

ALSGBI Trainee Academy Report 2022



I am privileged to take over the role of ALSGBI Academy Chair from our founding lead, Rikesh Patel and I would like to thank him for his hard work and enthusiastic leadership over the last 2 ½ years. Created under the guidance of Professor Arulampalam amid a developing pandemic and training crisis, the Academy has grown from a small but dynamic group of ALSGBI trainees, to an impressive international committee of over 50 members. ALSGBI has a long history as a pioneering body in minimal access surgery and our aim was to create a shadow council of junior surgeons to work alongside the Council in this evolving role, with today's trainees and tomorrow's surgeons at its core.



As a peer-led group, the Academy is actively working towards addressing educational and professional training needs, promoting and providing learning in Minimal Access Surgery, representing the values of the wider Surgical community and inspiring future surgical professionals. We continue to realise this vision via the sub-team format that we started with, along with some new additions:

Founding Academy members meeting during lockdown in 2020

1 LapPass: [Grace Bennett - Trust Registrar North West](#) & [Jessica Banks - ST3 Yorkshire and Humber](#)

The LapPass group has successfully facilitated and supported a number of regional LapPass courses across the country and will be in attendance at the LapPass stand at this year's ASM. The group is in the process of recruiting more LapPass assessors to help the expansion of regional courses.

2 Collaborative Research: [Nayaab Abdul Kader - CT2 East of England](#)

This group started by supporting regional collaborative groups and promoting external projects. It has now progressed to producing Academy-led research! Work in progress includes collaborative projects with Colchester, UCL Medical School students and Academy representatives in Malta.

3 Fellowship & Higher Research Opportunities: [Shaza Mohamed - ST7 London](#) & [Medhat Aker ST8 EOE](#)

We created an online database listing over 140 UK-based fellowship and research opportunities, with feedback from previous fellows, as a means of providing senior trainees with single-site access to information. The aim is to expand the database internationally and to include other sub-specialties.

4 Access to Minimal Access Surgery and Robotic Training: [Anuradha Thrikandiyur - ST3 North East](#), [Vimal Mahendran - ST3 Scotland](#) and [Matthew Boal - ST6 Severn](#)

The current focus of this group is to identify the gaps in access to training resources. This is being investigated via a survey on access to Robotic and Laparoscopic Training facilities across multiple specialties, the results of which we hope to share at the 2023 ASM.

5 ALSGBI Webinars: [Christina Intrator - CT2 North West](#) & [Liana Spyropoulou - CT1 London](#)

We felt the highly educational ALSGBI webinars would benefit from the trainee's perspective, complimented by specialists in the relevant fields. Academy representation has now successfully been extended to the IAGES webinars. We intend to expand this section with Academy-led discussions, supported by ALSGBI council or the wider membership, named "The Surgical Handover".

6 Through the Keyhole Podcasts: [Lydia Newton & Lucy Huppler - ST3 Severn \(Sponsored by Ethicon\)](#)

The Podcast team have led a fascinating 2nd series with Prof. Arulampalam, including The Challenge of Surgical Training, Virtual and Augmented Reality, The Power of Music and The First Day as a Consultant.

7 Developing Digital Resources for Learning: [Satish Koli - ST5 Wales](#)

The team are working on the production of educational MIS videos after the popularity of the LapPass® and box-trainer videos. We will extend this to common surgical scenarios for multiple specialties.

8 Surgical Education and Preparation for Training: [James Walmsley - ST3 South West & Belal Amini - Trauma Research Fellow, London](#)

A joint approach to facilitate post-graduate and undergraduate learning. The Academy piloted a successful ST3 interview preparation programme in 2021, which we hope to repeat. We also welcome new sub-specialty Representatives for Urology & Paediatric Surgery.

9 Early Years and Undergraduate Training: [Juin Low - FY2 Northern Ireland](#)

The students who led this sub-team have now graduated from Medical school but continue to develop links with Medical schools and Surgical societies. The group has run a series of laparoscopic training days for students and has created an online exam preparation series, available on the ALSGBI website.

10 Social Media: [Kunal Rajput - ST3 London](#)

The Academy Twitter page (@ALSGBIAcademy) continues to grow with nearly 900 followers at present. Along with keeping our membership up to date, sharing educational tips and developing links with significant organisations via multiple media channels, the social media group has been developing the Academy section of the ALSGBI website; so that you know who we are and what we do.

11 Support Us Focus Group: [Anna Palepa - Trust CT2 East of England & Thomas Mroczek - CT1 North West](#)

In recognition that everyone's training experience varies, Support Us is committed to providing intersectional guidance for aspiring surgeons. With the Council's EDI representative, the group has assisted with the ALSGBI membership survey, presented at ASiT 2022 and has participated in the RCS Widening Participation scheme. Support Us will be recruiting Ambassadors and developing collaborative workshops to support surgical providers with differing training backgrounds and characteristics.

Success in surgical training requires insight, preparation and dedication, which cannot be achieved alone. Training should also be enjoyable. During my years of involvement, the ALSGBI-ALTS community has been a firm reminder of this. As such, I have found ALSGBI to be a place of professional guidance, inspiration and opportunity for its junior membership, which the Academy builds upon with inclusivity. The ethos of the ALSGBI Academy is succinctly captured by the motto, "Novus Modus – The New Way", and I look forward to leading the committee as a voice and standard for Minimal Access training, with this aim and the surgical patient in mind. Finally, thank you to the Academy; keep up the inspiring work.

Lastly, we will be running an ALSGBI Academy stand at this year's ASM where we invite you to share your ideas or sign up to join us. I look forward to meeting you all in Newcastle!

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