

President's Introduction

I'd like to start the Spring newsletter by thanking Don Menzies for leading the ALSGBI through the past two years, a period which I'm sure he never envisaged when he took on the role at the end of 2019. Then CoVID-19 hit the headlines and it rapidly became an unwelcome part of everyone's life for the rest of his term. Although it hasn't gone away, things are returning towards the conventional and after organising our society's first (and rather brilliant) virtual meeting in 2020, Don managed to preside over a very well attended face-to-face congress in London prior to Christmas. I am honoured to take over from him and can only hope than I am even nearly as successful as he has been.

Another past president of ALSGBI, Professor Tim Rockall, once again organised a feast of live minimal access surgery, both laparoscopic and robotic, from Guilford - I am sure there will be a report of that elsewhere in this newsletter. We owe Tim a debt of gratitude for the work he has done for the society over the last decade and continues to do with RCS England. Feedback from the conference was excellent all around. This was preceded by training in laparoscopic surgery at the MATTU and a robotic training day at the Griffin Institute, hosted by Paul Leeder and a number of very skilled surgeons, many of whom are on our council. These training days offer excellent education for the surgeons of tomorrow and there is no wonder that they are always oversubscribed. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Paul, who has acted as our director of Education for the past 5 years and welcome Altaf Awan as his successor. We welcome new regional representatives Imran Bhatti and James Horwood to council, along with a BOMSS representative, Chetan Parmar

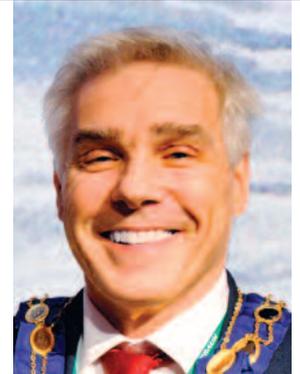
Now travel has recommenced, the fortunate recipients of past ALSGBI scholarships have started to benefit from their visits abroad to get insights into alternative ways of working and pick up tips and tricks from international masters of their craft. We hope to hear from some of them both in our newsletters and at forthcoming conferences. Talking of which, Professor YKS Vishwanath has plans well underway for our 2022 ASM, which will be held in Newcastle. I would

encourage you all, especially trainee surgeons, to submit presentations and videos. In addition to improving your CV, prizes are on offer including the prestigious David Dunn medal.

The ALSGBI has continued to collaborate with other societies across the world. We have a fantastic relationship with minimal access surgeons from Sri Lanka, South Africa, Europe and we have been doing a lot of work recently with our colleagues in India. IAGES and ALSGBI have continued to produce a number of intercontinental webinars and I would heartily suggest that anyone who hasn't fully embraced the digital world yet should check them out. Sincere thanks to Presidents Professor Thangavelu and Professor Popat of IAGES for asking us to join them in their production. Mr Selvasekar and Professor Arampulam have also put a lot of effort in other digital productions on behalf of the society. Thanks to them and to everyone else who has contributed.

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter. Neil Keeling has done another great job putting it together. It contains reports from meetings and training both local and national, as well as interesting articles and information regarding forthcoming events. The society's website, on which you may well be reading this, will contain the most up-to-date details. I look forward to welcoming you all in Newcastle. Remember, remember the 5th of November goes the saying - but more importantly, remember to put November 7th and 8th in your diaries this year!

Mr David Mahon
President



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Editor's Introduction



I type this introduction with genuine optimism as it is early evening and the sun is only just fading whilst the birdsong echoes all around; Spring is definitely here!

The past two years have been seemingly melded together as we have sought to keep the show on the road during the peaks and troughs of the SARS Cov-2 pandemic. I have been genuinely impressed by the tenacity of my colleagues in not only keeping the surgical services we provide but continuing with the roles

of educators, tutors, proctors and mentors to colleagues, trainees and students.

New methods such as Webinars, Virtual Conferences and Meetings have not only tided us over during this difficult time but introduced ways of communicating across the world that we will retain beyond the world of pandemics and lock-

downs, even when we can safely travel and meet again in person.

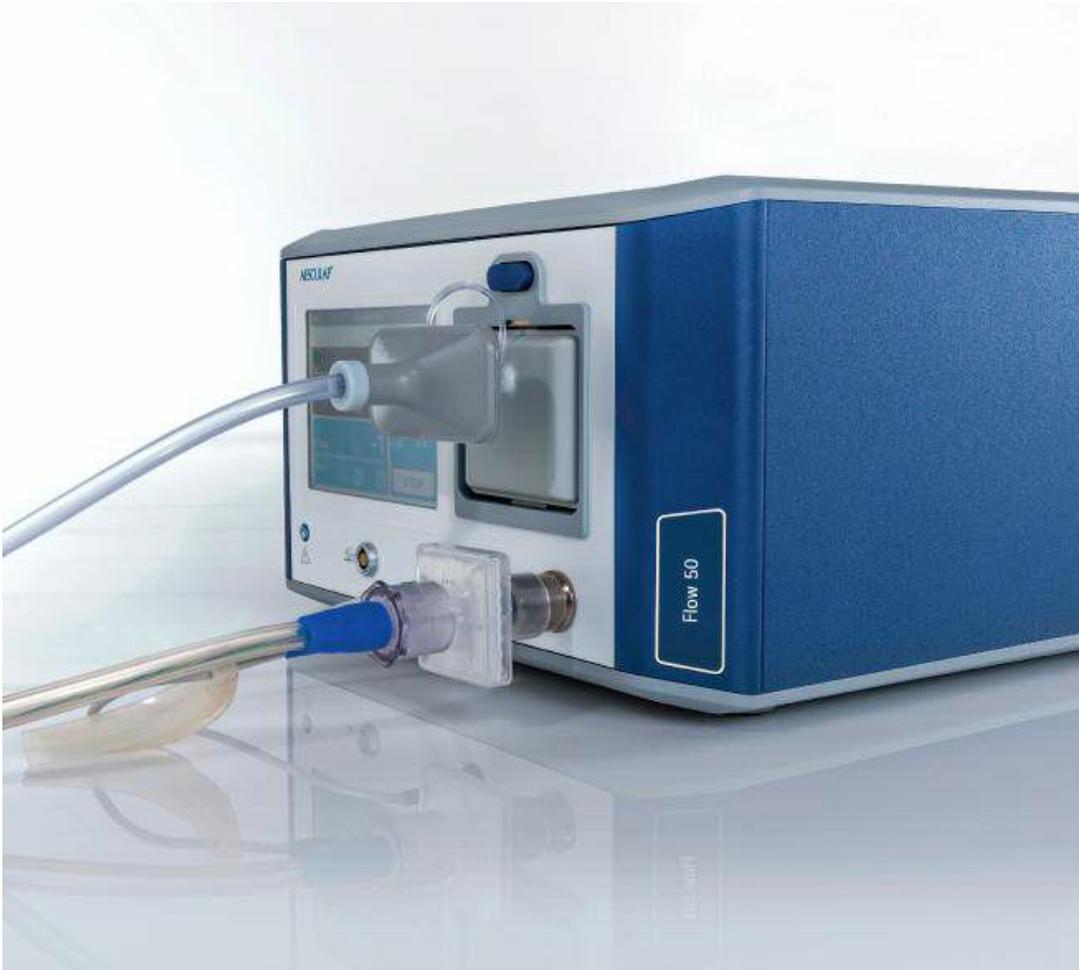
Our Spring Newsletter has articles on recent ALSGBI training days in the established training units in Guildford and the Storz HQ where there remains a drive to establish LapPass® as setting the definitive basic standards for laparoscopic trainees' skills. There is also a report on the new robotic facility in Northwick Park as well as feedback from a trainee's fellowship trip to a leading European Robotic unit. I am optimistic that once travel between continents once more opens up, we will be able to share more of these with you. I hope that you will encourage your trainees to submit applications for these valuable fellowships that serve to enrich their knowledge and so that they can share new found skills with us all. Hope you enjoy it and please contact me with any interesting articles that you wish to be considered for publication.

Mr Neil Keeling

Newsletter Editor

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ALSGBI Laparoscopic Training Day MATTU, Guildford, Surrey

5 December 2021

Held the day before the ASM at the MATTU, the laparoscopic training day promised to be a whole day of hands-on training in key laparoscopic skills and it delivered! Our day started with mince pies, which was greatly appreciated and then we went straight into the training. The group was split into two – those more junior who needed to develop their skills in the key basic skill sets required to be a laparoscopic surgeon and those more advanced (who used the skills they already had to develop further on animal models).



I was in the junior trainee group. The key theme of the day was what skills did we need to have in order to be a laparoscopic surgeon. ALSGBI have LapPass® with 5 key skills that are the vital skills one needs as a trainee in order to develop into a proficient laparoscopic surgeon. The LapPass® skills are:

- 1 Grasping and manipulation
- 2 Cutting an accurate disc
- 3 Tying extracorporeal Roeder knots and placing them to simulate an appendicectomy
- 4 Suturing/ creating surgical knots under slight tension
- 5 Camera holding skills.

We had the opportunity to practise these key skills in a room filled with very experienced consultant and senior trainees. It was so beneficial to pick up tips and tricks from incredibly talented surgeons. Furthermore, we were



able to practise a simulated laparoscopic cholecystectomy and appendicectomy on the Inovus AR Pro. It was very interesting to see your statistics after completing the task -i.e. your handedness and how much of you left vs right hand you were using throughout your procedure and the economy of the movements you were making. It was definitely a very enlightening experience.

The day ended with us trying to get a LapPass®. The LapPass® is such a recognised accreditation that having it can definitely open the door for more opportunities in theatres. It definitely sets the bar in your consultants' eyes if you tell them you have a LapPass® (even if they haven't witnessed you operating),

Overall, the training day was incredibly useful to my training, I have learnt a lot of tips and tricks that I will definitely be using when I am next in theatre.

Nayaab Abdul Kader
Barts Health NHS Trust
Academy Group



ALSGBI Laparoscopic Training Day MATTU, Guildford, Surrey

5 December 2021



Last year saw yet another disrupted year for training, with our trainees having to focus on service delivery once again. It was therefore important that we could deliver another excellent ASM training day. We, once again, met at the MATTU in Guildford on a fresh December day to welcome over twenty or so keen trainees of different grades. The groups were split into two groups of ST and CT trainees.

They also had the chance to use and understand a variety of staplers, under the careful guidance of the Ethicon reps. In addition, Inovus had brought along their training boxes as well as their augmented reality trainer. There was also an opportunity for the trainees to be assessed on their LapPass® skills, and get signed off if they met the grade. LapPass® stations were ever popular with the trainees trying to achieve their LapPass® passport.

The ST trainees were stationed in the wet lab with 6 stations to rotate around during the day. The skills on offer ranged from cholecystectomies to Nissen Funduplications through to stapled small bowel anastomosis and suturing practice and the ever-present knot tying. As with the CT trainees the Ethicon reps were present to guide the trainees through the use of the various stapling technologies that are available, and more importantly how to actually use them correctly. Storz also brought along their choledochoscope to allow the trainees the opportunity to practise the technique of bile duct exploration.



As always, these days would not be possible without the help of several people. We are grateful to Prof Tim Rockall for making the MATTU available to the Association, particularly on a weekend. In addition, the day would not have been possible without Alison Snook, the manager of the MATTU, who was invaluable in the organisation of the day and the endless supply of prepared tissue for the trainees to practise on. Without the help we get from Industry, namely Ethicon, Inovus and Storz the day would be impossible to deliver, and we are always grateful. The faculty was a mixture of ALSGBI Council members and local consultants (Mr Pritam Singh and Mr Andrea Scala). We are thankful that they were prepared to travel to Guildford and give up their Sunday.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by both trainees and faculty. Following this we all convened in London for the ASM to enjoy a downright refreshing face to face conference. This year the conference will be in Newcastle with another training day the day before, you are all encouraged to apply for what will, I am sure, be yet another successful training opportunity.

Andrew Day
Welfare Officer



Robotic Surgery Training Day – Griffin Institute Northwick Park & St Mark's Hospital, Harrow

5 December 2021



Fig 1: Participant on console (Khalid Bhatti, ST5 Surgery, North West Deanery, Manchester UK)

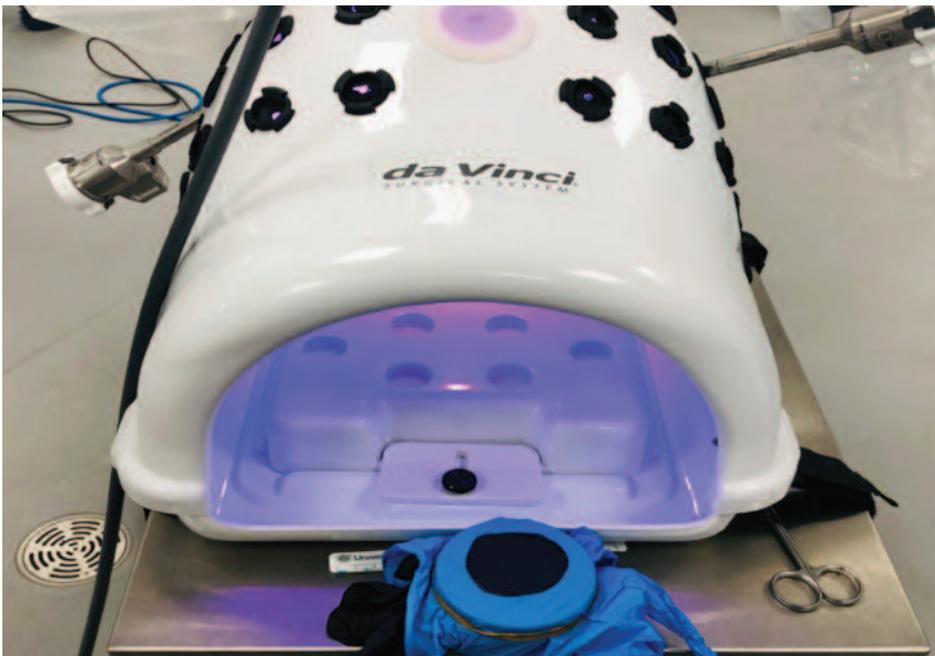


Fig 2: Pattern cutting model for Robotic Basic Surgical skills

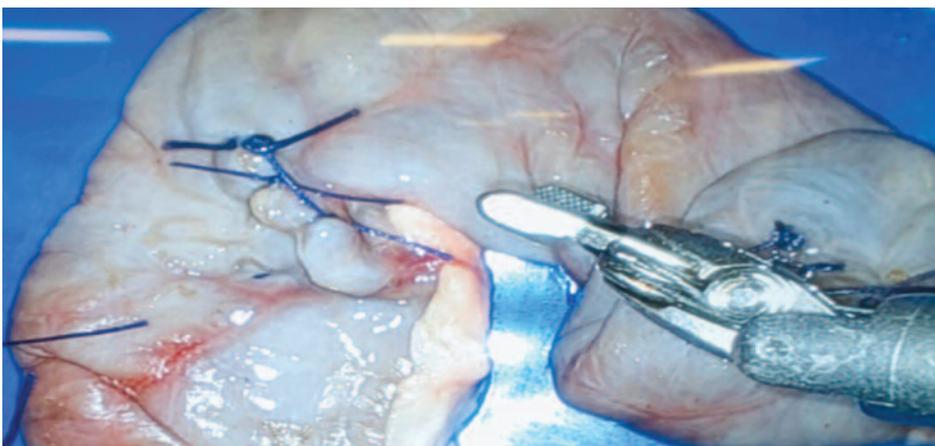


Fig 3: Enterotomy Closure model for Robotic Suturing

Full credit to the ALSGBI for arranging a Robotic Basic Surgical Skills at the Griffin Institute at Northwick Park and St Mark's Hospital just before the 2021 conference. It was my first ever face to face training course since I started my training in 2019. Long awaited but very rewarding! A special thanks to Mr Jawad Ahmad and Mrs Jenny Treglohan for allowing me to participate even being at ST5 level.

As Robotic surgery is becoming a crucial part of the armamentarium of the surgeon, it is no more an amenity rather a must have skill. Surgeons in training are very well aware of this fact and it was apparent from enthusiasm of the participants. They travelled from almost every part of the UK to participate in this course (Fig. 1).

From a flyer to execution level, communication and organisation was excellent. The participants were facilitated at every step. The faculty included very well renowned robotic surgeons from almost all the specialities of general surgery. The content was very informative, especially demonstration on the use of the console by one surgeon and commentary by the other was innovative and remarkable. The best part of the course was hands-on practice on animate and inanimate models (Fig. 2).

Faculty to participant and participant to console ratio was ideal and helped a lot in skill acquisition through optimum opportunities for practice, reflection and feedback. I will never forget my first ever three robotic stiches (Fig 3).

ALSGBI has a plan to run such courses regularly both at basic and advanced level. We as trainees benefit from such courses a lot and appreciate the efforts and the work done to run such courses. We welcome the idea of building a portfolio of accessible robotic simulators at a national level which is of utmost importance to maintain and further refine robotic skills. Similarly, the development of robotic assessment platform for candidates to achieve competencies for operative training is an excellent idea. Thanks, ALSGBI.

Khalid Munir Bhatti

ST5 Surgery (MBBS; FCPS; FRCS; MHPE)
Robotic Basic Surgical Skills Course Participant
(Dec 2021)

ALSGBI Annual Scientific Meeting

6-7 December 2021, ILEC Centre, London



Presidential Welcome



LapPass® in the ALSGBI Exhibition



Professor Mike Parker receiving his lifetime ALSGBI Honorary Membership



All aboard!



Our fabulous ALTS Members, thank you for all that you do!

The 1st day of the two day conference traditionally has live operating focusing on tips and tricks in surgery. In 2021, a similar format was followed and this was the 1st face-to-face surgical conference held after the start of the COVID 19 pandemic.

This year, we had live operating demonstration of HD laparoscopic and robotic procedures from the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford overseen by Professor T. Rockall.

The 1st session was chaired by Professor Mike Parker, Professor Shamim Khan, Mr Dimitrios Moschonas and Mr Selvasekar

There were parallel operations with demonstration of laparoscopic posterior pelvic clearance for stage IV endometriosis by Mr Andrew Kent and Professor Rockall. The demonstration involved decision making, demonstration of safe technique and use of the Rubina system. This procedure also demonstrated multi-speciality collaborative minimal access surgery by two experienced surgeons.

This was in parallel to training a trainee in laparoscopic right-hemicolectomy by Professor N. Francis who demonstrated safe training following the Lapco principles of modular approach with having a clear structured approach with shared understanding of the procedure.

In the adjacent theatre was a robotic cystectomy and ileal conduit by the urologists from Guildford, Mr Krishna Patil (Guildford), Mr Tim Pencavel (Guildford) and Mr Matt Perry (Guildford). This procedure demonstrated the key anatomical planes in performing robotic procedure and the benefits of the robot including the 3 D visualisation with magnified view, the use of articulated instruments in a narrow pelvis using a stable platform.

Good discussion with the delegates and the operating surgeon facilitated by the panel and the procedures went well with no intraoperative complications.

I would to thank the Industry sponsors, faculty, surgeons and the extended team who were involved with the live link, delegates and the patients who actively participated in the live operating session to make it an enjoyable and an informative session.



LapPass® exams on the Arthrex Mobile Skills Lab



Expert ALSGBI moderator panel for live surgery



Mr Alfie Moore, the stand up Police Sergeant, after dinner speaker



Mr Ben Tipney receiving his lifetime ALSGBI Honorary Membership



Relaxation time. Dinner at the prestigious Queen's Club

ALSGBI Annual Scientific Meeting

6-7 December 2021, ILEC Centre, London



Mr Don Menzies & Mr David Mahon



Sustainability Debate

*Ms Annabelle Curtis, Mrs Cleo Kenington,
Miss Chantelle Rizan & Mr Adam Power*



The War Doctor, Professor David Nott



*Mr Alexander Darbyshire receiving the
2020 David Dunn Medal*



The Digital Surgeon Symposium

*Prof Khan, Mr James Kinross, Miss Anna Palepa,
Prof Nader Francis*

After the first day of live operating the excellent evening dinner took place at the Queen's Club in W14, chauffeured to the venue in vintage Routemaster, double decker London buses.

The following day started with a breakfast meeting discussing the process of implementation of a robotic service and the importance of robotics was addressed in the later video presentations of robotic cases and the ALSGBI lecture by Professor Mark van Henegouwen from Amsterdam summed up the impact of MIS and robotics on oesophageal surgery and how this will almost certainly lead to further developments in practice.

I particularly enjoyed the talk by David Nott on the Treatment, Training and Digital Collaboration which demonstrated how expertise in one country can be assimilated and transferred on line to surgeons working under arduous conditions in the theatre of war enhanced by the programme of training volunteers who are brave enough to enrol in the David Nott Foundation.

There was an excellent Human Factors talk by Ben Tipney on dealing with complexity. Lunch was preceded by talks on the putative death of the analogue surgeon and rise of the digital surgeon and how surgeons need to learn to manage and control the overwhelming amount of data that is created in modern surgical practise. The subject of 'burnout' amongst surgeons during the recent pandemic was addressed in the GLOHASP study and importantly there was an update on the ALSGBI progress towards greater diversity and equality.

A key part of the day was the question of sustainability in a time of global warming and climate change and how we as surgeons can shrink our footprint to be more 'green' in our use of resources and the subsequent panel discussion further emphasised what needs to be done.

As always there were excellent free paper presentations from trainees and the Arthrex mobile lab was kept busy with LapPass® assessments and we shared the fantastic experiences of three of our trainees on their travelling scholarships. The day was wrapped up with awards of the David Dunn Medal and other prizes won for presentations during the meeting.

A most enjoyable face to face meeting in the heart of London which we hope will be met with equal aplomb by the organising team for Newcastle 2022.

Mr C Selvasekar

North West Regional Representative

Mr N Keeling

Anglian Regional Representative



The popular Industry Exhibition



*Prof Nader Francis, Mr Steve Dixon,
ALSGBI (David Dunn) Travelling Scholarship
2021 Winner, Mr Don Menzies*



Professor David Knott & Mr Chelliah Selvasekar



Professor Ewen Harrison



*Mr Don Menzies & Mr Amir Botros,
Winner of the 2021 David Dunn Medal*



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The deadline that has to be made...

Sustainability should be at the forefront of everyone's minds. Not only are we witnessing the effect our personal choices have on our environment but also our choices at work.

We now live in a society, reminiscent of my youth, where milk bottles are glass, travel is reduced and we reuse items rather than throw them away.

At KARL STORZ we are very fortunate that the technologies that we install and support are, for the most part, reusable. Our teams can identify where users can make responsible choices but also bring standardisation and cost savings too.

This may have always been the case but with increased market competition, where quick wins are short-sighted and convenience trumps common sense, it can be hard to see the wood for the trees.

This is where we cannot underestimate the importance of training; not only our current clinical staff but future generations. Empowering them with not only the knowledge, but the tools, to be able to continue advancing patient care whilst keeping an eye on our natural world. Industry has a huge role to play in this regard and we are taking steps to improve what we do with new training centres like our [Training & Technology Centre \(TTC\)](#) that focus on reusable equipment use and upkeep.

The Royal College of Surgeons has already taken some great steps towards this goal, with initiatives such as [The Green Surgery Challenge](#), but we need to be doing more. Navigating the 'Greenwashing' and misinformation that is circulated is something we will be doing more to eradicate, whilst improving what we can.

Reading a recent article in the RCS annals of surgery from [Professor Mahmood Bhutta](#), I was struck by just how much of a challenge reducing our carbon footprint could be, but also how

much we still rely on outdated assumptions or unreliable data.

We may be guilty of being late to the party with data but the reusable product innovation has been here throughout. Our fear is that in waiting for the data surrounding reusable equipment to be harvested, we may then further damage the environment or move past the point of no return. In this regard we encourage you to assess your options and look at the total cost of ownership and the possible cost to the environment. In the end, you have to "trust your instincts".

Mike Perks

Managing Director

KARL STORZ Endoscopy (UK) Ltd.



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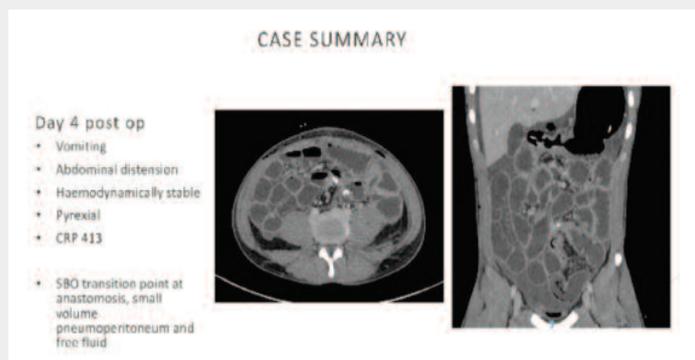
STORZ
KARL STORZ — ENDOSKOPE

IAGES - ALSGBI Intercontinental Webinar Series

16 January 2022

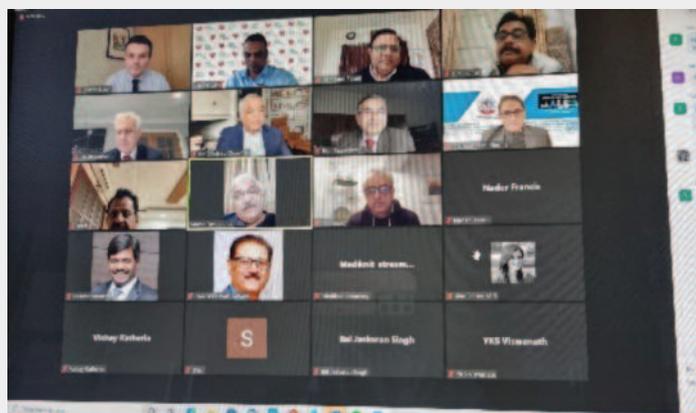
Sunday 16 January 2022 saw the much anticipated return of the IAGES and ALSGBI webinar series for its 3rd instalment. Viewers were greeted by an illustrious panel of specialist surgical faculty covering both large geographical areas and the full length of the GI tract.

IAGES President Professor Sunil Popat kicked off proceedings with a glance back at the history of IAGES since its inception 30 years ago, and the tremendous progress it has made in promoting minimal access techniques



across India. He then discussed the blossoming relationship between IAGES and ALSGBI, bringing together two illustrious Associations across two different continents to share ideas and accelerate progress on both shores. His sentiments were echoed by newly appointed ALSGBI President David Mahon, who looked to the future, pledging ongoing commitment to education and training through both societies.

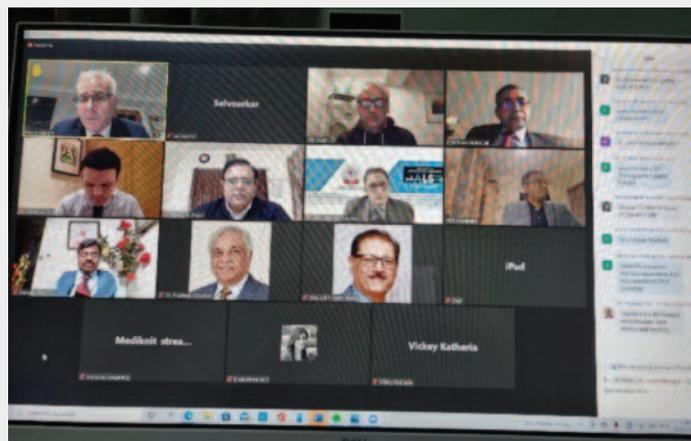
The theme of this webinar episode was to learn from laparoscopic complications, explore how they occurred and discuss how skills and services can be improved to avoid future complications. I presented the first case, as a senior colorectal trainee, about a young patient undergoing an emergency laparoscopic extended right hemicolectomy for an obstructing splenic flexure tumour. This stimulated some interesting discussion from the panel regarding the merits of extended left vs extended right in splenic flexure tumours. We also covered the background literature regarding the benefits of mesenteric defect closure, something routine in bariatric surgery, but not supported by the latest evidence. For me personally this was an excellent opportunity to discuss a difficult case with world experts in laparoscopic surgery, a global case-based discussion if you will.



The second speaker, Mr Pradeep Chowbey, is extremely well renowned both in India and globally. His resume, introduced by IAGES past president, Mr Suresh Deshpande, included the development of several laparoscopic centres, guidelines and training programmes, and also a role as surgeon to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He discussed the inception of laparoscopic ventral hernia repair, challenges and progress over the few decades. His personal insight into techniques, limitations and where the speciality needs to develop in the future was extremely interesting and applauded by faculty,

many of whom he had personally trained and continue to practice his renowned techniques.

The focus of the afternoon then shifted to bariatric surgery, with the first of two presentations generating some fantastic debate following some really useful video vignettes of laparoscopic bariatric complications. Mr Randeep Wadhawan presented videos of stapler misfiring, inadvertent gastrotomy and gastric transection during a gastric sleeve procedure. He then challenged



faculty members to give their thoughts on how to manage such issues and avoid them where possible. This welcomed some interesting discussion regarding the importance of team work in theatre, consistent, positive communication with anaesthetic colleagues and appropriate training for theatre staff. Such non-technical skills in surgery are proving more and more vital with the rapid development of newer techniques in both laparoscopic and robotic surgery, where some team members may not be so familiar.



Finally Mr Altaf Awan presented his insight into small bowel related complications following Roux en Y gastric bypass surgery. This included intussusception, small bowel obstruction and, looping back to the start, the importance of mesenteric defect closure and internal hernia. His talk was once again supplemented by some fantastic educational videos and commentary, very much appreciated by faculty and viewers alike.

This edition of IAGES and ALSGBI webinar was viewed by 168 attendees, with the majority based in India or the U.K. However, there were also participants dialling in from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Hungary, demonstrating the truly global nature of this combined IAGES and ALSGBI relationship. We hope you can join us for the next instalment and continue to review the Societies' websites for upcoming educational events.

Mr Steven Dixon, MBBS FRCS PGCEd
ST8 Colorectal Surgery, Liverpool University Healthcare Trust

Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) Conference 2022: Surgical Training – The Evolution

4 – 6 March 2022, The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA)



Following a very successful virtual event last year the 2022 Annual International ASiT conference was delivered in a hybrid format. Over 800 medical students and surgical trainees of all grades and sub speciality convened on Friday 4 - Sunday 6 March 2022 at The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA) to network, collaborate and learn together. With the invaluable help of MedAll, trainees from all over the world were able to join the conference proceedings virtually making this a truly global surgical training event. A record number of low-cost courses (table 1) were delivered across numerous domains allowing trainees the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills. These courses were delivered in collaboration with the trainee speciality Associations and generous help from industry.

- 1 ASiT Core Laparoscopic Skills Course
- 2 ASiT Core Endoscopic Skills course
- 3 ASiT Core Skills in Vascular Surgery
- 4 ASiT Core Orthopaedic Skills
- 5 ASiT Core Urology Course
- 6 ASiT Skills in Neurosurgery
- 7 ASiT Core Skills in Paediatric Surgery
- 8 ASiT Core Skills in Cardiothoracic Surgery
- 9 ASiT Core Skills in ENT
- 10 ASiT Core Skills in OMFS
- 11 ASiT Core Skills in Plastic Surgery
- 12 RCSEd Non-Operative Technical Skills in Surgery (NOTSS)
- 13 ASiT/CMR Surgical Robotics
- 14 Equality Diversity and Inclusion Workshop (Virtual Course)
- 15 ASiT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Skills (Virtual Course)
- 16 Taking the Next Step in Research: From Publication to Dissemination (Virtual Course).

The two-day educational programme offered a breadth of learning with mainstage, break out and oral prize sessions alongside 1:1 mentoring and the sub-specialty village session. A new addition for this year was an interactive poster hall where the top scoring abstracts in each abstract category had the opportunity to present in a "spotlight session". Over 40 oral and poster prizes were on offer for delegates as well as yoga and an interactive "escape room" experience.

The Saturday mainstage plenary session "Leadership in Surgery" opened with an interactive Q&A discussion with the Surgical Royal College presidents followed by a celebration of excerpts from the 50 face of Surgery initiative led by the ASiT Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) working group. Numerous, powerful talks were delivered in the "Equality, Diversity and Inclusion" plenary session to a captivated audience promoting diversity and tackling sexual harassment and Bullying in Surgery. There were updates on ASiT's Robotic training strategy and updates and discussion on "Sustainability in surgery. The ASiT Annual General meeting concluded Saturday's formal proceeding welcoming several new additions to the ASiT executive from council.

The charity dinner took place at the stunning Chester Hotel in support of two charities - Doctors of the World and Changing Faces. We were delighted to raise money through the charity raffle for both causes. The ASiT Silver

Scalpel Award, supported by Swann Morton, was awarded to Professor Peter Brennan, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust for his extraordinary efforts as a trainer. The Silver Suture Award, supported by the Faculty of Surgical Trainers was awarded the Mr Ricky Ellis (Urology Registrar) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to surgical training. Finally, Mr Arjun Nathan (Urology ST2) received the new Silver Scissors award supported by BBraun for his outstanding contribution to surgical training. Mr David O'Regan (Chair of the Faculty of Surgical Trainers (FST) and Miss Natasha Keates (ASiT Vice president) awarded the prizes.

Sunday opened with the prestigious ASiT medal session for the five highest scoring abstracts submitted to the 2022 conference. This prestigious prize was awarded to Miss Eleanor James for her work entitled "Transforming the Morbidity and Mortality Review Process: Customised digitalisation Helps Us Learn from Mistakes"

The ALSGBI laparoscopic prize was won by Miss Sinead Ramjit for her abstract entitled "The use of Absorbable Suture Versus Staples Versus Tissue Glue in Laparoscopic Port Skin Closure. A Prospective, Randomised Control Trial. The STILS trial."



We were delighted to welcome several international colleagues who presented virtually during the Global Surgery Prize session which was a first at an ASiT conference allowing presenters from all around the world to get the opportunity to present. The focus of Sunday morning was on training recovery with talks on differential attainment in surgery, elective surgery and training recovery and perspectives from Health education England, NHS Education Scotland and discussion on Technology enhanced training. The ASiT debate entitled - "This house believes flexibility/less than full time training may be the demise of surgical training!" generated lots of discussion. The Sunday programme concluded with updates from the BMA junior doctors committee (JDC) as well as a summary of ASiT's Innovation strategy and other projects being led in various council working groups.

Ten Breakout sessions were delivered across the weekend. There were sessions on empowering trainees as innovators, flexibility in surgical training, planning a successful FY3 & CT3, "How to write a good abstract and create a great poster" session as well as talks from the RCSEng and RCSEd and new sessions with industry partners exploring digital technology and best practices in electrosurgery. Sessions on flexibility in surgical training and the role of virtual logbooks completed the line-up of breakout sessions.

This conference was the result of a true team effort. We thank our sponsors, our General Manager, Ms Kristina Gloufchev, the entire ASiT Council, the MedAll team, the medical student volunteers, the innumerable course faculty and speakers, surgical subspecialty trainee association presidents and representatives for giving so generously of their time to make ASiT 2022 such a memorable one. Despite COVID-19, ASiT 2022 has once again pushed the boundaries of what is possible in the pursuit of excellence and inclusivity in surgical training. We look forward to another busy year advocating for surgical trainees and welcoming everyone back in 2023!

Mr Joshua Clements
ASiT ALSGBI representative

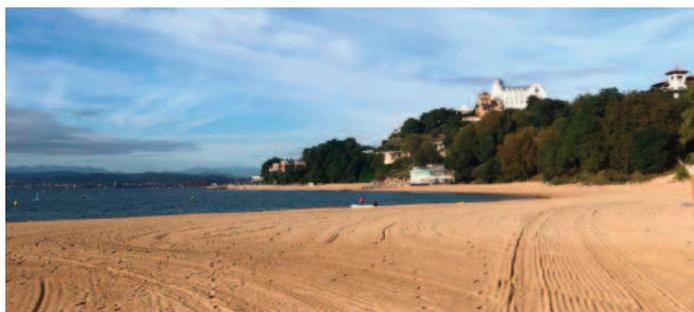
Winner of the 2019 ALSGBI (David Dunn) Travelling Scholarship

September 2021

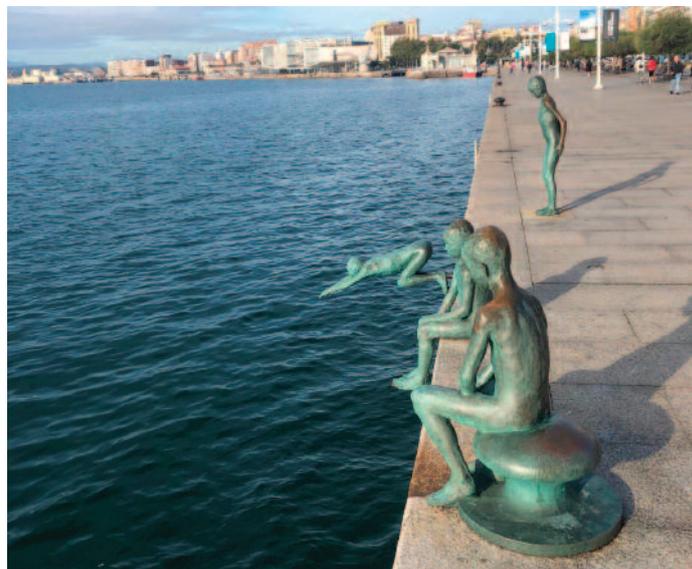


I attended the Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital in Santander for a 2 week robotic observership in September 2021.

I am grateful to ALSGBI for supporting this observership. The unit is highly regarded as a training centre for robotic colorectal surgery with Professor Marcos Gomez Ruiz acting as my mentor during my stay. Marcos is a proctor for Intuitive and has over 10 years of robotic experience.



The colorectal operating lists are Monday - Friday, bar Wednesday when MDT and clinics take place. The unit has a busy practice and receives referrals from throughout the Cantabria region in the North of Spain. There are two Intuitive da Vinci Xi robots which are used by all of the general surgical specialities, however I only attended the colorectal theatres. During this time, all of the major cases observed were robotic. These included 2 low anterior resections, panproctocolectomy with ileo-anal pouch anastomosis, Hartmann's procedure (for colovesicle fistula), central pelvic exenteration with ileal conduit and a right hemicolectomy for a stricture at the site of a previous ileo-caecal resection for Crohn's disease. There was also a day case list of proctology.



Ward rounds commenced at 07:50. The hospital has 900 beds and is single occupancy. They have an established ERAS program and this, in combination with their shift towards minimally invasive procedures over the past 10 years has reduced their mean post-operative length of stay considerably with the majority of resections discharged on day 3 if the CRP is on a downward trend. Their state of the art operating theatres are well equipped with excellent HD displays for trainees. The hospital has a well-established observer program and multiple other medical professionals were present ranging from medical student to Consultant - some were Spanish residents, others had travelled from Germany and as far afield as Venezuela. The surgeries generally finished around 3-4pm for lunch in the hospital canteen - somewhat different from the UK as it was fully licensed with an a la carte menu.

Santander itself is a beautiful port city, dating back to the 12th century on the North Western coast of Spain with direct flights from Edinburgh. Sadly, the majority of the medieval architecture was burnt down in a great fire in 1941 with the cathedral one of the few remaining historic buildings. It is, of course the headquarters of the multinational Santander banks (albeit the financial centre is now based in Madrid). Out with my time in the hospital I was able to explore the city and coastline (running) along with a couple of swims. I was grateful to the colorectal department for their hospitality, enthusiasm for teaching and patience with my basic Spanish.

Mr Richard Stevenson PhD FRCS(Ed) MFST
Consultant General & Colorectal Surgeon, Glasgow Royal Infirmary



DETAILS OF THE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS 2022

The Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ALSGBI) incorporating Robotic & Technology Enhanced Surgery (RATES) is funding two scholarships in memory of the late Mr David Dunn, a Past President of the ALSGBI.

The **David Dunn Travelling Scholarships** are to the value of £2,000 each*. The purpose of these scholarships is to enable UK-based surgeons in training, or young consultants within 5 years of appointment, to extend their experience in minimal access surgery by short visits to one or more centres. The successful scholars will be expected to give a report on their visits at a future ALSGBI Annual Scientific Meeting and also write an article for the ALSGBI Newsletter.



All candidates **MUST** request an application form from Mrs Jennifer Treglohan, Executive Director, ALSGBI at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 38–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE or email jtreglohan@alsgbi.org and be current members of ALSGBI. The deadline for receipt of applications is 1 October 2022. The successful applicants will be notified by 14 October and will be presented with their certificates at the ALSGBI 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting on 8 November in Newcastle. For full information on the ALSGBI visit www.alsgbi.org

*Terms & Conditions apply. The funding will be released when the successful applicants are in situ, and the travel must occur within 12 months of the award being made. The successful applicants agree to write a detailed article about their experience and present at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE 2022



ALSGBI Laparoscopic Surgery Training Day

Sunday 6 November | DASH (Dinwoodie Assessment & Simulation Hub)
Wansbeck General Hospital | Woodhorn Lane | Ashington NE63 9JJ

ALSGBI Robotic Surgery Training Day

Sunday 6 November | Griffin Institute | Northwick Park & St Mark's Hospital Y Block
Watford Road | Harrow HA1 3UJ

ALSGBI & ALTS Annual Scientific Meeting

Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 November
Hilton Newcastle
Bottle Bank | Gateshead NE8 2AR

<https://www.alsgbi.org>



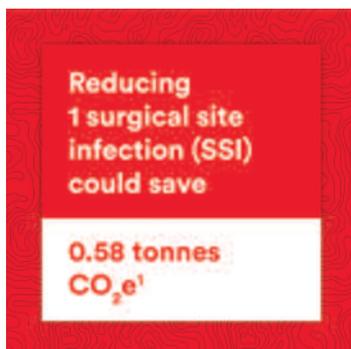
[ALSGBANDI #ALS2022](#)

The UK & Ireland's No.1 Professional Association in the field
of Laparoscopic, Robotic & Technology Enhanced Surgery



New research shows Surgical Site Infection prevention could lead to environmental benefits for the NHS

The NHS faces a new challenge – it needs to continue providing world-class healthcare whilst striving to meet its net zero carbon goal¹. New research has demonstrated that it is possible to reduce environmental impact by improving patient outcomes in two areas: reducing surgical site infections across the NHS².



The research was presented at The International Society of Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) European conference in December by Mesut Kocaman, EMEA Health & Economics Market Access Manager for Johnson & Johnson MedTech. Environmental impact models were used to analyse the influence treatment options can have on sustainability, keeping in mind the NHS's objective to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040¹.

Part of the study explored the impact of surgical site infections (SSIs) across NHS England – demonstrating SSIs were associated with 10 additional days in hospital, 4.1 additional outpatient appointments, and 22% more A&E visits compared with patients without SSIs². Due to the additional resources required, the analysis demonstrated reducing one SSI could save 0.58 tonnes of CO₂e (equivalent to two return flights from London to Rome), 5m³ of direct water use and 0.06 tonnes of waste². The annual cost to NHS England of SSI-associated environmental impact was estimated to be £2.67million².

Jennifer Nagy, UK General Manager for Ethicon, part of Johnson & Johnson MedTech, says:

"Supporting our NHS to continue improving patient outcomes is our organization's number one priority, but we also have a responsibility to promote a sustainable healthcare system. Our Plus Sutures were recognized by NICE in June 2021, the report highlighted their potential environmental benefits by preventing surgical site infections³, and it's great that this study shows what the potential environmental impact of reducing SSIs could be."



The full results can be found here for surgical site infections.

References:

- 1 NHS (2020). *Delivering a 'Net-Zero' National Health Service*. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/a-net-zero-nhs/> Accessed: January 2022.
- 2 Kocaman M, Galvain T. *The Cost Analysis of the Environmental Impacts of Surgical Site Infection from the Perspective of NHS England*. *Value in Health*, Volume 24, Issue 12, S2 (December 2021)
- 3 ©NICE 2021. *MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE: PLUS SUTURES FOR PREVENTING SURGICAL SITE INFECTION*. Available from: [nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG59](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG59). Accessed: January 2022. All rights reserved. Subject to Notice of rights. NICE guidance is prepared for the National Health Service in England. All NICE guidance is subject to regular review and may be updated or withdrawn. NICE accepts no responsibility for the use of its content in this product/publication.

Notes to Editor:

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<https://www.alsgbi.org>

March 20, 2022 - April 2, 2022

Hi there!

Lets take a look at how your website traffic performed in the past week.

Total Visitors

1,573

56%

vs previous 30 days

Total Page Views

2,749

43%

vs previous 30 days

Mr Neil Keeling
Newsletter Editor

Top Pages

Page Title	Page Views
1. (not set)...	800
2. Home - ALSGBI...	277
3. LapPass®...	153

Top Referrals

Page Title	Sessions
1. t.co	25
2. live.sagepay.com	19
3. rcseng.ac.uk	9

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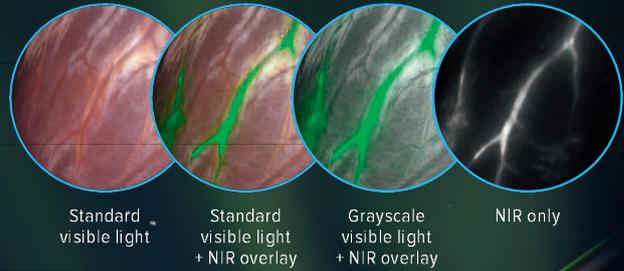
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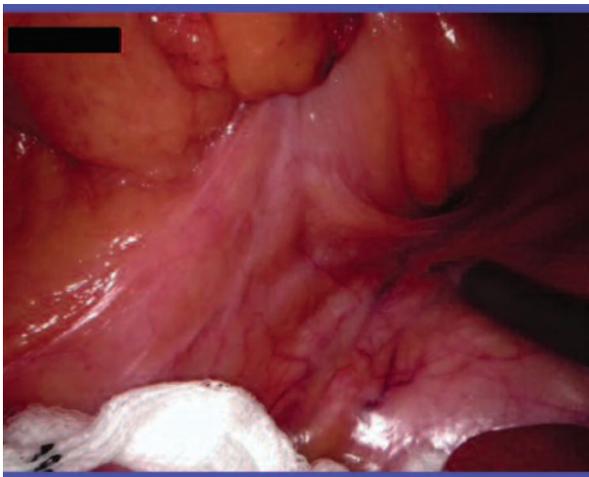


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