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WFSA is a federation of national societies of anaesthesia, representing anaesthesiologists from virtually every country in the world. We have been in official relations with WHO for the last 20 years.

National societies of anaesthesia in industrialized countries tend to be strong and self-sufficient and therefore one of the WFSA's main outreach aims is the strengthening of levels of safe anaesthesia and good medical practice in Developing Countries. It is therefore of tremendous help, and a privilege for us to be able to work in these countries in association with WHO. We are also very happy to provide technical expertise to WHO when required, in relation to anaesthesia and related subjects such as oxygen therapy, blood safety, essential obstetric, rehabilitation, day surgery, essential drugs and the support of surgical services at district hospitals.

During the triennial 1998-2000 we engaged in collaboration with WHO on a number of projects already under way; these included the promotion of oxygen concentrators and the WHO performance standard for them. In this respect WFSA provided support for WHO with expert speakers at specialist meetings on oxygen therapy in Bangkok in 1998 and again in Madrid in 2000.

World Health Day in 2000 focused on the availability of safe blood and WFSA had collaborated in the development of strategies for this, participating in workshops, revisions of the documents "Clinical use of Blood (module and handbook)" and "Developing a National Policy and Guidelines on the Clinical Use of Blood."

These educational materials have now been completed and launched, and it is significant that the launch took place at a joint meeting of anaesthesiologists and blood transfusion specialists in

India. WFSA was able to make links with the Indian Society of Anaesthetists who will be key players in the distribution and use of these materials and technologies in India.

In 1986, WHO and WFSA jointly published "Anaesthesia at the District Hospitals", a handbook of basic anaesthetic practice aimed at first level referral hospitals. This book proved over the years to be a great success and a second revised edition was published in 2000.

In the last year we have continued collaboration with WHO in the fields of blood safety, with the joint launch of the WHO publication "The Clinical use of Blood" in association with national societies of Anaesthesia in both India and South Africa.

Anaesthetists have continued to work with WHO in the production of a manual of clinical practice aimed at surgeons and anaesthetists working in Distant Hospitals; this comprehensive book is now in the final stages of editing.

A third area of current collaboration is in the area of Primary Trauma Care (PTC). PTC is a simplified, 2-look system for the management of severely injured patients, which allows practitioners in developing countries to maximize their ability to treat patients in spite of the limitations of equipment and possible isolation. PTC has received generous support from FWSA (and from various other professional bodies in the UK and Australia). PTC is promulgated by 2-3 day course, given in country by trained instructors. WHO HQ has recognized the value of these materials and has now incorporated them into its District Hospital learning materials. We now seek regional WHO support for extension of this system.

Since the Japanese Society of Anaesthesiology (JSA) became an incorporated association last year, it has been vigorously promoting activities for the public interests. In the developing countries in the South-East Asia, such as Bangladesh, lectures on anaesthesiology, simulations, and practical works using a model are carried out as well as the education in anaesthesiology is continuously offered in Khabarovsk, Russia, etc. They are contributing to the improvement in the level of anaesthesia technology. I hope this educational system will also become widespread in the East Asia region.

WHO has great expertise in the development of Distance Learning materials and WFSA was very glad of its support in the creation of a project in Zimbabwe to produce sets of distance learning materials aimed at isolated anaesthetists in District Hospitals. This project is mainly sponsored by the Department for International Development (UK), but WHO has generously provided support in kind through the advice of its expert, Ms Jan Fordham. The learning materials, once fully developed, will

be widely promoted by WFSA beyond the frontiers of Zimbabwe, for use in District Hospitals throughout the Developing World.

In 1999, WHO began an initiative to produce materials for the support of surgical services at district level. WFSA has participated from inception in this project, supplying key members both of the advisory group and of the editorial group, which is currently involved in writing and editing suitable learning materials in such disciplines as surgery, obstetrics, anaesthesia, trauma, etc.

In addition to these and other projects, WFSA has sought and obtained face meetings with key WHO officers, has attended two World Health assemblies at which its representatives made presentations, and has met with Jean Emmanuel (our designated link person within WHO) and Michael Scholtz. We also sent a special delegation to the WHO/AFRO meeting with non-governmental organizations, which took place in February 1998. Much of the focus of our educational activities occurs in Africa where educational and other needs are particularly evident. We have tried therefore to work in conjunction with AFRO, but unfortunately can report no success at all in this realm. We had a face-to-face meeting with the AFRO Regional Director in Geneva, have correspond with him, and have sent representatives to the NGO liaison office now located in Harare, as well as writing on numerous occasions about working together with AFRO, but unfortunately have never received any response.

Many of the collaborative activities described above will carry over into next triennium. WFSA is most grateful for the help received from WHO. It is in turn making a significant contribution to the work of WHO, and we trust that this beneficial relationship will continue.