SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia Course
Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 19th-22nd March 2018

Nigeria in the West of Africa borders Chad, Benin, Niger and Cameroon. It is the most populous country in Africa and the 7th most populous country in the World, with over 180 million inhabitants.

There are around 1050 physician anaesthesia providers in Nigeria, providing a density of 0.58 per 100,000. In addition, there are approximately 250 nurse anaesthesia providers.

Port Harcourt is the capital of Rivers State of Nigeria, which is the 6th most populous state in the country with a population of over 5 million people. Rivers state covers an area of 11,000km and reaches the Atlantic Ocean with an inland tropical rainforest and a network of rivers and tributaries and the Niger delta environment towards the coast. The state is well known for its oil and gas reserves.

A SAFE Obstetrics course was run at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, from 20-22nd March 2018. Faculty included 2 UK anaesthetists, 8 Nigerian Anaesthetists and 2 Nigerian Obstetricians. The President of the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists, and the Vice President of the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists and WFSA Education lead both attended as faculty. The course was supported by the WFSA SAFE Group, the University of Port Harcourt (UPH) & Port Harcourt University Teaching Hospital (UPTH), the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists (NSA), the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), the Medical Women’s Association of Nigeria (MWAN) and Society of Obstetric Anaesthetists of Nigeria (SOAN) and was approved for 10 local CME Points. Interviews were conducted with the Nigerian Press for publicity.
A one-day Train-the-trainer (TTT) course was held on 19th March 2018, prior to the SAFE Obstetrics course for 14 participants. There were 53 participants on the SAFE course from the University hospital, UPTH, and the government hospital, BMSH and Owerri and FMC Yenegoa Hospitals. This included 10 Consultant Anaesthetists, 20 Senior Registrars and 23 Registrars, and 5 Consultant Obstetricians. All delegates improved on both their knowledge and skills over the 3-day course. Average MCQ scores improved from 43/50 (87%) to 45 (90%) and Skills Test scores improved from 5.8/10 (58%) to 8.3/10 (83%). Delegate feedback was very good. There was overwhelming enthusiasm for the course and a strong desire to run further courses in the future.

Coordinators meeting with Vice Chancellor & Principal Officers of the University & UPTH CMD

Delegates and faculty of the course