

Society for Education in Anaesthesia UK Myerson Award

Applicant: Dr Nurhayati Lubis

Project Title: Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) Masters of Anaesthesia Programme, University of Addis Ababa and Black Lion Hospital, Ethiopia

Project Description

HVO is a non-profit organisation providing teaching to health professionals in developing countries. Ethiopia is suffering from a shortage of qualified health professionals with less than 20 medical anaesthetists. The vast majority of anaesthetic service is provided by non-medical anaesthetist who have completed a 3 year BSc degree without nursing background. HVO in partnership with Addis Ababa University established a Masters Programme in 2010 to provide an opportunity to improve quality of care by bringing students up to date with current practice and provide additional clinical skills.

My role was to provide supervision and clinical teaching 4 days a week and didactic teaching once a week. During my time the students was attached to the orthopaedics, gynaecology and urology theatres. I focused on teaching regional anaesthesia, utilising the nerve simulator which is novel to them. I covered aspects of pre- and post-operative care which had been identified by previous volunteers as a weak point. Patient-centred teaching included discussions on patient positioning, management of intra-operative haemorrhage and arrhythmias. My didactic teaching covered trauma, burns, poisoning and mechanical ventilation. I contributed multiple choice exam questions for the end of year examination.

I have not only contributed to the Masters Programme but have learnt from my experience. Teaching is my passion and I strive to improve my teaching skills. It was particularly challenging pitching at the right level to these knowledgeable students especially as English was not their mother tongue. I gained exposure in using halothane which would benefit me in my future endeavour working in developing world. I learnt new techniques from the students including the use of neostigmine in neuroaxial block.