



VITAL ANAESTHESIA SIMULATION TRAINING

ANNUAL REPORT JUL 23 - JUN 24



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This annual report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. It provides an overview of Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training (VAST) Ltd, including key accomplishments and activities. The underlying theme for this report is appreciation for the many volunteers who are at the core of VAST.

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Message from the Board



Board members Patty, Adam and Michelle at the VAST IC in Mexico City

Dr Adam Mossenson

Founder and Managing Director

I have the privilege of presenting the following short summary on behalf of the Board.

From being a mere idea in 2017 to today being a well-established organisation supporting implementation of simulation-based education in low-resource settings, VAST's growth has been substantial. This is in no small part related to the enthusiasm, altruism, and dedication of the many volunteers who take time away from their busy work and family lives to contribute to our mission of improving healthcare provision through utilisation of high-quality simulation training.

We express our enormous gratitude to everyone who said “yes” to attending training, teaching on a course, developing a program in their region, or travelling a long distance to help others. A true joy of VAST is the people. Seeing such commitment to improving healthcare education is most inspiring. We are profoundly grateful to the many volunteers who make VAST possible.

AST's Board of Directors are:

- Dr Adam Mossenson (Managing Director)
- Dr Tom Druitt (Secretary)
- Dr Roger Goucke (Treasurer)
- Michelle Murray.
- Dr Gaston Nyirigiya
- Dr Patricia Livingston

80% of VAST Course participants have never experienced simulation prior

5 programs plus online teaching and learning resources

33 countries have had participants involved in facilitator training

Company Overview



Vision

High-quality anaesthesia and effective perioperative team function across the globe

Mission

To enable the conduct of simulation training, advancing anaesthesia and peri-operative care, regardless of the context

Values

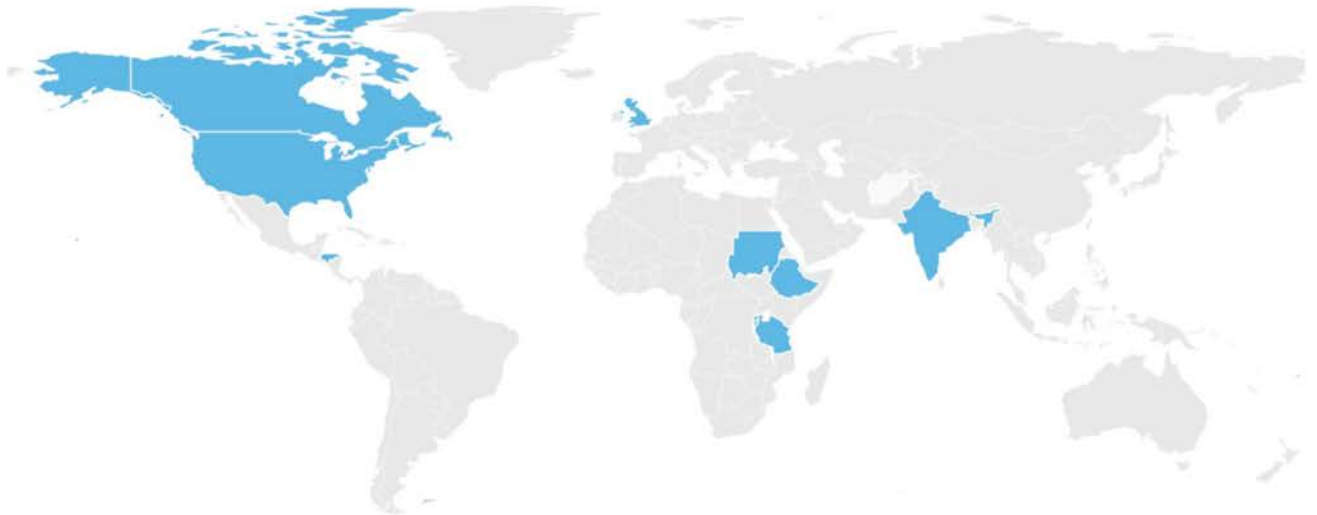
- **Respect** – we foster an environment where all are treated with courtesy and respect
- **Empowerment** – we focus on skills transfer and leadership development to improve patient care and capacity for locally driven education
- **Collaboration** – we strive to support meaningful and enduring partnerships
- **Sustainability** – to maximise impact, we prioritise long-lasting and cost-effective initiatives

Steering Committee



In this reporting period, the VAST Board sought to establish a Steering Committee to help guide VAST's activities. Specifically, the Steering Committee has a mandate to:

- Promote the value of VAST's global health work and simulation education.
- Identify, cultivate, and maintain partnerships and stakeholder engagement in respective locations.
- Monitor and lead the direction of VAST's programs in member's respective locations.
- Foster autonomy and the ongoing sustainability of VAST's programs through developing strong in-country VAST networks.
- Provide support, guidance, and mentorship to others within the VAST community.
- Provide advice and guidance to the VAST Ltd Board as requested.



Countries of Steering Committee members

The committee now meets quarterly via video call and communicates regularly over Slack. Members hold their position for a minimum of two years. The following details the members of the VAST Steering Committee:

- Co-chairs
 - Dr Jon Bailey (Canada)
 - Dr Gaston Nyirigira (Rwanda)
- Members
 - Dr Amy Brown (UK)
 - Dr Celestin Seneza (Rwanda)
 - Dr Cindy Montoya (Honduras)
 - Dr Eunice Onesimo (Fiji)
 - Dr Gilles Eloi Rwibuka (Burundi)
 - Dr Gita Nath (India)
 - Dr Karima Khalid (Tanzania)
 - Dr Mohamed Elaibaid (Sudan/Ireland)
 - Dr Shyamal Asher (USA)
 - Dr Teshome Assefa Nora (Ethiopia)
 - Dr Vaibhavi Upadhye (India), and
 - Ms Sara Whynot (Canada)

Program Summary



Program overview

This year has been active for program delivery. The core VAST programs are:

- **VAST Course** – a three-day course to teach core clinical algorithms and non-technical skills for inter-professional teams
- **VAST Facilitator Course** – a three-day course to teach key principles of simulation facilitation including conducting and debriefing scenarios and scenario design
- **VAST Instructor Course** – a three-day program sharing content with the VAST Facilitator Course, as well as additional training in program oversight, logistics, mentorship, and implementation in each new location.
- **VAST Foundation Year** – a 48-session curriculum that includes the fundamentals of anaesthesia practice for first-year anaesthesia trainees
- **VAST Wellbeing** – a one-day workshop to promote personal and professional wellbeing and to reduce burnout for healthcare providers in low-resource settings.

In this reporting period, VAST Wellbeing, VAST Courses, and VAST Facilitator Courses were offered in Australia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Latin America, Nepal and Rwanda. The VAST Foundation Year was initiated or continued in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, and Tanzania.



Spotlight - Latin America

At the request of Dr Carolina Haylock-Loor, then Director of Programs at the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, VAST was brought to Latin America through a VAST Facilitator Course and VAST Course in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in 2022. At that time, nine anaesthesia leads from six Latin American countries completed VAST facilitator training. This group has gone on to become the Latin America Steering Group. They have undergone additional training in Antigua, Guatemala in June 2023. During this past year, these nine leads brought colleagues from each of their countries to a VAST Instructor Course in Mexico City, Mexico. A total of 38 people attended the training. The purpose of the course in Mexico was to ensure that each of the six countries (Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Venezuela) would have enough facilitators and simulation coordinators to independently deliver VAST Courses. This expansion was only possible through the dedication and commitment of the Latin America Steering Group.



Spotlight - Nepal

The evolution of VAST's implementation in a region is also well-illustrated by the experience in Kathmandu, Nepal. In November 2023, experienced VAST instructors offered VAST Wellbeing and the VAST Facilitator Course. These experienced instructors included volunteers from India, reflecting the strength and depth of VAST's implementation there. Immediately after the Facilitator Course, graduates were mentored in offering the VAST Course to a new group of learners. Following this intense period of training and implementation, the Nepalese team have proceeded with delivery of the VAST Foundation Year to first year anaesthesia trainees. Of particular note, the Nepalese team have also integrated the VAST Foundation Year into the learning curriculum of their anaesthesia program, promoting long-term engagement and sustainable implementation of VAST in Nepal.



Spotlight - Curriculum updates

The most significant update to VAST curriculum has been the development and implementation of the VAST Facilitation Observation and Rating Method (VAST FORM). This is a five-part tool where each part can be used alone or in combination to make observations on simulation facilitation for the purpose of informing feedback conversations. The VAST FORM was first trialled during the training in Nepal in November 2023. We plan to integrate the VAST FORM into our faculty development processes, undergo a translation and cultural validation for its use in Spanish and conduct a thorough evaluation to substantiate its use across our community.

Reflection

Dr Nur Lubis VAST Volunteer - Mongolia

I had the privilege of being part of a team of four facilitators for the inaugural VAST Facilitator course and Wellbeing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in May 2024 through an invitation from the Mongolian Anaesthesia Society.

The Wellbeing one day course was well received, and it was interesting to hear the local perspective on work and life stressors. The brainstorming group discussion sessions were particularly useful, and more time should be allocated to this as this allows local insights and workable take home solutions.

Simulation teaching is a new concept for the Mongolian educators, and they are keen to establish it as part of their medical school and anaesthesia teaching. The group consists of very senior anaesthetist more used to didactic teaching. Despite this they embraced the VAST method of conducting simulation and debriefing. Some of the debriefing concepts and phrasing of questions proved to be challenging to translate into Mongolian but the participants often engaged in lively discussions around the correct translation. This was really great to see and we often had to be flexible with the schedule to allow more time. The anaesthesia non-technical skills (ANTS) concept demonstrated by the videos were also challenging for them and adding the subtitles helped.

This was my third time teaching on the VAST facilitator course, each offered a fresh insight and different learning points for me to take home. The main reflection for me is the importance of being flexible and catering to the local needs when teaching so that the participants can get the most out of it. This highlights the importance of daily participant feedback and active action on any highlighted issues as the course progresses. Having taught the VAST facilitator course in Australia, Tanzania and Mongolia I can see how well received and valuable this course is.

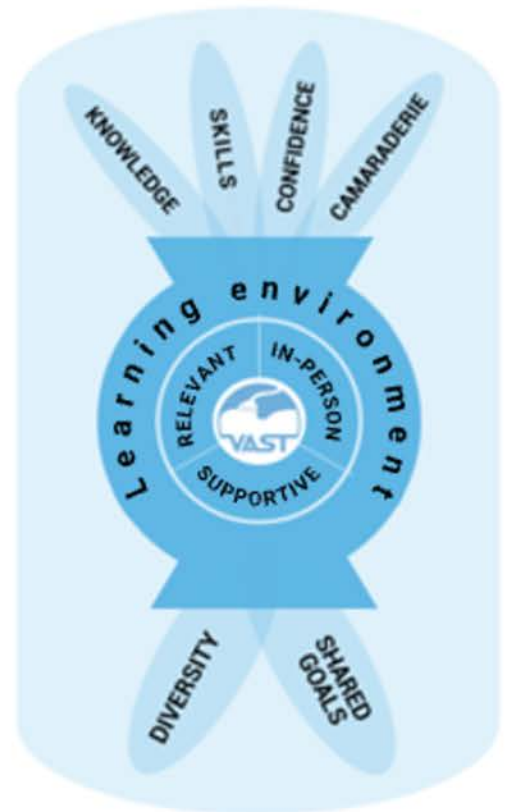


Research

VAST continues to have an active research agenda.

The research accepted and published during this period are listed below:

- Mossenson A, Livingston P, Tuyishime E, Brown J (2024). Assessing Healthcare Simulation Facilitation A Scoping Review of Available Tools, Validity Evidence, and Context Suitability for Faculty Development in Low-Resource Settings. SIMULATION IN HEALTHCARE. PubMed ID: [38595205](#).
- Bailey J, Mossenson A, Whynt S, Nyirigira G, Gower S, Livingston P. (2024) A mixed methods cohort study evaluating the impact of a one-day wellbeing course for anesthesia providers working in low-resource settings. Anesthesia & Analgesia. PMID: 38306670. DOI: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000006870
- Gower S, Mossenson A, Kwizera Ndekezi J, Livingston P. (2024) Building global partnerships: a qualitative exploration of in-person training for healthcare simulation educators working in low-resource settings. SIMULATION IN HEALTHCARE. PMID: 38197675. DOI: [10.1097/SIH.0000000000000768](#).
- Mossenson A, Livingston P, Mukwesi C, Khalid K, Rubio Martínez R, Alferid F, Nath G, Nyirigira G, Haylock-Loor C. (2024) Beyond reframing: painting the truth about VAST. Anesthesia & Analgesia.
- Mossenson A, Upadhye V, Livingston P. (2023) Developing simulation educator skills globally through the Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training community of practice. British Journal of Anaesthesia. 131(6): e190-e192. DOI: 10.1016/j.bja.2023.09.015.
- Tuyishime E, Mossenson A, Livingston P, Irakoze A, Seneza C, Kwizera Ndekezi J, Skelton T. (2023) Resuscitation team training in Rwanda: A mixed method study exploring the combination of the VAST Course with Advanced Cardiac Life Support training. RESUSCITATION PLUS. DOI: [10.1016/j.resplu.2023.100415](#).



Financial report

Balance Sheet

Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training (VAST) Ltd
As at 30 June 2024

30 JUNE 2024

Assets

Bank

Business Acc 5104 (gift)	30,336.40
Business acct 9294 (everyday)	56,208.68
Total Bank	86,545.08

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable (1-1210)	3,376.29
Total Current Assets	3,376.29

Fixed Assets

Less: Accumulated Depreciation on Plant and Equipment - IT Assets	(610.00)
Plant and Equipment - IT Assets	610.00
Total Fixed Assets	-

Total Assets 89,921.37

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	5,386.56
Payables - Other - Facilitator Stipends	2,031.90
Rounding	0.33
Total Current Liabilities	7,418.79

Total Liabilities 7,418.79

Net Assets 82,502.58

Equity

Current Year Earnings	49,220.99
Retained Surplus/(Accumulated Losses)	33,281.59
Total Equity	82,502.58

● Exchange rates used to convert foreign currency into AUD are shown below. Rates are provided by XE.com unless otherwise stated.

• 30 June 2024

🇨🇦 0.912013 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

🇺🇸 0.666671 USD (United States Dollar)

Financial report - continued

Profit and Loss

Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training (VAST) Ltd

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Cash Basis

2024

Trading Income

Donations - Australian	20,138.38
Donations - International	21,815.45
Fees and Charges	28,793.38
Grants	108,769.92
Contributions in kind	(101,000.00)
Business and Program Specific Support - Contributions in Kind	101,000.00
Total Trading Income	179,517.13

Program Costs

Program Costs General

Program Costs General: Equipment	146.08
Program Costs General: Program Support - Logistics officer	3,797.40
Program Costs General: Program Support - Operations officer	9,588.27
Program Costs General: Program Support - Project officer	4,545.29
Program Costs General: Software expenses: Learning platform	8,027.65
Program Costs General: Software expenses: Website	1,973.92
Program Costs General: Supplies - Banners / promotional materials	111.52
Program Costs General: Translation of training materials	292.01
Total Program Costs General	28,482.14

Program Costs Specific

IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY)

Program Costs Specific: IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY) - Catering	673.69
Program Costs Specific: IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY) - LMIC facilitator stipends	1,658.87
Program Costs Specific: IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY) - Teaching materials	546.71
Program Costs Specific: IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY) - Other	631.20
Total IND, Pune, Nov 2023 (VC + FY)	3,510.47

GIN, Conkary, Nov 2023 (FC + VC)

Program Costs Specific: GIN, Conkary, Nov 2023 (FC+VC) - LMIC facilitator stipends	2,227.76
Program Costs Specific: GIN, Conkary, Nov 2023 (FC+VC) - Teaching materials	193.45
Total GIN, Conkary, Nov 2023 (FC + VC)	2,421.21

NEP, Kathmandu, Nov 2023 (FC + VC + VW)

Program Costs Specific: NEP, Kathmandu, Nov 2023 (FC + VC + VW) - Ground transport	143.66
Program Costs Specific: NEP, Kathmandu, Nov 2023 (FC + VC + VW) - Teaching materials	6,744.72
Total NEP, Kathmandu, Nov 2023 (FC + VC + VW)	6,888.38

RWA, Kigali, Nov 2023 (VWx3 + FC)

Program Costs Specific: RWA, Kigali, Nov 2023 (VWx3 + FC) - Accommodation	6,865.42
Program Costs Specific: RWA, Kigali, Nov 2023 (VWx3 + FC) - LMIC facilitator stipends	2,075.00

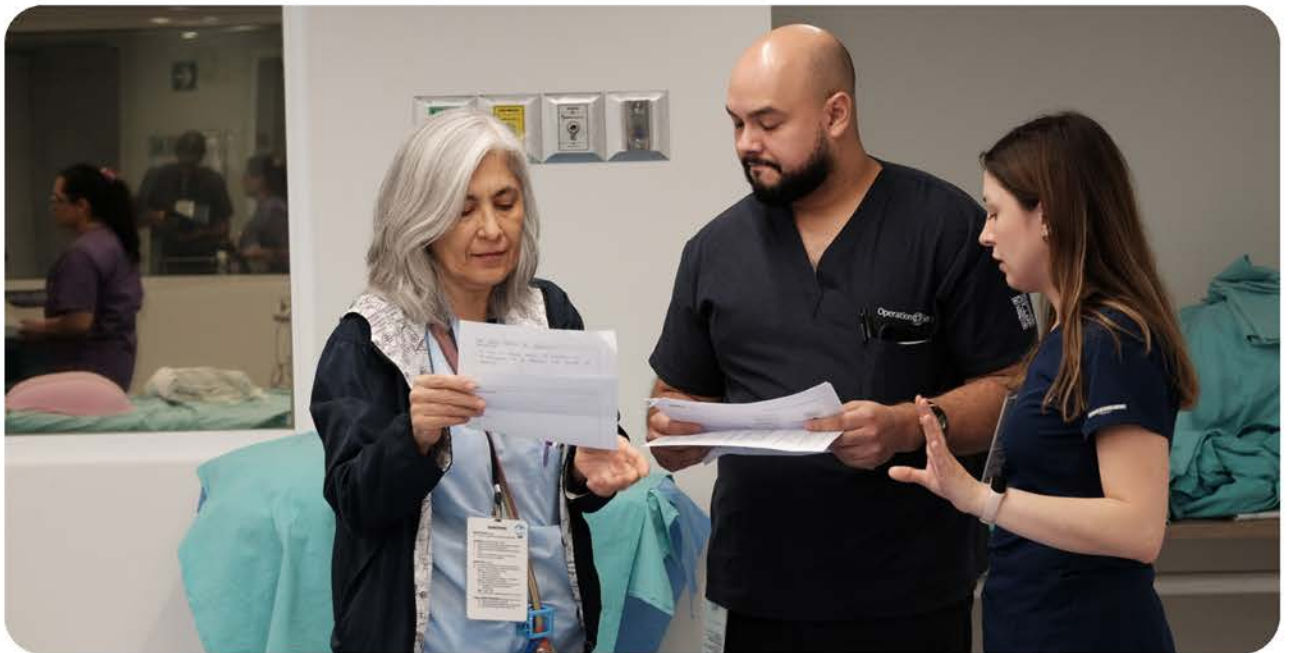
Financial report - continued

2024

Program Costs Specific: RWA, Kigali, Nov 2023 (VWx3 + FC) - Teaching materials	925.30
Total RWA, Kigali, Nov 2023 (VWx3 + FC)	9,865.72
Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV)	
Program Costs Specific: Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV) - Teaching materials	1,050.88
Program Costs Specific: Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV) - Accommodation	234.13
Program Costs Specific: Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV) - Other	113.07
Program Costs Specific: Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV) - Airfares	6,084.58
Total Ethiopia, Harrar, Jan 2024 (VW, WV)	7,482.66
SIN, Singapore, Mar 2024 (World Congress Workshops)	
Program Costs Specific: SIN, Singapore, Mar 2024 (World Congress Workshops) - Teaching materials	326.61
Total SIN, Singapore, Mar 2024 (World Congress Workshops)	326.61
MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC)	
Program Costs Specific: MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC) - Accommodation	18,230.93
Program Costs Specific: MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC) - Airfares	13,186.41
Program Costs Specific: MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC) - Catering	6,172.76
Program Costs Specific: MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC) - LMIC facilitator stipends	165.92
Program Costs Specific: MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC) - Teaching materials	3,820.85
Total MEX, Mexico City, Apr 2024 (IC)	41,576.87
AUS, Busselton, May 2024 (FC)	
Program Costs Specific: AUS, Busselton, May 2024 (FC) - Accommodation	290.00
Total AUS, Busselton, May 2024 (FC)	290.00
MNG, Ulaanbaatar, May 2024 (VW, FC, VC)	
Program Costs Specific: MNG, Ulaanbaatar, May 2024 (VW, FC, VC) - Accommodation	2,694.85
Program Costs Specific: MNG, Ulaanbaatar, May 2024 (VW, FC, VC) - Airfares	6,696.86
Program Costs Specific: MNG, Ulaanbaatar, May 2024 (VW, FC, VC) - Teaching materials	681.23
Total MNG, Ulaanbaatar, May 2024 (VW, FC, VC)	10,072.94
KEN, Nairobi, Oct 2024 (VAST SIMposium)	
Program Costs Specific: KEN, Nairobi, Oct 2024 (VAST SIMposium) - Accommodation	7,279.09
Total KEN, Nairobi, Oct 2024 (VAST SIMposium)	7,279.09
Research (Foundation Year Case Studies)	
Program Costs Specific: Research (Foundation Year Case studies) - LMIC facilitator stipends	2,723.76
Program Costs Specific: Research (Foundation Year Case studies) - Research	1,356.71
Total Research (Foundation Year Case Studies)	4,080.47
Total Program Costs Specific	93,794.42
Total Program Costs	122,276.56
Gross Profit	57,240.57
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges	(7.02)
Computer + Software Expenses	841.00
Realised Currency Gains	1,729.11
Travel & Accommodation	446.22
Total Operating Expenses	3,009.31
Net Profit	54,231.26

Future Outlook

A key future direction is to build the validity argument for the VAST FORM and to ensure it is embedded in VAST's facilitator training. Planning is well underway for the next VAST SIMposium in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2024. This SIMposium will gather VAST facilitators from around the world to enhance their facilitation skills and to foster connections through the VAST Community of Practice. We also look forward to further embedding and evolving VAST's training in existing sites. We will continue to seek funding opportunities to expand our reach and advance the impactful contribution our community is making across the globe.



Future programs

In the next 12 months we are underway with planning for programs in the following countries:

- Australia
- Bolivia
- Canada
- Burundi
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Guatemala
- India
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Venezuela

Future updates

- VAST FORM integration and evaluation
- Take Home Messages card game
- New online training modules
- Ongoing translation and cultural validation of resources
- Research projects

Contact Us



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