

Report on Module 3, 2017 – Hip module

Module 3 was held at the Regional Eye Centre Conference room in Honiara, Solomon Islands from September 18th to 29th, 2017. There were 11 trainees in this module. They are Dr. Areta Samuemu 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.



The lectures were delivered by Dr. Vaughan Poutawera, Dr. Andy Vane and Dr. Sud Rao (all from New Zealand), Dr Herman Oberli and Dr. Claude Martin (AO Alliance Foundation) from Switzerland, Dr. Stephen Kodovaru from Solomon Islands and Dr. Des Soares from Brisbane. In addition, Stephen Schwarz representing AO North America and Wyss Global Health Foundation presented on the AO North America and the Wyss Foundation. Dr James Tewa'ani one of the third-year students led the SIGN nail workshop.

In this module, the students were taught a systematic approach to diagnosis and management of traumatic and degenerative conditions affecting the hip. This included clinical history taking and a thorough clinical examination with emphasis on a systematic approach to the management of osteomyelitis, septic arthritis and degenerative conditions such as osteoarthritis. In addition, there were focussed lectures and practicals on the management of trauma affecting the pelvis, acetabulum and femur.



Lectures were supplemented with practical demonstrations. Each morning we commenced with a trauma meeting discussing the overnight admissions. We then proceeded to 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. The students enjoyed having expert advice on the management of bone and joint infection and trauma – both of which are common conditions throughout the Pacific and are often poorly managed.

The students were assessed with a written examination on the final day of the course. Overall the 11-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 Trauma to be held for the first time on Madang, PNG, commencing on 29 January 2018. We already have applications from 6 new students from PNG to commence training in 2018.

Our thanks to the staff and patients of the National Referral Hospital, Honiara and the Regional Eye Centre, Solomon Islands Government for the use of the Conference room and for allowing us to conduct the course there. Our thanks also to the hospital kitchen who provided nutritious food for the duration of the course. Thank also to the wonderful staff at Rekona Lodge and St Agnes Mothers Union who make us feel at home. Finally, this module would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Wyss Medical Foundation and AO Alliance Foundation.