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Sequential trauma education programs (STEPS): The experience of advanced trauma care education in low and middle income countries

Background & Aim: As one of the leading causes of death and disability in the world, human trauma and injury disproportionately affects individuals in developing countries. During initial program development, senior MOHP physicians stated, there was a critical need for a portable and flexible educational course on the clinical care of injured patients. To meet the need for improved trauma care in Egypt, the Sequential Trauma Emergency/Education Program S (STEPS) course was created through the collaborative effort of Egyptian and US expert physicians. The objective of course development was to create a high-quality, modular, adaptable, and sustainable trauma care course that could be readily adopted by a lower- or middle-income country.

Methods: We describes the course development from 2006 to 2016, highlighting the challenges and solutions of creating a successful, flexible and sustainable in-country trauma care training program that suits low and middle income countries.

Results: STEPS was developed at the University of Maryland, based in part on World Health Organization's Emergency and Trauma Care materials, and introduced to the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population and Ain Shams University in May 2006. The program is designed to adapt low cost and limited resources with maintaining high fidelity and unified standard. In 2008, the course transitioned completely to the leadership of Egyptian academic physicians. To date, more than 730 physicians from eight countries have taken the course through the Ministry of Health and Population or public/governmental universities. For the first time, the course was held in Sudan on January 2016.

Conclusion: STEPS has rapidly become a desired trauma care training program proved by sustainability based on 10 years of course conduct. Success of this collaborative educational program is demonstrated by the numbers of physicians trained, and program continuance after transitioning to in-country leadership and trainers.

Biography

Mohamed E Abbasy is currently working as an Emergency Medicine Clinical Fellow at Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar. He successfully completed his Injury Prevention Research and Training Program at University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Maryland, USA. He has attended R Adams Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Maryland in 2008. He completed his training in Emergency Medicine and successfully awarded the fellowship of Egyptian Board of Emergency Medicine in 2009. He has a good experience of working in Gulf region and worked as an Assistant Program Director of Saudi Board of Emergency Medicine in Eastern region, KSA in 2013. He successfully passed his membership examination of Royal College of Emergency Medicine UK in 2014 and European Board of Emergency Medicine in 2016. His research interest includes Critical Care, Trauma and Emergency Ultrasound.

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