

## Report on Module 9, June 2016 – Spine, Infection, Trauma database

The Spine module was held at the National Referral Hospital Regional Eye Care Centre conference room in Honiara Solomon Islands from May 30 to June 8th, 2016. There were 10 trainees in this module. They are Dr.



Stephen Kodovaru, Dr, Alex Munamua, Dr. George Kabwere and Dr. James Tewa'ani from Solomon Islands, Dr. Kabiri Itaka from Kirbati, Dr. Shaun Mauiliu and Dr. Areta Samuelu from Samoa, Dr Mark Rokobuli from Fiji, Dr. Naseri Aitaoto from American Samoa and Dr. Felix Diaku from PNG. The lectures were delivered by Dr. Ian Cheung and Dr John Tuffley from Australia, Dr. Des Soares from Brisbane and Dr. Patrick Houasia from Solomon Islands. In the second half of the module a workshop on Infectious diseases was delivered by Dr. Nikki Townell and Dr. Paul Chapman from Brisbane. We also learned how to use

the new Trauma database which was developed for us by Dr. Martin Walliser, from Switzerland. Our thanks also to Dr. Philiipe Stillhard from Switzerland who assisted in the clinical work and ward. PIOA is now privileged to train 11 candidates from 7 Pacific Island countries. One candidate missed this module due to other commitments.

In the Spine module the students were taught a systematic approach to the management of spinal orthopaedic conditions. This included clinical history taking and a through clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the management of trauma and elective spinal conditions including an understanding of the biomechanical principles and management.

The students were assessed with an examination on the final day of the course including a written paper. In addition, the students performed various practical tasks each day including practicing laminectomy, on a lumbar model using plastic bones. 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 Foot and ankle commencing on 12 September, 2016.

Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a ward round seeing 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. In the infectious disease segment practical case discussions on the management of complex infections, using cases presented by the students provided for effective learning. The new trauma database will for the first time allow data collection and analysis from 7 Pacific Island countries with the ability to share the knowledge learned.

**Our thanks to the staff and patients** of the National Referral Hospital Regional Eye Centre and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Islands Government for the use of the Conference room and for allowing us to conduct the course there. Our thanks also to our trainees and their families 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 and staff Swiss Surgical Teams and teaching staff from Australia.