

PIOA – 2015 - THE THIRD YEAR – A SUMMARY REPORT

For over a decade there has been no formal training in orthopaedics available in the Pacific Islands. After 18 months of planning PIOA was formally established during the first training module held in Honiara in February 2013. Since then we have run 9 modules.

The first module in 2015 began with 5 trainees. We welcomed our new trainees James Tewa'ani from Solomon Islands, Areta Samuelu from Samoa, Mark Rokobuli from Fiji and Basil Leodoro from Vanuatu and our second year trainee Kabiri Itaka from Kiribati. In this Introductory module the students were taught history taking, clinical examination, appropriate use of investigations and basic surgical management of trauma. Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing four 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 second module in 2014 (eight module overall) was focussed on a wide range of topics covering the surgical management of knee conditions. In the Knee module the students were taught a systematic approach to the management of trauma and degenerative conditions affecting the knee in orthopaedics. This included clinical history taking and a through clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the examination of the knee joint. We then progressed to common conditions affecting the knee including sporting injuries, other trauma and degenerative conditions like osteoarthritis.

We were privileged to have access to ArthOS a high tech virtual reality knee arthroscopy simulator which was generously provided by VirtaMed AG who are the leaders in surgical simulators. Each day the students rotated between 2 or 3 practical stations. On the simulator they performed a graduated learning program using the excellent courses in basic and advanced arthroscopic skills and basic and advanced surgical management of clinical pathology such as synovectomy, meniscectomy and loose body retrieval. In addition they performed an ACL reconstruction and a high tibial osteotomy on plastic bones. Internal fixation of fractures around the knee such as a supracondylar fracture of the femur and tibial plateau fracture of the knee were performed using plastic "bones". These were greatly appreciated by the students as they were directly relevant to clinical problems they face daily.

The third module in 2015 was the Upper limb module in which the students were taught a systematic approach to the management of trauma and degenerative conditions affecting the Upper limb in orthopaedics. This included clinical history taking and a through clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the examination of the Upper limb joint. We then progressed to common conditions affecting the Upper limb including sporting injuries (instability), other trauma and degenerative conditions like osteoarthritis.

In October two of our trainees Kabiri Itaka and Areta Samuelu presented papers at the Australian Orthopaedic Association annual scientific meeting in Melbourne. Dr Houasia, President PIOA and Dr Soares, Director of Training also presented. All the papers were well received and considerable interest was generated in the PIOA program. Flowing from this we have had a number of orthopaedic surgeons offer to help volunteer as trainers during the modules. In addition, we have received applications for 4 new trainees (from Fiji, American Samoa and two from PNG) for next year. PIOA is now the accepted leader for orthopaedic training in the Pacific Islands.

The third year of the program was run at a total cost of \$A 80872. To date the program has cost \$A 176884 and we remain within budget with our original plan. This year we have had 9 trainees. This program would not have been possible without the encouragement of many supporters including Dr. Oberli and generous financial support from Peace Nexus Foundation and H Wyss. PIOA and its members are grateful to Mr Wyss for his ongoing encouragement and support.

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Training Director PIOA

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