

SAFE OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA - Maputo, Mozambique

5th-8th October 2016

The Team

Dr Keith Thomson	Consultant Anaesthetist (Basingstoke) – retired
Dr Elizabeth Shewry	Consultant Anaesthetist (Southampton)
Dr Gary Dickinson	Consultant Anaesthetist (Winchester)
Dr Jose Bastos	Consultant Anaesthetist (London), Portuguese
Dr Gill van Hasselt	Consultant Anaesthetist (Poole)
Dr Chirag Patel	Consultant Anaesthetist (London)
Dr Erica Dibb-Fuller	Consultant Anaesthetist (Southampton)
Dr Laura Wood	ST7 Anaesthetist (Southampton)
Dr Tom Daubeney	ST5 Anaesthetist (Basingstoke)
Dr Aoife Fitzgerald	ST5 Anaesthetist (Reading)
Dr Francisco d'Orey	FY2 (Winchester) Portuguese
Ms Louise Emmett	Senior midwife (Chertsey)

Translators (non medical)

Mr Remy Turc	Life Box UK
Dr Dee Pinto	Consultant in Education (lives in Lisbon)

'Algarve 4': Mrs Rosie Norte, Mr Barry Henry, Mr Luis Lopez, Ms Cheyenne Stacey, two of whom supported the workshops each day.

Initial contact

Dr Elizabeth Shewry, having previously run a PTC course in Beira in 2014 (part of the national Mozambique PTC program), was familiar with the region and keen to support the anaesthesia providers. The Mozambique PTC lead introduced anaesthetists Dr Emilia Jeque (Head of anaesthesia for the country) and Dr Murgue Jamu (Consultant at the Central Hospital, Maputo). Dr Jamu had been involved with setting up the PTC program and understood the 'train the trainer' structure. Discussions were had prior to the SAFE course regarding local faculty assistance during the workshops but in practice the three doctors designated by Dr Emilia decided to experience the program themselves before being involved with teaching. Dr Emilia also agreed to a post course 'train the trainer' day which both she and Dr Murgue attended.

Portuguese SAFE Materials

Eight of the team who visited Maputo spoke Portuguese including UK based Dr Jose Bastos and Dr Francisco D'Orey, Remy Turc of Lifebox, educationalist Dr Dee Pinto (based in Lisbon) and the 'Algarve 4'. Rosie Norte with two colleagues (Ju and Jorge) translated the materials required for the course (lectures, handouts and MCQ), and Dee translated the Train the Trainers material. Their efforts were authenticated for medical accuracy by Jose and Francisco. Jorge Pratas, a Portuguese missionary, based in Maputo, was instrumental in finding a suitable conference venue and accommodation.

Local arrangements

After their arrival the team invited Drs Jeque and Jamu to dinner at the Montebelo Hotel to begin finalising arrangements. The following day was firstly spent checking the conference venue. This ideal facility was in fact a local chapel which had a large screen for projection, reliable power supply, adequate seating and enough space to run all four simultaneous workshops/skill stations. The team then visited the Central Hospital of Maputo to complete arrangements with Dr Emilia and Dr Murgue. After the meeting the team split into two groups, one visited an impressively equipped and staffed, ITU and the other a relatively quiet maternity unit which claimed 8000 deliveries annually with a 40% caesarean rate. Interestingly all medical care in the country, with a population of 25M, is provided free of charge although all tertiary facilities seemed to be focused at the Central Hospital. Within Mozambique as well as approximately 167 anaesthetic technicians, there are 22 trained physician anaesthetists. Currently 12 more doctors are undertaking a four year postgraduate anaesthetic training program which may include one year in Madrid or Bordeaux.

The SAFE program

The three day conference for 46 delegates went well with only two failing to attend all three days. They consisted of 39 technicians, 1 nurse (originally from Zimbabwe) and 6 doctors (including the two local organisers).

The mean pre- and post - MCQ score improved from 77.8 to 89.0 % and the skills test from 3.2 / 10 to 7.0 / 10. The faculty members were impressed by the knowledge, professionalism and enthusiasm shown by most of the attendees.

The Training of Trainers Course

The day after the conference, a 'Train the Trainers' was run by Gill, Dee, Aoife and Tom for eight selected delegates plus Dr Emilia. Two of these were from outside the Capital city as Dr Emilia was keen to see the teaching extend beyond the Maputo 'bubble'. There was enthusiastic and positive feedback from the participants who saw themselves as future educators.

Future Plans

Dr Emilia Jeque was very keen to progress this and requested that our team should return as soon as possible. She will approach the Ministry of Health to request support in running future courses, hopefully commencing in May 2017. The suggestion is for a standard 3 day SAFE course to be run by a local faculty which will deliver the lectures and run workshops with support from a UK team. We plan to run an educational update the day before the course and then repeat a 'train the trainers' day afterwards. The long term plan is to increase regional representation among the trained providers so future courses could be run nationally. Discussions are also under way regarding the best way to support these future regional courses.