

# Sri Lanka Skills Centre and Outreach Project



**5 - 7 August 2017**



**An Outreach Project will take place to Colombo, Sri Lanka from 5th to 7th August, 2017 to train local surgeons in HPB procedures and to further develop the local Skills Centre.**

Project Leader: Dr P Jagannath, Mumbai, India.

## **The aims of the project**

The early stages of progression in health care in developing countries involves the creation of effective public health programs and basic health care. Once these programs are established, the natural progression of development will lead to a focus on providing more complex medical and surgical care. In many developed and developing countries the concern about HPB diseases often lags behind other areas of surgical medicine.

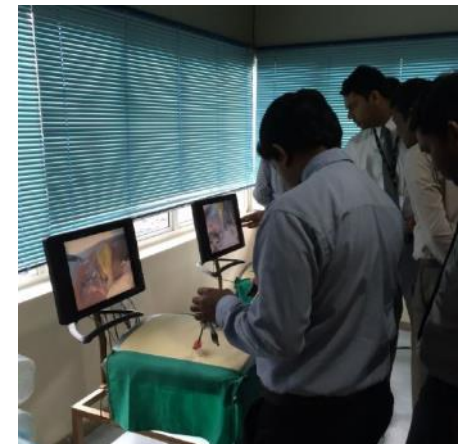
Sri Lanka has established a surgical training programme, in which HPB is recognised as a sub-speciality training area. Over the last 4 years around 12 surgeons have chosen to train in HPB surgery. This incorporates laparoscopic training at the Skills Development Centre at the College of Surgeons in Sri Lanka. The Centre opened in 2010 and is run as a non-profit venture. It contains 10 stations with basic laparoscopic instruments, and the skills taught include basic hand skills, laparoscopic cholecystectomy on porcine liver, knotting and suturing.

The Skills Centre requires support both by way of provision of additional equipment and instruction in advanced HPB skills.

## **Initial assessment**

This will be the second visit to Sri Lanka. In 2015 Dr Jagannath led an HPB workshop at the Skills Centre, and supported the inauguration of the IHPBA Sri Lanka Chapter. These initial local assessments have required a need for the following steps

- To promote the care of common liver, pancreatic, biliary and gastrointestinal disorders through improvements in basic surgical and medical care of these diseases
- To identify, train and support local surgeons and physicians who are dedicated to the care of HPB disease.
- To support the existing local Skills Laboratory by provision of equipment and training by the volunteer experienced HPB Surgeons.
- To consolidate on the success of this visit with follow up projects and support for local surgeons.



Second year trainees on the laparoscopic skills course, 2015



The Skills Development Centre, 2015

#### Specific objectives include:-

1. Attendance by the project volunteers to teach advanced HPB skills at the Skills Centre
2. Provision of equipment required by the Skills Centre, namely
  - Diathermy machines
  - Needle holders
  - Graspers
  - Dissectors
  - Clip applicators
  - Scissors
3. The volunteers also aim to carry out a number of complex procedures while they are in Sri Lanka

#### Plans for the Future

This is the second visit by AHPBA members to Sri Lanka. Further follow up projects will take place over the coming years to consolidate on the success of these first two visits. This will improve local HPB medical services over an increasing number of procedures.

Additional local initiatives include

1. Relocation of the Skills Centre to the SAARC Surgical Care Society head quarters to improve the provision of training in advanced procedures.
2. Annual educational meetings organised by the IHPBA Sri Lanka Chapter by funding the attendance of international speakers.
3. Supporting local surgeons to complete specialist HPB fellowships around the world.



The proposed new Skills Development Centre

The creation of the Sri Lanka Chapter of IHPBA has been a significant step forward in providing HPB care locally. The Chapter will continue to be supported by IHPBA and AHPBA, and will be active in co-ordinating this and future outreach projects to Sri Lanka.

#### Project team (all HPB surgeons)

Dr P Jagannath MD, past-president of IHPBA, Mumbai, India.

Professor Ajith Siriwardena MD, Manchester, UK  
Anya Adair MD, Edinburgh, UK

Professor Christos Dervenis MD, Athens, Greece

Mehan Siriwardhane, MD Brisbane, Australia

Professor Nicholas o'Rourke MD, Brisbane, Australia

#### Local Co-ordinator

Dr Aloka Pathirana, HPB Surgeon, Professor of Surgery, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

