



Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia Newsletter – December 2007

ISSUE NO: 11

Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for this year. It is customary that the end of year issues of the newsletter provides a summary of activities and events which have transpired during the year. This being this year's final edition, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe transition to a healthy and prosperous New Year.



SURGICAL TEAM NEWS

Patient consultation: 1004
Surgical procedures: 464

A total of 6 surgical team visits were accomplished this year, with the inclusion of the Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) surgeon and speech therapist for the first time. Each locale, Timor Leste, Timor (NTT) and Flores (NTT) received two visits, involving 30 personnel from our organisation. Several team members participated in the visits for first time in the year, we hope that their involvement will be ongoing.

Summary of clinical activities for 2007:

Total no. of patients clinically assessed: 1004
Total no. of surgical procedures performed: 464

cleft lip and palate deformities:	167
burn wound and contractures:	37
Ear Nose & Throat:	31
Hernia:	27
other deformities:	202

Such deformities as cleft lip and palate and burn contracture remain prominent, the inclusion of an ENT surgeon exposed a another speciality of patients arriving for treatment.

Personnel involved in the surgical team visits 2007:

Plastic Surgeons: Mark Moore AM, Anthony Fernandes, William Walker OAM, Peter Hayward, Markus Nikitins, **ENT Surgeon:** Suren Krishnan OAM, **General Surgeons:** Robert Sillar, Brian Miller, **Anaesthetists:** Timothy Semple, David Sainsbury, David McLeod, Anthony Pearce, Philip Barnes, Keith Streatfield, Peter Malcolm, Fiona Merritt, Eric Vreede

Speech Therapist: Roslyn Sells, **Physiotherapist:** Angela Annabel, **Nurses:** Margaret Maloney, Elizabeth Mazzei, Penny Craig, Helen Roberts, Josie Luke, Kerri Nicholls, Catherine Coombe, Doris Walker, **Coordinator /interpreter:** Roswita Kyathia, Fifi Djamiko, Ruth Boveington, Roslien Rutten **Counterparts: Plastic Surgeon:** Magda Hutagalung, **Leprosy specialist:** Harianto Hendrikus, **Intern:** Yose Anggoro, **RMO Intern:** Dr Michael, **Medical student:** Sr Angela SSpS **RACS Surgeon:** Catherine Edyvane, **RACS Coordinator:** Sarmiento Correia, Hospital staff of Baucau, Dili, Halilulik, Soe, St Rafael & St Damian, (Cancar).



Dr Fernandes & Dr Krishnan teaching counterpart doctors

CANCAR, FLORES, NTT



Outpatient clinic – October 2007

Both visits to Cancar this year saw very large numbers of patients being assessed. The visit earlier in the year included a second plastic surgeon and speech therapist, the later visit included an ENT surgeon at the request of the community. An Indonesian plastic surgeon from Surabaya, Dr Magda Hutagalung, joined the teams at both visits. A young intern from Jakarta who has just completed his internship at Soe, Timor joined the team in October with the objective to further his skills. He has expressed interest in future involvement.

The number of patients who presented at the later visit was more significant than at any previous visits.

Additional patients with cleft lip/palate and burn deformities arrived from all over Nusa Tenggara Timor, including Sumba, Maumere, Timor and Kalimantan. There was also a sizeable number of patients requiring assessment and treatment by the ENT surgeon, most of which were for tonsillectomy and polypectomy and many with head and neck cancers. The hospital also had its first tracheostomy performed by Drs Krishnan and Phil Barnes, on a patient with head and neck tumour. The patient recovered well by the end of the week. Dr Krishnan taught the resident intern at Cancar, Dr Michael simple tonsillectomy techniques. They had performed most procedures together throughout the week. Hopefully, Dr Michael will still be in Cancar at the ENT team next visit.



Dr Barnes with the first tracheostomy patient, Cancar

The absence of the two main supervisors at Cancar, (Sr Virgula SSpS and Sr Franseline SSpS) who were temporarily away was quite apparent, most of the nuns currently at the community are new. Although the clinical workload was heavier than normal, the staff and residents coped very well.

Summary of clinical activities, 2007 – 2 visits:

Total patient consultation:	545
Total surgical procedure:	218
Cleft lip/palate:	86
Burns:	21
ENT:	31
Other:	84

Amongst the many patients from Timor was a burn patient who also had the cleft lip and palate deformity. She was seen by Dr Hargrave in 1997 at Kupang but 'disappeared' and therefore did not receive treatment. Oxfam in Atambua located her and sent her to Cancar for treatment by our team. Her neck burn contracture was released and cleft lip repaired, she looks forward for her cleft palate to be repaired at the next plastic team visit.

Burn contracture & bilateral cleft lip and palate patient



Initial consultation - 1997



Cancar 2007



Contracture release



After Split Skin Grafting & bilateral cleft lip repair



Post surgery



2 days after surgery



Team Cancar - October 2007

Proposed next visit to Cancar:

Orthopaedic team: April 2008

TIMOR (WEST TIMOR), NTT



Team members – Halilulik

Two visits were undertaken to Soe and Halilulik this year. The earlier visit included a combined visit by the plastic and general surgeons, both teams were based at the Soe General Hospital.

The later visit separated the specialists, where the plastic surgical team was based at the RSK (Rumah Sakit Katolik) Marianum, at Halilulik and the general surgeon at Soe.

Preoperative cleft patients – Halilulik



Postoperative patients - Halilulik



Following the awkwardness of the situation with equipment at the initial proposed visit to Halilulik, the SSps nuns purchased an anaesthetic machine, operating theatre lights plus other equipment for simple surgical procedures to be performed at the RSK Marianum operating room, this enabled the team to perform surgery at the hospital during the latter visit.



Team with staff and patients – Halilulik

The general surgical visits to Soe attract patients with a vast focus of ailments. Patients who present at each visit seek treatment from goitres, head and neck

lesions, urinary tract problems, hernias, breast cancers, etc. The plastic team who was at Soe earlier in the year also saw many patients with cleft lip and palate deformities and burn patients.



Bilateral leg burn contracture

Summary of clinical activities - 3 visits:

Total patient consultation: 333

Total surgical procedures: 180

Cleft lip/palate: 40

Burn: 6

Hernia: 27

Other: 107



Surgical team with counterparts, Soe, March 2007

Proposed next visit to Timor: Soe - April 2008

Halilulik – dates to be advised.

TIMOR LESTE

Dili National Hospital, October 2007





Outpatient department Dili Newly completed ICU, Dili Hospital

Only one team visited Timor Leste earlier in the year, due to the elections. The team only worked at the Baucau hospital. As in most visits, at the later visit, one team worked at Baucau hospital and the other at the Dili Hospital.



At consultation, Dr Moore, Dr Hayward & Helen Roberts

The whole hospital complex at Dili was under construction and working conditions were difficult. In addition, there were 'refugees' camping around the whole hospital grounds. The new operating theatre complex, although complete are being utilised by the administration department. Surgery is still performed in the old operating theatres and patients are being accommodated in buildings behind the construction areas. Our patients were accommodated in the new ICU building complex.

The new Baucau hospital is being constructed on higher grounds a reasonable distance from the main town.

One of the anaesthetists for the team was ill, therefore elected not to join the team. This gave the opportunity to utilise the services of the resident RACS anaesthetist to stand-in for the week which worked well.



Preparing a patient for surgery - Surgical procedure - Baucau

At the end of the visit, the outgoing Australian Ambassador, Ms Margaret Toomey, took the team out to dinner to thank them for their work and service to the people of Timor Leste. The evening ended with an amusing event, which cannot be disclosed for a while!

Summary of Clinical activities – 2 visits:

Total patient consultation:	126
Total surgical procedures:	66
Cleft lip/palate:	41
Burns:	10
Other:	15



Team members & local staff – Baucau hospital October 2007

Proposed next visit to Timor Leste: dates to be advised

Other News

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at Calvary Hospital with 26 people in attendance. The new committee selected as follows:

President:	Robert Laws
Vice Presidents:	Dr Mark Moore AM Douglas Omond OAM
Secretary:	Lea Frick
Treasurer:	Alex Johnson
Members:	Margaret Maloney Dr David McLeod Sue Freeman Connie Granozio
Co-opted members:	Ruth Boveington John Russell

Dr Mark Moore and Ruth Boveington met with the new Indonesian Consul, Mr. Harbangan Napitupulu, and his staff in Darwin in November. A powerpoint presentation was shown of our work, especially in Cancar and Timor. Mr Napitupulu has expressed ongoing assistance for our teams visits to the Indonesian provinces.

Fundraising & Donations.

The Smile Train programme (USA) have given a grant of \$32,000 for Treatment and Education, to assist with the treatment of cleft lip and palate in Timor (Nusa Tenggara Timur) and Timor Leste. Smile Train provides financial assistance to organisations around the world and it is gratifying to work in partnership them again.

They provided us with a grant of \$10,000 for treatment of cleft lip and palate in Timor Leste in 2002.

Committee member, Connie Granozio organised a fundraising event with the Italian Community in Adelaide where proceeds of about \$10,000 from the Il Dago were donated to support our work. In addition to the profits from the dinner dance, a total of almost \$20,000 was raised.

A fundraising lunch on October 14th attended by 104 people raised \$1784.000. Guest speaker at the lunch was Otolaryngologist/ENT surgeon, Dr Suren Krishnan OAM, who has provided his services to other developing countries, mainly in the Pacific Islands, under the auspices of RACS. A power-point presentation of his work in regions that he had been to impressed everyone. Dr Krishnan was a team member on the visit to Cancar, Flores in October 2007. He has expressed interest in providing an ongoing ENT service to the community in Cancar and is expected to partake in another visit next year.

The LSJS Jubilee Charitable Foundation, England, Amanda and Laurie Kennedy, made a major donation earlier in the year which funded the later visit to Cancar. A residual of the donation will be used to fund another team to Cancar early next year. Another significant donation has been made by the LSJS Jubilee Charitable Foundation to support the team visits for 2008.

Personnel:

Sr Virgula SSpS returned to Germany in May for leave and to catch up with family and friends. She has returned to Cancar, spending 3 days at Labuan Bajo and the rest at Cancar. She has just turned 78 years old.

Sr Franseline SSpS who has been our counterpart and host in Cancar since 1993, is away for a year. She will return to Cancar for a few months at the end of this year before moving on to another region. She hopes to be involved with our team for one last time later next year before leaving Cancar for good.

Sr Angela SSpS – Halilulik went to Jakarta to study dentistry in August, soon after our team's departure. She is expected to return to Halilulik in the middle of next year.

Dr Joao Pedro (Timor Leste), our counterpart from Baucau and Dili has been at the Royal Darwin Hospital for surgical training.

Acknowledgements:

Supporters of OSSAA have been recognised in the President's Report, available on our website: www.ossainc.org also in our team visit reports. Special recognition is made of:

- Amanda & Laurie Kennedy (LSJS Jubilee Charity Foundation) for their donation and commitment into 2008
- Alison Kelty / Xanadu for her tireless support and promotion of OSSAA
- Calvary, Burnside, St Andrews and Royal Adelaide Hospitals for their assistance with consumables
- TYCO - Emily Miller & Eleni Argyriou, for anaesthetic equipment and sutures
- ETHICON – David Carney, for sutures
- ABBOTT – Mark Richie, for anaesthetic agents
- Mr AP Haddad – for pharmaceuticals
- SYNTHESSES – for surgical wire for Timor Leste
- QANTAS / AIR NORTH / GARUDA for assistance with Excess baggage
- Adelaide Pathology Partners for ongoing pathology support
- RACS – for International Projects team for their wide ranging assistance
- Consulate of Republic of Indonesia – Darwin for their ongoing support to our teams
- Mercedes School / Janet Bartold & Students for donating cd players to children at Halilulik hospital.

Membership

Memberships remain at \$25.00 a year for ordinary membership and \$100 for corporate membership. Remember, the organisation depends on your support to improve the lives of those who are much more disadvantaged.

The Committee of Management would like to thank all members and individuals for the help and support throughout this year and previous years. We trust that you will continue to help and support those who do not have the chance to helping themselves.

Further information can be obtained by visiting our website: www.ossainc.org.au or write to us at: PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061 or to: Ruth Boveington, PO Box 795, Darwin, NT 0801. email: ruthbov@ozemail.com.au