire as well as application of an external fixator to a tibia and femur.

Our thanks to the staff and patients of the Lautoka Hospital, Fiji and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji Government for the use of the Conference room and for allowing us to conduct the course there. Our thanks also to our caterers who provided nutritious food for the duration of the course. Finally, this module would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Peace Nexus Foundation and Hans Joerg Wyss and AO Alliance Foundation.



From L to R Thomas Kiele, Henao Asa, Tim Gregg
Stephen Kodovaru (back)



From L to R Henao Asa, Alfredo Adams, Alois
Mouemuem, Pita Sovanivalu



PNG team from L to R Alois, Raymond Saulep
Thomas Kiele, Henao Asa



Johnny Hedson pointing out XR features



Alois Mouemuem, Naseri Aiotato and Roy Craig



David Bartle presenting Thomas with a small
fragment set donated from NZ

PIOA now has active trainees from PNG (5), Solomons Islands (4), Samoa (3), Fiji (2), Kiribati (1), American Samoa (1), Vanuatu (1), Federated States of Micronesia (1)