

ALSO Chile

ALSO will be introduced to Chile with courses September 28 – October 2, 2009. Chile will use the standard model for start-up ALSO courses. An international team will travel to Chile to teach a two-day (September 28 and 29) provider course to 40 Chilean providers. Twenty-three of those providers will then take a one-day (September 30) instructor course. Those Chilean providers who complete the first two courses will then teach a new group of 37 Chilean providers. Those who successfully take the first two courses and teach the second provider course will be official ALSO Instructors to carry the torch and teach ALSO in Chile from that point forward.

People will be attending the course from every province in the country. Physicians from as far north as Iquique (more than 1000km to the North) to Coyhaique (more than 1000km to the south). In Chile, ALSO will be taught to obstetricians, general practitioners, labor nurses and midwives.

The leaders of ALSO Chile are Dr. Jorge Felipe Muñoz Muñoz, Dr. Juan Carlos Gomez Pazos, Dr. Patricio Bertoglia and Dr. Matías Cox. They have received support from local and national health officials and institutions. The Chilean Obstetric Society (Sociedad Chilena de Obstetricia) and Universidad Catolica de la Santisima Concepcion (Catholic University of Holy Conception) are supporting the course.

The international team includes ALSO leaders from Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States. Dr. Portia Jones will be Faculty Advisor for the courses. Dr. Rodrigo Henriquez of Ecuador will be Course Director for the first provider course and Dr. Lesley Atwood will be Course Director for the instructor course.

An amazing inauguration ceremony for ALSO Chile is scheduled for noon on September 30. Health and political authorities who have confirmed that they will attend include the Minister of Health, a Senator, a Deputy, Provincial political leaders, and the Director of the University. President of Chile and pediatrician Michelle Bachelet may attend the inauguration.

Chile has a highly developed health care system. Although Chile is considered a developing country by the World Bank, its health outcomes rival those of many higher resource countries. For example, in 2003, the maternal mortality rate in Chile was 12.2 per 100,000 live births compared with 8.2/100,000 in the US. In Chile, 99 percent of deliveries are attended by a skilled birth attendant.

The introduction of Chile will be evaluated. A test will be given before and after the course to document the effectiveness of the course in increasing knowledge in how to manage emergencies in obstetrics. In addition, health outcomes such as episiotomy, cesarean, postpartum hemorrhage and transfusion rates will be followed pre and post ALSO using data collection systems already in operation at each hospital in Chile.

The ALSO Chile website is quite impressive: www.alsochile.cl. On the webpage, you will find a countdown to the first courses in Chile. With the extensive preparations for the courses, they are sure to be a success.

Under the leadership of the ALSO Chile team, the seed planted in Chillan is certain to blossom throughout the country. Courses are already planned in Temuco (Dec 2009), Talca (Jan 2010), Iquique (March 2010) and Concepcion (April 2010) .