

Module 2 was held at the TTM Hospital Conference room in Apia, Samoa from June 5th to June 17th, 2017. This is the second time PIOA has held a module in Samoa. There were 11 trainees in this module. They are Dr. Areta Samuelu from Apia in Samoa, Dr. Kabiri Itaka from Kiribati, Dr. James Tewa'ani from Solomon Islands, Dr Mark Rokobuli from Fiji, 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. Felix Diaku from Rabaul in PNG, Dr Johnny Hedson from Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Dr. Pita Sovanivalu from Suva, Fiji, and Dr. Naseri Aiotato from Pago Pago, American Samoa. Dr Stephen Kodovaru from Solomon Islands was present for his final exit examination.



The infection lectures were delivered by Dr. Nikki Townell. Dr. Paul Chapman, (both from Brisbane, Australia) Dr. Nora Renz from Berlin, Germany. The professional topics were delivered by Dr. John North and Des Soares from Brisbane. Rheumatology was taught by Dr. Paul Healy from Wellington, New Zealand. In addition, Dr. John North from Brisbane and Dr Richard Lander from New Zealand were independent external examiners for the first ever exit examination held under the PIOA programme. We were very pleased when they declared Dr. Stephen Kodovaru to have successfully passed the exam. He is the first fruit of a long journey to develop appropriate, effective orthopaedic training for

the Pacific Islands. During the last 4 days Dr. Martin Walliser and Phillip Stillhard from Switzerland provided instruction on the use of the PIOA trauma database which will now be rolled out in the Pacific Islands.

In this module, the students were taught a systematic approach to diagnosis and management of infection and inflammatory conditions in orthopaedics. This included clinical history taking and a thorough clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the management of osteomyelitis, septic arthritis and inflammatory conditions such as gout and rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, there were focussed lectures on investigation and the use of radiological and other imaging investigations.

The students were assessed with a written examination on the final day of the course. Overall the 12 day module was intense and it was obvious the students were stimulated to learn. The students are now already reading ahead to prepare for the next module on the Hip to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands commencing on 18 September 2017.

Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing one or two 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. The students enjoyed having expert advice on the management of bone and joint infection and of gout – both of which are common conditions throughout the Pacific and are often poorly managed.

Our thanks to the staff and patients of the TTM Hospital, Apia and the Ministry of Health, Samoa 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. Thanks you also to the wonderful staff at Lynn's Getaway who make us feel at home. 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.



Group photo after course dinner



TTM Hospital, Apia



Dr. Kabiri Itaka (Kiribati) examining a gram stain



Tour of CSSD at TTM Hospital



Ward rounds



Fellow students sing a song to celebrate Stephen Kodovaru graduation.

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)