The 2\textsuperscript{nd} SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia course in Bangladesh

1\textsuperscript{st} – 4\textsuperscript{th} December 2014

The BSA (Bangladesh Society of Anaesthetologists) was delighted to conduct its second SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia From Education) Obstetric Anaesthesia course in Bangladesh. It took place at Comilla Medical College from 1\textsuperscript{st} - 4\textsuperscript{th} December 2014. The training program was organized in partnership with the AAGBI (Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland) and funded by the WFSA (World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists). The first SAFE course in Bangladesh was held at LAMB Hospital, Parbatipur from 20\textsuperscript{th} – 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 2013 covering the North West of Bangladesh. This second course covered the Eastern side of the country.

The SAFE course was designed to improve the skills of anesthesiologists and obstetricians working in primary to tertiary level hospitals. It aims to reduce both maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality. The course covers important areas of anaesthetic practice and addresses the major causes of maternal mortality in Bangladesh, namely maternal haemorrhage, sepsis, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia. It also includes useful sessions on how to use the Lifebox pulse oximeter and how to implement the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.

Visiting faculty comprised of:
Dr Terence Loughnan (Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist, Australia)
Dr Margaret Loughnan (Monash University, Australia)
Dr Rebecca Jones (Consultant Anaesthetist, LAMB hospital, Parbatipur, Bangladesh)
Dr Allan Monks (Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, UK)
Dr Ian Parkinson (Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist, Lancaster Royal Infirmary, UK)
Dr Rachel Smith (Anesthetic Specialty Trainee, Merseyside Deanery, UK)
Dr James Leedham (Course Director, Anaesthetic Specialty Trainee, North West Deanery, UK)

Bangladeshi faculty comprised of:
Dr M. Khalilur Rahman (Professor & Consultant of Square hospital, Dhaka)
Dr A.B.M. Muksudul Alam (Principal and Prof. Shaheed Shuhrawardy Medical College & Hospital, Dhaka also President of BSA & SAARC-AA)
Dr Debabrata Banik (Dept. of Anesthesia Analgesia & Intensive Care Medicine, BSMMU, and also Secretary of BSA & SAARC-AA)
Dr M. Abdur Rahman (Professor & Head Dept. of Anesthesiology Dhaka Medical College & Hospital)

Foreign faculty arrived in Bangladesh on 29\textsuperscript{th} November 2014 and on the same day they travelled to Comilla. On 30\textsuperscript{th} November they organize with the local authority a successful scientific program at Comilla Medical College for under graduate medical students, postgraduate students and other doctors.
Twelve course delegates were selected as Training of Trainers (TOT) participants. An additional thirty two SAFE course delegates were selected from anesthesiology and obstetric backgrounds by the government selection. All TOT participants reached Comilla on 30th November 2014. The inaugural session was opened by the Principal of Comilla Medical College in the presence of renowned surgeon and obstetrician at 8am on 1st December 2014. The TOT Course started on time on 1st December and finished at 5pm. The SAFE Training Course started on time on 2nd December with registration, pre course tests and finished at 5pm every day. During the training one senior renowned obstetrician, Prof Anowara Begum & Dr. Farhana Dawan (Secretary General of Bangladesh Society of Obstetric & Gynecologists) came to observe the design of the course. They commented that "this course is exciting and useful both for anesthesiologists and obstetricians."

Knowledge and skills tests were performed before and after the course. The results in Table 1 below show good levels of improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Candidates tested (n)</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
<th>Median Pre course score (IQR)</th>
<th>Median Post Course score (IQR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.5 (3.7-7.0)</td>
<td>8.5 (8.0 - 9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCQ</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37 (34 - 41)</td>
<td>44 (41 -45)</td>
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</table>

Table 1

Charts 1, 2 and 3 below display delegates’ feedback about the SAFE course. It was on a scale of 1-10 (very poor – excellent). The range and median scores are illustrated by error bars and blue diamonds respectively.

![Chart 1](chart1.png)
Additional comments about the SAFE course were made by some delegates:

“very good course”
“I hope to arrange sharing this knowledge to inform our health community”
“thank you all”
“duration can be increased”
“please arrange this course yearly to improve knowledge”
“3 day course may be extended to 5 days”
“I need more of this training and repeated training”
Charts 4 and 5 display feedback from delegates about the TOT day.
At the end of the SAFE course all 32 delegates were invited to complete a form on which they could write up to 3 commitments to change their clinical practice. 24 forms were collected and themes which emerged are depicted in the word cloud below. Commitments mentioned most frequently are represented by increasing font size.

Comilla Medical College provided with perfect efficiency, excellent classrooms, teaching resources and all other necessary facilities. We are very grateful to the Director General of Health Services in Bangladesh and the authority of Comilla Medical College for hosting this course. We appreciate the hospitality and assistance provided by Dr Mohosinuzzaman Chowdhury and all staff from his department of Anaesthesia and Intensive care medicine. The closing session of the SAFE course was conducted by the Director of Comilla Medical college Hospital.

This course, the second of its kind in Bangladesh will help to improve obstetric anaesthesia services. Doctors working in sub district hospitals would otherwise not have this opportunity to upgrade and refresh their skills. Repetition of the course in different locations across the country will further disseminate good practices. We hope that the WFSA and AAGBI will continue to support the BSA as it works to enhances postgraduate anaesthesia training throughout Bangladesh.

Prof. Debabrata Banik
Secretary General
Bangladesh society of Anesthesiology.

Dr James Leedham
Comilla SAFE Course Director
Acknowledgements

Comilla Medical College was an excellent venue at which to conduct this course. They efficiently provide ideal classrooms, teaching resources and all other necessary facilities.

We are especially thankful to the teaching and auxiliary staff of the department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at Comilla Medical College. Dr. Mohosinuzzaman Chowdhury and his team organized and prepared for the course extremely well and offered great hospitality to all who attended.

We are grateful to the Bangladesh Society of Anaesthesiologists (BSA) for their financial support, organization and preparation of course materials and recruiting teaching faculty and delegates.

We are grateful to the World Federation of societies of anaesthesiologists (WFSA) for their financial support.

We are grateful to the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) for their organizational and logistical support. Via the charity Teaching Aids at Low Costs (TALC) they provided two key books for TOT and SAFE course delegates respectively:


We thank the Royal College of Anaesthetists, UK (RCOA) for providing copies of the e-SAFE educational DVD for course delegates.

We thank the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) for providing comfortable accommodation and good food for faculty and delegates at their hostel in Kotbari near Comilla.

We thank Dr Mike Dobson for his help developing the TOT course.

We thank Dr Kate Grady for her continued stewardship of SAFE courses.

We would like to thank all of our delegates. Many undertook difficult journeys and travelled long distances to attend the course. All were a pleasure to teach.