



VITAL ANAESTHESIA SIMULATION TRAINING

VAST Course – SUVA, FIJI

September 21st-23rd, 2023.

EUNICE ONISIMO, MEGAN WALMSLEY



Executive summary

Situation

The September VAST course was planned to achieve several aims. The first was to continue the training of Fijian and regional registrars as VAST participants. The second was to allow the regional anaesthetists who trained VAST facilitators in 2022 the opportunity to facilitate on a course prior to their attendance at the PSA conference. The third was to involve a multi-disciplinary team in its simulations, such as nurses and surgeons. And lastly to identify and train potential individuals for the role of course co-ordinators.

Background

The VAST course was introduced to Fiji by founder Adam Mossenson in 2019. It was conducted in Suva, Fiji and has continued to be held in Suva. Fiji is a key location for holding VAST course due partly to the Fiji National University (FNU) post graduate program. FNU runs post graduate degrees for many specialities including anaesthesia. It has trainees from all over the South Pacific. The year 2022 saw a VAST course revival, (post covid) with the assistance of Canadian and Australian VAST faculty. A successful facilitator course saw new facilitators from Pacific Society of Anaesthetist member countries trained (Tonga/Samoa/Cook Islands/Vanuatu/Fiji/East Timor). In June 2023, the Fijian faculty held its first Fijian lead course in Suva. Participants were from the three major hospitals. September VAST course was a follow up to the June course and targeted the regional trainees and hoped to involve facilitators who were in Fiji for the Pacific Society of Anaesthetist conference.

Assessment

The September VAST course was a success. Participants hailed from East Timor, Samoa, Cook Islands and Fiji. Unfortunately, no regional facilitator was able to join. The involvement of 2 nurses and an anaesthesia technician was a good start at involving interdisciplinary participation. These two nurses also spent time setting up and observing the running of the course. Participant daily feedback was positive and had several constructive points that the facilitators could improve on for the next course. Everyone who was part of the course agreed that they learnt a lot and simulation training is an important area of need in the workplace.

Recommendations

There is an ongoing need to train more facilitators. Training of new Fiji National University faculty and junior consultants is crucial for the course's continuity. Sending out expressions of interest to participants who showed facilitator potential would be a great starting point. Training of current facilitators to Instructor positions would also benefit with training of local facilitators in the future. As observed in this course, involving regional facilitators from other island country's (apart from Fiji) was difficult due to work responsibilities and funding. If there is any possible assistance the global VAST faculty could provide

would be greatly appreciated. It would be ideal to get better iPads for future courses. The lifespan of the current ones is short and could become a problem later on.

Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Attendees	2-3
Venue and equipment	3
Program	4
Summary of evaluations	4
Positives, Challenges and lessons learnt	4
Future directions	5
Appendix 1 – Course photos	6-7
Appendix 2 - Expenditure	8

Acknowledgements





We extend our gratitude and thanks to the Australian Society of Anesthetists (ASA) who have been our greatest financial supporters throughout the year.

We also acknowledge the following organisations for the 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 Fakraufon

- ✚ Kenton Biribo (Day 1)
- ✚ Alice Goldsmith (Australian faculty)
- ✚ Anna West (Australian faculty)

Participants

- ✚ Shyamal Sharma (Lautoka)
- ✚ Resina Lewaio (RN, Lautoka)
- ✚ Vulakauvaki Talemaisainai (RN, Lautoka)
- ✚ Sealiitu Esjae Sesega (Samoa)
- ✚ Coleone Vaai (Samoa)
- ✚ Maria Piedade (Timor Leste)
- ✚ Mario Soares (Timor Leste)
- ✚ Priyanka Shristy (Suva)
- ✚ Arishma Prasad (Suva)
- ✚ Salote Rerealoa (Anaesthesia technician, Cook Islands)

Venue and equipment

The course was held at the Fiji National University, School of Medical Sciences and Nursing College Campus, Extension Street, Suva. The university was the perfect venue as it had the breakout rooms and lecture space, suitable for the course. We were able to use the lecture room projector and sound system. A personal laptop was used for the presentations. The university's proximity to the main teaching hospital made it easier for the trainees and local facilitators to attend.

VAST Fiji has two ready packed boxes. One box is kept at Lautoka hospital and the other in Suva with FNU anaesthesia faculty. Apart from the stethoscope's the boxes have a full set of equipment and are well maintained. The four iPads are old and have battery problems this did not affect the flow of the simulations and was not a major issue at this course. One facilitator brought a power board and extension cord so 2 of the iPads could remain plugged in throughout the simulations. It is recommended we continue to bring this equipment for each course.

Programme

The program for the three days followed the VAST course generic program. Similarly with the previous course, each facilitator also received a pre-allocated role for simulations and topic discussions. The session on burnout was not run as part of the VAST course. This was because all participants were attending the VAST Wellbeing course at the PSA the following week. There was a much better setting for discussions on burnout. On previous courses the participants have been too tired by late day 2 to engage in burnout discussions. A few minor changes were made to the program each day and overall, the program delivery was timely. Several participant reflections mentioned how well the facilitators ran the course and this was encouraging.

Summary of Evaluations

Generally, evaluations were pragmatic and constructive. All the participants agreed/strongly agreed that simulations were an important learning tool. It was encouraging to note that take home messages from participants reflected the days key objectives for each day. The importance of having a structured approach, using visual aides, and the importance of nontechnical skills were several common feedback. There was also constructive feedback on things to improve on. A suggestion on having a video on graded assertiveness and introducing short breaks between scenarios are things for the course directors to contemplate on for the next course. There were also specific participant requests, for example, introducing VAST course to their island country's and getting more participants to attend the course. Evaluations were overall encouraging as the core objectives of VAST course was reflected in all.

Positives, Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Positives

- ✚ We were glad to have anaesthesia technician and 2 theatre nurses in this course. This was the first interdisciplinary participation, and we hope to involve other cadres in the future.
- ✚ The nurses also helped setup sims and were given an overall view of coordinating the course. They will hopefully return as coordinators for the next course.
- ✚ This year all FNU anaesthesia diploma trainees, except one who couldn't attend due to personal commitments, attended the VAST course.

Challenges

- ✚ Our biggest challenge for this course was finding facilitators for the whole 3-days. This was due to work commitments and the fact that the current facilitators hold senior administrator roles in their own departments. We hope to train more junior consultants who are interested in simulations. Similarly engaging regional facilitators in the course was difficult due to work commitments.
- ✚ The ipads are working but need constant charging to function. We are hopeful to get replacements soon.

Future Directions

We hope that in 2024 there is a facilitator training for Fiji National University anaesthesia lecturers and government employed junior consultants for Fijians. Plans are in the way to involve regional facilitators for ongoing experience. This would depend heavily on funding and the availability, interest and level of commitment of the regional group. Importantly we hope that some of the local facilitators can receive instructor trainings with the assistance of the global community.

Overall VAST course has been well received by the Pacific Society of Anaesthetist community. The Fiji National University's role in this course is crucial to its continuity and engaging FNU anaesthesia faculty is important. The Pacific Society of Anaesthetist community have much to learn in simulation training and VAST course has provided a suitable starting platform. We thank Adam and the VAST community for their ongoing support and encouragement in running VAST in Fiji.

APPENDIX 1 COURSE PHOTOS





APPENDIX 2 BUDGET

VAST SEPTEMBER COURSE

	Cost	Total
Accommodation	Island Accommodation	2112
3 participants	1 bedroom studio – 180 x4= 720 x 2 =1440	
	Outrigger 2 rooms 420 + 252 672	
Allowance	100/day x4days =	1200
3 people	400/person	
Participant course manuals 10	390	390
Catering for 20 ppl Morning tea/lunch	1800	
Total		\$5502 FJD