

Sri Lanka Skills Centre and Outreach Project

On 6th August 2017 the IHPBA Foundation made a significant contribution to the Sri Lankan surgical training. The outreach program to Sri Lanka has successfully funded the upgradation of the 'Skill Centre' by a donation of instruments to the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka.

On the morning of 6th August, IHPBA team comprising of Dr. Jagannath, Prof. Joseph Epat, Ajith Siriwardena, Rohan Jeyrajah, Anya Adair, Mehan Siriwerdhana, Sadiq Sikora and Shailesh Shrikhande were at the College of Surgeons building. The building itself has a very interesting history of being a charitable gift from Noel and Nora Bartholomeusz for the college. The local team was led by Aloka Pathirana and Rohan Siriwerdhana.



Dr. Jagannath introduced the outreach mission, its objectives and the process and said that as a follow up of the visit in 2015 where there was a request for the instruments, we were able to fulfil that dream due to generous support from IHPBA Foundation. The instruments were handed over to Prof. Lamawansa who is the President of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka.



Prof. Lamawansa, in his reply said that it is indeed a great co-operative international effort and will go a long way in training of young surgeons from Sri Lanka. Earlier the courses were held, once in a quarter, with support from Industry and basic instruments of Lap skills were not available. Now with the current sets of instruments of needle holders, Maryland dissectors and graspers, the courses can be conducted even on a monthly frequency and will enable a large number of trainees to acquire new skills.



Then a session of guidelines for management of HCC, acute pancreatitis and colorectal liver metastasis was very successfully conducted. The representatives of Colleges of Associations of gastroenterologists, oncologists and radiologists, all came on a Sunday morning to discuss the practical guidelines for management of HCC, acute pancreatitis and colorectal liver metastasis in Sri Lanka. There was a lively and interactive discussion. HCC was guided by Prof. Joseph Espat and Anya Adair, acute pancreatitis and colorectal liver metastasis by Prof. Siriwardena.

In the evening IHPBA team was treated to traditional Sri Lankan hospitality and had a further interaction with the members of the Sri Lankan Chapters of IHPBA who had voiced their needs and aspirations.

On Monday, Master Class in HPB surgery was attended by more than 150 surgeons and trainees. They were benefitted by the expert talks by the IHPBA faculty. Rohan Jeyarajah also co-ordinated a session on training opportunities where young trainees had a face to face discussion with experts from surgeons from India, UK and United States on various training opportunities available for young surgeons and how IHPBA through myHPB can help to train surgeons from Sri Lanka. The programme was very well received. With active participation we were able to identify the needs of the Sri Lankan surgeons and will be able to plan subsequent programmes. All the faculty promised that they would return for further programmes when appropriate.