

Report on Kathmandu Visit for the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh in Association with Saving Lives International.

Dr Rob Russell and Dr David Bruce visited Kathmandu representing the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (FPHC) in association with the charity, Saving Lives International (SLI). Our goal was to work with local healthcare professionals and institutions and to conduct a Pre-Hospital Trauma Care (PHTC) Instructor course followed by a Provider course and look at Nepal's pre-hospital care and disaster management capabilities.

The original plan for delivery of PHTC courses had to be cancelled but some nimble footwork by Dr Peter Patel, Chair of SLI, and Dr Puspa, President of the General Practice and Emergency Medicine Association of Nepal (GPEMAN) quickly produced a new schedule. This gave us an extra day to explore the wonderful city of Kathmandu.

The first afternoon seminar was held at the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) in the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). Attendees included the Minister of Health, Mr Pradip Paudel, the Chief of HEOC and senior local healthcare providers. We discussed the UK approach to major incidents and disaster management. This was followed by a presentation from HEOC on the steps they have taken since the 2015 earthquake to prepare for similar events in the future – these were impressive and there is clearly a uniform centralised approach across the 7 provinces of Nepal. After a break, we had a round table discussion on the current state of pre-hospital care in Nepal, the challenges they face, and how to overcome them. The sessions were very interactive, with a great exchange of ideas and experiences.

The next day, we gave similar presentations at Kathmandu Medical College to an audience of senior and junior doctors all involved in General Practice and Emergency Care. The discussions brought out the very different environments, and hence challenges, of Kathmandu and remote rural practice in Nepal.

On our final day, we attended the 1st day of a 3-day conference on Disaster Management at the Nick Simons Institute, Kathmandu which had been organised between SLI and GPEMAN. Professors David Ross (Public Health) and James Kingsland (General Practice) were also in attendance from the UK. The conference covered all aspects of Disaster Management using an interactive, problem-solving format combined with formal presentations. Unfortunately, Dr Russell and Dr Bruce had to leave after the 1st day although we were able to attend the Conference Reception with the delegates and the British Ambassador, His Excellency Rob Fenn.

Despite the initial setback, the visit to Kathmandu was successful and we gained a better understanding of the current state of pre-hospital care and disaster management in Nepal, made useful contacts and will continue to liaise with SLI and GPEMAN regarding the establishment of the PHTC Course in Nepal. On departure, Dr Bruce returned to the UK and Dr Russell travelled to India to deliver a PHTC Instructor course followed by a Provider course in Chennai supported by local instructors.



The meeting with HEOC



Dr David Bruce with Dr Prakash, Head of HEOC and Mr Pradip Paudel, Minister for Health and Population



With Nepalese colleagues outside the Ministry of Health and Population



Dr Puspa, President of GPEMAN with Dr Russell