



VITAL ANAESTHESIA SIMULATION TRAINING



VAST Course – SUVA, FIJI
15th-17th June 2023
EUNICE ONISIMO, MEGAN WALMSLEY

Executive summary

Situation

As a follow-up to VAST facilitator course and VAST lite held in Fiji September 2022, the VAST faculty in Fiji organised its first locally run course for June 2023. The course was targeted at junior anaesthesia providers from all 3 major tertiary hospitals in Fiji. This was also an opportunity for facilitators to practise scenario setups and the running of simulations and debriefings.

Background

The VAST Course was first piloted in 2018 by its founders, in Rwanda, Africa. Its mission is to enable delivery of high-quality simulation based medical education to improve anaesthesia and perioperative safety, regardless of the context. Since its inception, VAST courses have been successfully implemented in different parts of the world.

VAST courses were first introduced to Fiji in 2019. Participants who have attended VAST come from several South Pacific Island nations such as Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomons and Fiji.

Assessment

Overall, the VAST course was well received by participants and successfully executed by the local faculty. This was reflected in participants end of day evaluation responses and verbal feedback. There were suggestions to invest into simulations and the importance of nontechnical skills teaching was highlighted in several feedbacks.

Recommendation

Following the first locally run VAST course the team aims to include an interprofessional perioperative team in its next courses. i.e., Surgeons, Theatre nurses and emergency nurses. It also hopes to run other VAST courses such as VAST well being with the guidance of the global VAST Instructors.

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Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the Australian Society of Anesthetists (ASA) who provided much needed funding and made the course a success.

We thank the following organisations for the various support provided during the course planning and implementation.

- Fiji National University
- Pacific Society of Anesthetists
- VAST global faculty
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services Fiji
- Aspen Medical – Lautoka Hospital

Vast Course Attendees

Facilitators

- Eunice Onisimo (Director)
- Meg Walmsley (Co- Director)
- Gabriel Pauu
- Ieli Faktoufon
- Shem Bavou
- Lisepa Daulako
- Kenton Biribo

Participants

- Areshma Sundar (Labasa)
- Savaira Sokidrau (Labasa)
- Preetika Payal (Lautoka)
- Lorima Laginikoro (Lautoka)
- Loreen Sharma (Suva)
- Erima Raikoti (Suva)
- Sitiveni Weleilakeba (Suva)
- Tereimai Kabong (Kiribati)
- Tetikanari Toom (Kiribati)
- Neimaoto Asaelu (Tuvalu)

Venue and equipment

The course was held at the Fiji National University, Pasifika Campus in Suva. The university provided 2 classrooms and a clinical skills lab. The rooms were spacious, well lit and allowed for easy setup of the simulation and debriefing space. There was a projector, and the facilitators used a personal laptop for power points. The university's location and space made it an ideal setting for the course.

The equipment used was from previous courses. Two, well setup VAST boxes that only needed a few pieces of equipment replaced, such as adult laryngoscopes and stethoscopes. The iPads worked well during sims but needed regular charging due to battery problems. This was also experienced in the previous course. These were minor issues that did not affect the course.

Programme

The three-day course followed the program schedule from the VAST materials. A week before, the course facilitators were allocated a session each to run, as well as a role in each simulation session. This worked well for the group as it was the first locally organised course without international presence. The facilitators were confident presenting their topics and so generated good discussions with participants. Toward the end of day one, several shy participants were confident speaking out. The participants adapted easily into the simulation scenarios. Hence, there was exchange of many ideas and experiences during debrief sessions. This also reflected in the evaluations received each day.

Summary of Evaluations

The written feedback was overall encouraging and positive. It reflected each days take home messages well. Many acknowledged the importance of practising non- technical skills during crisis. There was mention of checklists and visual aids being essential components to emergency response. Several participants emphasised the importance of following a systematic approach to different situations and the crucial role of clear communication. One particular feed back stated, "Investing in simulations help us realize our non-technical skill gaps - Debriefing help us improve these gaps" This was encouraging to know that the gist of VAST was communicated across to participants and appreciated.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Confirmation of facilitators availability for the course only came a week prior to the set dates due to busy work schedules and shortage of staff. All the facilitators are lead clinicians in their different hospitals. Training more Fiji based facilitators is something that could be looked at. On this course we had 3- 4 facilitators per group.
- Because there was no coordinator the whole team were allocated roles to setup and clean up between sessions. This may have hindered the facilitator group from engaging better in debriefs and group discussions. Plans are in place to identify a coordinator in the upcoming course.

- A few participants were late and on mobile phones during the course. A suggestion was to have course mentors. This would allow better communication between the groups.
- Two of the iPad had battery problems so they had to be charged between scenarios – Acquiring newer iPads would be of great assistance.
- One registrar who was a participant of both the VAST course and the VAST lite course felt the VAST course was superior. As local faculty become more experienced, we will aim to always run the 3 day VAST course.

Future Directions

Local faculty have agreed to hold a course later in the year if circumstances allow. This would be possible if funds are sufficient, and a venue is secured. The next course is planned to coincide with the PSA in September. The goal is to allow regional facilitators to practice debriefing skills.

Participants that we hope to get for the next training are the regional anaesthesia providers who will be in Fiji for the Society meeting. Also, other interprofessional perioperative team members such as nurses and surgeons.

Dr Anna West an Australian based VAST instructor will be in Fiji later in the year as a Pacific fellow. We hope that with her experience and assistance a VAST Wellbeing course can be organised. We will have discussions regarding inclusion of VAST wellbeing at the next PSA meeting.

So far, VAST has been well received by all who have been involved in the course and its future in the South Pacific is an important steppingstone to promoting simulation and teaching non- technical skills.

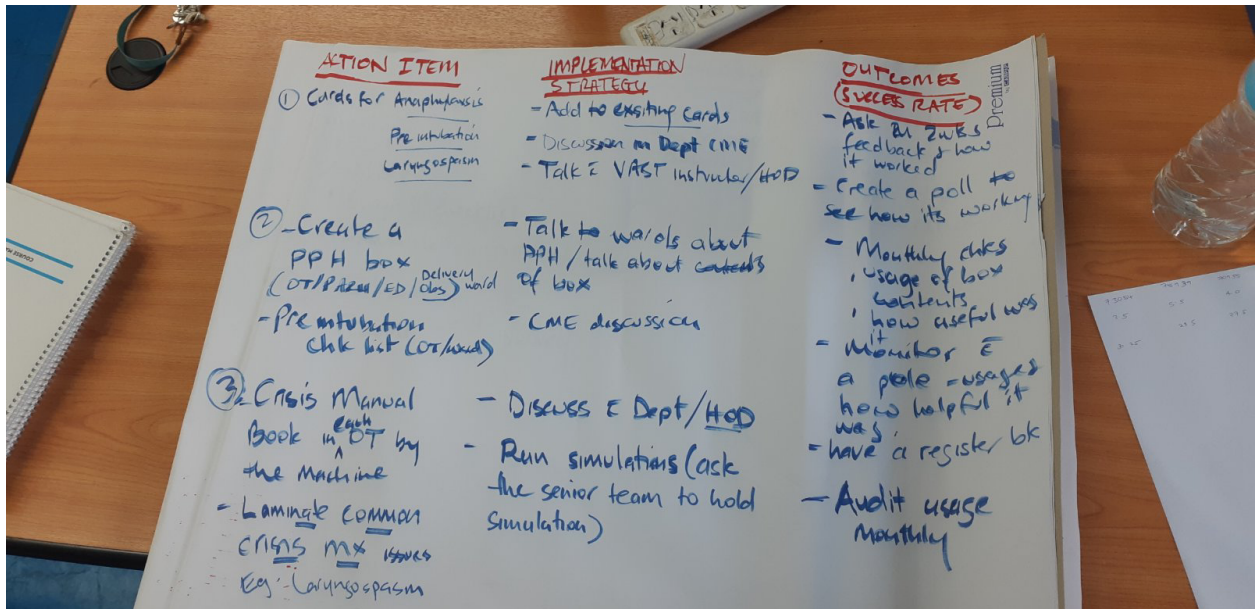
Course Photos - Appendix I



TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- ASSESSING CAPABILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS IS IMPORTANT FOR TEAMWORK.
- MAINTAIN A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO TRAUMA Mx SO AS NOT TO MISS IMPORTANT DETAILS
- STICK TO ABCs - TO IDENTIFY AND TREAT SIMULTANEOUSLY
- COMMUNICATE TEAM MEMBER ROLES CLEARLY
- INVESTING IN SIMULATION TRAINING HELPS US TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN OUR NTS. (SITI).





REFLECTION - DAY-2

- Systematic Approach to Crisis Mx
- Good communication - Early, Declare "CRISIS"
- Formulate Protocols + Checklist for Crisis Mx
- Early Recognition & Tx
- Shared Mental Model
- Preparedness,
- Understand Limitations
- SBAR Hand Over -



Course Expenses - Appendix II

ITEM	COST
Participant Manuals (10)	285
Lunch (\$25/person)	1,350
Morning/afternoon teas	530
TOTAL COST	\$2165