

Mongolia joins the ATLS Family

The leading cause of mortality in Mongolian citizens aged 25-44, and the third leading cause of death countrywide is injury, largely due to road traffic accidents. Mongolia ranks 26th in the world in terms of deaths due to injury.



Approximately 5.8 million people die each year as a result of traumatic injuries. This accounts for 10% of the world's deaths, 32 % more than the number of fatalities from malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS combined. Injuries are projected to be the 3rd to 5th leading cause of death worldwide by 2030.

On September 12, 2013 Mongolian stakeholders convened to discuss the urgent need for a standardised trauma care training program in their country. They chose the Advanced Trauma Life Support Course (ATLS®) as the program that most fit their country's needs.

In the context of the nationalised healthcare system in Mongolia, the initiation and sustainable development of an ATLS® program required political and financial support from the Mongolian Ministry of Health and the Mongolian Government.

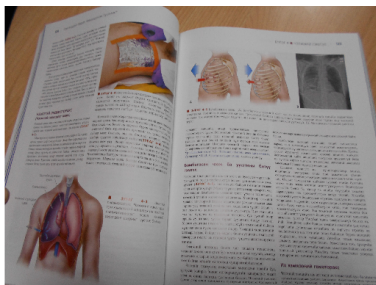
The first Student and Instructor courses were launched in June 2015 after lengthy negotiations with the ATLS Sub-committee of the American College of Surgeons. Dr Sergelen and Dr Ganbold, two major local champions worked tirelessly with Assoc Prof Michael Hollands , ATLS Region XV1 Chairperson for Australasia and Asia ,and Dr Ray Price, USA, (who has been involved in surgical education in Mongolia for the past 13 years) to bring ATLS to fruition .

The ATLS Region XV1 faculty is truly a family. This was the third time a multinational faculty would be involved in an inaugural ATLS course. Faculty from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Australasia, and the United States, along with an incredibly dedicated group of local students and staff, helped make the inaugural ATLS course in Mongolia a huge success. One of the most fun and rewarding aspects of the week was the camaraderie between students and instructors from so many countries.



However, this was probably the most challenging promulgation for our region, in that English was not readily understood or spoken by most of our participants. There was definitely that need for trust that the correct information was being imparted !

The ATLS manual and ATLS Slides had been translated into the local language, and translators were required for every lecture and skill station. It was soon identified that there are some specific words in the manual and MCQ questions that do not have a similar meaning when translated from English into Mongolian eg resuscitation



Sixteen students, mostly senior clinicians and leaders of the profession, participated in the provider course and represented a number of hospitals in Mongolia. Nine of the sixteen participants were invited to attend the inaugural Mongolian ATLS Instructor course. Two were progressed to the next course as Instructor candidates and played a significant role in the organisation of the second course.

A second student course was scheduled in November, again with a multi-international faculty with the addition of two local instructor candidates. In view of the problems experienced during the inaugural course, the course was scheduled to be conducted over 3 ½ days to accommodate the extended lecture and skill station times to accommodate the translation of information required.

The ATLS mantra of “ adapt and overcome “ came into play in both of these courses as we moved from Plan A, to Plan B & not surprisingly Plan C on many occasions ! One particular example happened on the second course, Day 1 needed to be adapted to accommodate the opening of the Medical library teaching and skills rooms (the location of the ATLS course) by the Ministers of Health & Education - unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to meet the Minister of Health as he was sent to jail the day before !



Deb Paltridge reluctantly made the journey, but had to agree from an educational perspective the inaugural ATLS courses were challenging from a teaching perspective, but found the collective group of participants in the instructor course inspiring, especially as they worked together as a dedicated team.



Congratulations to all involved in the successful promulgation of ATLS in Mongolia, and the leading roles played in ensuring that an ATLS footprint would be left in Mongolia.

L. Dunstall 2015