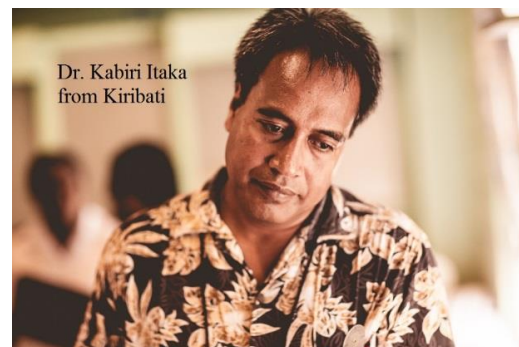


Report on Module 4 – Trauma

Module 3 was held at the National Referral Hospital Conference room in Honiara Solomon Islands from February 3 to February 12, 2014.

There were 5 trainees in the fourth module. They are Dr. George Kabwere, Dr. Stephen Kodovaru and Dr. Alex Munamua from Solomon Islands, Dr. Shaun Mauiliu from Samoa and our newest trainee Dr. Kabiri Itaka from Kiribati. The lectures were delivered by Dr. Hermann Oberli and Dr Jochen Ruckstuhl from Switzerland and Dr Paul Hitchen and Dr. Des Soares from Australia with assistance from Dr. Patrick Houasia and Dr. Silent Tovosia from Solomon Islands. It was wonderful to welcome Dr Oberli back to the Solomon Islands. He established the orthopaedic service at the National Referral Hospital and is well known in the country. He also has a vast experience of trauma management in varied situations including war and disaster zones.



In this module the students were taught a wide range of topics covering the surgical management of trauma. Trauma is the number one orthopaedic issue throughout the Pacific. If dealt with badly, it often has lifelong consequences for the patient. There was a special emphasis on external fixation which is a very valuable tool in the Pacific. Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing six 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. However there is some frustration with some simple clinical tasks such as culture swabs and followup xrays not being ordered despite repeated encouragement.



Each afternoon we did a practical exercise involving a surgical skill. These were greatly appreciated by the students as they were directly relevant to clinical problems they face daily. These involved trauma skills (including external and internal fixation and intra-medullary nailing using the SIGN nailing system). The SIGN system is designed for low income countries where there is limited access to in theatre xray image intensifiers. We are hoping to introduce the SIGN nail in the Solomon Islands initially and then use it as a demonstration centre for other Pacific low income countries.

Our thanks to the staff and patients of the National Referral Hospital Honiara for the use of the Conference room and for allowing us to conduct the course there. Our thanks also to our caterers from the Mothers Union Womens group who provided tasty 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.

