

Fiji Program Report ANZGITA 2016

Introduction:

This year saw the 9th mission of what is now termed the Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association (ANZGITA) to Suva. The program has been built on the following principles:

- i) The training should be predominantly provided in Fiji.
- ii) The design and implementation is responsive to articulated needs from the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM).
- iii) It is a skills and knowledge transfer (teaching) program, not a service delivery program.
- iv) It should address the needs of the region as determined by the local health professionals and administrators.
- v) The training is provided pro bono.
- vi) A spread of age groups of Australians and New Zealanders is encouraged, to ensure sustainability.
- vii) GI Endoscopy Nurses are recognized for their valuable role in training and service delivery in endoscopy.

The main activity of the program is a 4-week period of concentrated teaching at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Suva. This period coincides with the gastroenterology module of the FSM postgraduate Diploma and Masters program.

The program has 3 major components:

- i) Endoscopy skills and organization
- ii) Medical training predominantly in gastroenterology through lectures, tutorials and through involvement in clinical practice such as ward rounds.
- iii) Gastroenterology nursing predominantly in the safe delivery of endoscopy by the introduction of the standards and competency benchmarks developed by GENCA for the ANZGITA program based on the WGO tiered standards.

While this is predominantly a training program, this can only occur if there is suitable equipment and facilities to allow safe and appropriate practice. ANZGITA has therefore worked with a number of partners apart from the Fiji School of Medicine and the Colonial War Memorial Hospital to make available better endoscopy equipment, accessories, diagnostic and disinfection chemicals as well as preparations to allow for bowel cleansing and treatment. Advice has also been provided to allow the hospital authorities to purchase effective generic drugs to treat important conditions affordably.

Our partners have included:

- i) The World Gastroenterology Organisation which donated a large amount of endoscopy equipment in 2009 and has established our activities as one of its international training centers for which it has, to date, provided an annual grant of US\$15,000.
- ii) Many hospitals in Australia which have donated accessories and drugs, often nearing expiry dates.
- iii) Endoscopy and other equipment providers who have donated refurbished and out of date equipment, servicing and advice. CR Kennedy Pty Ltd in particular have provided extremely generous terms for the servicing the Fuji endoscopy equipment in Suva, a rebuilt Medivator endoscope disinfecting machine as well as sponsoring training for a Suva based technician to service this machine. We particularly thank Jon Long for facilitating this very valuable and continuing support to the program. Last year a donor provided sufficient funds for CR Kennedy

to deliver at a much reduced price a new inventory of Fuji endoscopes and processor which Jon Long installed.

- iv) Even though the The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs Department (DFAT) Pacific Islands Program (PIP) has been severely reduced in size, ANZGITA did receive a small grant. This has allowed the accommodation and travel expenses of the nurse trainers to be met by ANZGITA – the doctor trainers have been asked to pay their travel expenses. The grant is administered through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Trainers in Suva, Fiji 2015

The following trainers contributed to the program this year:

Medical

1-6 August	Chris Hair	Geelong
1-10 August	Lindsay Mollison	Perth
8-19 August	Rebecca Ryan	Brisbane
15-20 August	Sunny Lee	Brisbane
15-26 August	Martin Schlup	Dunedin
15-20 August	Geoff Metz	Melbourne
15-20 August	Jim Toouli	Adelaide
3-7 August	Alice Lee	Sydney

Nursing

1-12 August	Maureen Richardson	Melbourne
8-20 August	Aimee Vajtauer	Melbourne
15-26 August	Michelle Dalby	Brisbane

Local Trainers

Mai Ling Perman (Physician and gastroenterologist) was the program leader and coordinator

Aminiasi Rokocakau (Physician and gastroenterologist)

Trainer Feedback

The trainers were requested to complete an evaluation form after their tour to Suva. Their responses indicate a satisfactory level of satisfaction with the program organisation, their living conditions in Suva, the Hospital and the Trainees. The organization of the teaching program was again a matter of concern to several and clearly needs to be more effectively addressed. All felt they were, for the most part, well utilized and are prepared to go again.

The Trainer Feedback Summary is available which includes the comments and suggestions of the trainers. Many of the observations (such as the poor performance of bands used to ligate varices when the devices are past date) were extremely valuable as such practices had been accepted in the past.

Trainee profile and training report

Please see separate ANZGITA Training Report prepared by Dr Mai Ling Perman

Features of the program

- All the trainers felt the course had been very worthwhile and effective in transferring skills. All much enjoyed their experience and much appreciated the welcome they received in Suva.
- As in previous years there was an emphasis on 'Endoscopy Training in Totality' The delivery of the training, with all its component parts (including administration, access to equipment, maintenance, service organization, cleaning, GI Nursing, endoscopy training and now Train the Trainer training) is recognized as being far more valuable than just transferring endoscopy skills. There are many challenges to establish and sustain a service which can perform safely and beyond the training month. These need to be identified and addressed as a service, which the Centre has done.
- The Gastroenterology Nurses again brought important skills and enthusiasm to the service and worked very well with their dedicated and diligent Fijian colleagues. It was very gratifying to have very positive comments from one of our nurses who had last trained in Suva in 2011, that there had been significant improvements in practice by the local nurses.
- The large number of procedures undertaken certainly gave a lot of opportunity for the trainees to get some hands on training in a large variety of activities. Pleasingly all trainees reached competency and completed their assessment in the cleaning and reprocessing of endoscopes and accessories. This is such a vital area in endoscopy that reaching competency is essential for the safe delivery of the service.
- The Fijian endoscopists, having been part of the program now for several years have gained skills to the level of being able to train colleagues from other centers. This obvious improvement and growth is pleasing as it reinforces the fact that the program is meeting its goal of transferring skills and each year these skills are expanding and the trainees are moving into the role of trainers.
- Prof Jim Toouli and Dr Geoff Metz delivered an abbreviated form of the WGO Train-The-Trainer program which was much appreciated. Their feedback on the whole program (which was not entirely positive) will need to be carefully reviewed and the suggestions integrated into the program.
- In December 2015, after the Prime Minister of Fiji visited the Gastroenterology Unit at CWMH he offered to support the development of a purpose built unit. A Functional Brief was developed by ANZGITA on request, but the subsequent impact of cyclone Winston appears to have put this development on hold.
- The lecture program to the postgraduate trainees and to the hospital staff as a whole clearly needs improvement in its organization so that the topics meet the needs of the CWMH and other staff, but also to enable the trainers to know what they need to prepare.
- Hepatology needs were further assessed by Alice Lee who has continued to advocate further development of services in this important area. She is developing improved links with Fijian public health officials working in this area.
- One of our senior trainers displayed some inappropriate behaviour both in the teaching environment as well as at the homestay which led to distress to other staff. This has been managed and reported. A full report will be made to the ANZGITA Board
- CR Kennedy Pty Ltd has very generously supported the servicing of the Fuji Endoscopes in Suva including the offer of a preventative maintenance service. This has transformed the availability of functioning instruments in Suva. The refurbished Medivator endoscope disinfectant which was installed a year ago is functioning but service issues have not been fully addressed.

- ANZGITA is now on a firm footing but there is much to do to meet the training needs that have been identified.

Opportunities for improvement

- The numbers of trainees for both the medical and nursing programs is proving difficult in the clinical setting. Consideration should be given to limiting the numbers of medical trainees from having hands on endoscopy training so that those who do can have better experience. Those not having hands on endoscopy training could be offered a more intensive gastroenterology training program with lectures, workshops, ward rounds and seminars as well as the opportunity to observe endoscopy procedures.
- The academic program could be restructured to meet the needs of both those who have endoscopy training as well as those who do not.
- For the past 3 years surgeons have not had the opportunity to participate in the program. Work needs to be done to resolve some of the impediments in CWMH to this happening.
- It is clear that considerable progress has been made in the standards of infection control that are currently being achieved. Access to good quality disinfection agents, enzymatic detergents and personal protective equipment is still a times an issue but very generous donations of chemicals has been made by Whitely Corporation from Australia
- There is clearly a need to extend endoscopy services elsewhere in Fiji and to other nation islands in the Pacific. ANZGITA is willing to provide support to such developments but recognizes that this can only be effective if the centre can guarantee that it will be able to maintain and service a reasonable inventory of endoscopes and related equipment, provide the essential consumables for disinfection and cleaning and is committed to maintaining best practice infection control with some assistance from ANZGITA.
- The reduction in support from DFAT for our volunteers is a concern – particularly for our nurse volunteers.