

### President's Introduction

A lot has happened since our last Newsletter. Fortunately, we haven't seen a resurgence of Covid, but for the majority of us working in the NHS there has been industrial unrest amongst most sectors of the workforce and this looks set to continue for a while yet. We have also all accumulated big waiting lists of patients requiring elective surgery and we are pushing through, with the shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery that minimal access surgery allows for significantly helping us get those patients into hospital and out again. This has no doubt been great experience for our trainee surgeons, who have been able to concentrate on filling their logbooks and my colleagues on the ALSGBI Council have done sterling work putting on both laparoscopic and robotic training courses, suitable for both junior and senior trainees of all subspecialties, including LapPass® courses in many regions and the usual events at the time of our congress.

At the end of last year, we had a successful meeting in Newcastle, hosted by Professor Viswanath YKS, our Northern and Yorkshire member of Council. He did a great job gaining collaboration from many local members, from all the hospitals in the region, to put on a display of live surgery on the first day from Middlesborough, made possible by Karl Storz, supplemented with some 'as live' procedures from colleagues throughout the North East. This was accompanied by our usual scientific sessions and some excellent and thought provoking talks from Professor Bonavina, Mr Bhangu and Dr Tsigarides, who included many things that sounded rather futuristic but I suspect will be coming to a hospital near you much sooner than you think. We were delighted to accommodate a visiting team from the IAGES council, led by President Thangavelu and we look forward to many future years of cooperation.

We would like to thank ETHICON for being the main sponsor of the ALSGBI Laparoscopic Surgery Training Day and Intuitive for sponsoring the ALSGBI Robotic Surgery Training Day.

We are now focussing on the next ALSGBI International Annual Scientific Meeting in Portsmouth, which will be my last as President of the Association. We expect a great display of robotic and laparoscopic surgery from Professor Khan and I would encourage you all to submit high quality abstracts for our oral presentation, poster and video scientific sessions. We like to hear what is happening in local units, nationally and internationally - of course, we have prizes for the best presentations and this makes for a good line on your CV. We are also going to give over some time at the conference to our Academy, led by its Chair, Ms Morrison, and allow them to run a small section of the meeting for the first time. I would ask you all to encourage your trainee colleagues to join our Association, the Academy and to get involved.

Thanks to my colleagues on the Executive and on Council, to all our Members and Industry Partners and especially to Sarah and Jenny, our Executive Directors, who keep everything running smoothly.

See you all in Portsmouth at the end of November, where I will hand over the reins to Professor Arulampalam.



**Mr David Mahon**  
President

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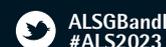
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## Editor's Introduction



Daffodils over-tick, tulips starting-tick, Easter eggs gone-tick, acting as Registrar or FY1 on ward cover for a week-tick, so it must be June 2023 and time for the ALSGBI Summer Newsletter. A lot has been happening since the last Newsletter was released. Some of it is not ideal, with the industrial disputes involving junior Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health professionals and the government making it tricky to provide safe surgical services that we all strive to keep in place for

our patients. I am sure that you all join me in wishing a speedy and equanimous outcome.

Fortunately the members of the society have been busy spreading the word about the benefits of laparoscopic and robotic training and the reports of these can be inspected within. Both Cheltenham and Hull have had their inaugural LapPass® training days and judging by the feedback there will hopefully be many more. As the society continues to progress with robotic

training you will read of progress from the basic level with the development of the Basic Robotic skills course at the Griffin Institute, and the next level up with the Intermediate skills course hosted by Intuitive in Oxford, followed by the next level up with Mr Steven Dixon's report of his David Dunn travelling fellowship to the robotic unit of Marcos Gomez Ruiz (is this not a surgeon? Does he mean the Hospital Universitario Marques de Valdecilla?) in Santander.

Of course we do need to have engagement with medical students and more junior trainees and our Academy chair Tamsin Morrison has been attending meetings of student medical societies typical of the report of her recent trip to Cambridge.

If you did not make it to Malta (sadly I did not) you can read how interesting and stimulating the early Spring EAES Meeting was. I am sure the Rome Meeting in June will also be excellent. Hope you enjoy the articles and are busy preparing your contribution for the Autumn/Winter edition as we speak.

**Mr Neil Keeling**  
Newsletter Editor

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# Bringing LapPass® to the Sunny South West!

19 August 2022, Education Centre, Cheltenham General Hospital



In August 2022 we hosted our first LapPass® course at Cheltenham General Hospital. The course was held in the main lecture hall and we were kindly supported by both Karl Storz and Ethicon providing laparoscopic stackers and suture material respectively. We were also grateful for the funding provided by ALSGBI which enabled us to purchase Inovus LapPass® training kits.

The course was advertised via local deaneries and also through the ALSGBI website kindly supported by Jeremy Williams. We offered a discount to ALSGBI members (£80 for members vs £180 full price).

There was a fantastic variety of candidates travelling all the way from Derby to the Isle of Wight, despite the ongoing train strikes that day. Candidates ranged from FY2 up to ST5. In total we had 16 candidates and 6 faculty which included South West ALSGBI representative Mr Simon Higgs, senior ALSGBI member Mr Mark Vipond, current ALSGBI President Mr David Mahon and three local registrars. Alongside the candidates, 3 of our surgical first assistants kindly attended to practice their camera holding skills and to experience the simulation training day. Prior to the course all candidates were sent instructional videos from the ALSGBI website.

The day itself was divided into two halves with the primary aim to give candidates as much time as possible on the simulators. The morning comprised of practising the four laparoscopic tasks; grasping and manipulation, simulated appendicectomy, cutting a disk and intracorporeal suturing. Prior to each session candidates were given a quick introduction which included a brief demonstration video.

In the afternoon candidates could choose to complete a LapPass® assessment under supervision from one of our three consultant ALSGBI



members in order to achieve one or more of the time-based tasks (please note candidates were advised to achieve task 5 - camera holding in their own time (forms available at <https://www.alsgbi.org/lappass/>). The majority of the candidates achieved at least one task under supervision with one candidate managing to achieve all four!

The candidates enjoyed our high faculty to participant ratio, we also had 2 candidates per simulator to keep trainees operating for as long as possible. Karl Storz kindly provided 8 laparoscopic stackers with torsos and equipment including, graspers, needle holders and laparoscopic scissors which created a high-fidelity simulation environment. Ethicon also kindly provided suture material and provided us with an insight into some of their latest technology including laparoscopic staplers and electrocautery devices.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of responders finding the course relevant to their training and 100% would recommend the course to a colleague.

Overall, the day was a great success and is hopefully one of many to come with Mr Osama Hamid planning to repeat the course next year. I must thank all the faculty, our sponsors, Mr Jeremy Williams, Ms Grace Bennett, Mrs Jenny Treglohan and in particular Mr Simon Higgs for all their support and making this course possible.

## Mr Hamish Walker

ST4 General Surgery  
Severn Deanery  
[Hamish.walker2@nhs.net](mailto:Hamish.walker2@nhs.net)



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2. Ethicon, Floyd Relaunch Claims Metrology, June 2020, PRC095763A (145171-200630)  
3. Ethicon, Floyd Relaunch Claims Ex-Vivo Sealing, June 2020, PRC094697A (145171-200630)

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# 2nd Hull Laparoscopic Skills Course

23 November 2022, Suture Centre in Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



This was a very exciting one-day course and gave an incredible opportunity to trainees who wished to attend a hands-on practical laparoscopic skills workshop held in our Suture Centre in Castle Hill Hospital.

Immense gratitude goes to ALSGBI for approving and advertising the course on their website and accrediting it with 6 CPD points. The course was run at a very affordable price, which was made possible due to support from an ALSGBI financial grant as well as support from Ethicon. Special thanks go to Jeremy Williams and Jenny Treglohan as well as other ALSGBI staff who helped us.

After running the pilot course in May 2022, which was extremely successful, we received overwhelming positive feedback from the trainees who attended the course. We therefore decided to run the same course again in our Suture Centre considering the trainees' feedback from the previous course.

The attendees were all surgical trainees of various grades, including FY2s, CST/STs as well as more senior trainees at ST3/ST4 level.

The day started by offering breakfast to the trainees, company representatives, administrative staff as well as the faculty. After an opening statement by Mr Peter Sedman (Consultant UGI Surgeon) and housekeeping presentation, there was a short introduction course and a short presentation by the representatives of Ethicon. Inovus also presented which related to their augmented reality training boxes. The trainees were then divided into two groups, first group started with wet lab workshop and the second group started with dry lab workshop. The dry lab was mainly a LapPass® skills stations.

The trainees who started on the on the wet lab were further divided into smaller groups and they worked in pairs, each rotating through different stations performing different tasks. The tasks included laparoscopic cholecystectomy, laparoscopic appendicectomy on 3D models as well as animal tissue.

As predicted the LapPass® skills station was more popular particularly for the CST/ST trainees. This is because understandably they were intending to complete their LapPass® skills and get certified as Mr Peter Sedman was present as faculty and is an assessor of LapPass®.

After lunch time, the afternoon session resumed. The wet lab workshop had a different layout for the afternoon session. The emphasis was on laparoscopic small bowel resection and small bowel anastomosis. Each trainee had the opportunity to perform laparoscopic small bowel resection using laparoscopic stapler with re-loads, this was initially demonstrated and explained by Mr Vincent Wong (Upper GI Consultant Surgeon).

Ethicon representative Mrs Deborah Dexter was also present and helping the trainees, showing them how to use the instruments such as the Laparoscopic Stapler and energy devices such as the Harmonic.

Each trainee had the opportunity to perform at least two appendicectomies, a laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a small bowel resection and anastomosis, having plenty of spare animal products and 3D models if any trainee needed more practice.

After the afternoon coffee break, we had an open session in the wet lab giving the trainees the opportunity to perform any task which they

need more practise to develop their confidence further. Those trainees who desired to be signed off for LapPass® skills headed to the dry lab where Mr Peter Sedman was assessing individual core trainees/ST trainees, with the view of them obtaining the LapPass® certificate.

The representatives, particularly Ethicon, were very helpful throughout the entire day, showing the trainees how to perform certain tasks and how to use the Ethicon devices such as the harmonics and the laparoscopic endo stapler. Their assistance was greatly appreciated and in particular Mrs Deborah Dexter, who was very familiar with the tasks (she also supported us at the first laparoscopic course in May 2022).

We would like to extend our gratitude to the faculty who were Mr Peter Sedman, Mr Vincent Wong, Mr Terry Lo and Mr Alex Wilkins. Much credit goes to the admin team who made all this possible (Janine Peck, Jane Backhouse, Donna Major and Emily Clapison). Our gratitude also goes to the cleaners who performed deep clean of the Suture Centre before and after the course.

The entire day went very successfully and was extremely enjoyable, we received very positive feedback from the trainees as well as the faculty, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Reassuringly most of the faculty expressed their desire to help us in the future with such courses and we have decided to run this course again in May 2023.

Thank you very much to the ALSGBI team for your ongoing support and making this possible.

## Mr Saman Habib

StR in General Surgery  
Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



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# EAES Winter Meeting 2023

26-28 January 2023, Symposium on Innovation in Surgery, Malta



The EAES, our sister surgical organisation, ran its winter meeting in Malta this year between 26th and 28th January. The format of the meeting was changed to meet the changing demands of the surgical community. Huge congratulations to Dr. Predrag Andrejevic and his team for delivering an

exciting programme with much to commend. The Symposium of Innovation in Surgery as the Winter meeting is now known is a lightning rod for surgical innovators and educators to showcase the latest technology and learning as well as to have forthright debates on the benefits of these innovations. Congratulations must go to Professor Yoav Mintz, Chair of the Technology Committee of the EAES for having the vision and the perseverance to put together and then deliver the ambitious programme away from mainland Europe, a challenge of its own.

gamification as a mode of delivery. The Scrub Games team developed and ran, what were probably the best received sessions. The use of the escape room concept, where teams of 6 surgeons solved surgical puzzles, cryptic clues and challenges in order to unlock fresh clues or



was spacious and although we were not blessed by winter sun, the setting was spectacular. The main lecture hall was used to transmit live surgery from the main hospital in Malta as well as from abroad. The usual glitches that are all too familiar with live broadcasts did not detract from

some very good learning. For me the highlight was the CME demonstration by Mr. Danilo Miskovic. The anatomy demonstrated and the methodology was clear for all those present. The caveat is, of course, "don't try this at home – without training". Live demonstrations can make complex tasks look very easy, especially when demonstrated by an expert. We should all take part in a debate about the merits of live surgery, the impact on patients, the educational value and the best way to train our surgeons.

The meeting comprised of pre-congress workshops, a morning of live surgery and conventional lectures style sessions. There were post-congress workshops in the cadaver lab as well as an innovative series of workshops by our own ALSGBl members, The Scrub Games team, who ran human factors sessions using

"keys" was a great way to bond teams, understand human factors principles and the thoughtful feedback meant individuals left with an understanding of the vulnerable surgeon and how to better work in the high performance environment. Huge congratulations to the team (Miss Zobia Gubndkalli, Miss Nienke Warnaar and Mrs Estelle Martin). We hope they will grace the ALSGBl with their escape rooms soon.

The cadaveric labs were a huge success with tutored sessions to learn complex surgical procedures. The key selling point to me was the high tutor to delegate ratio and the feedback given to the participants. The latter enables sustained changes in practice.

The core meeting was excellent. The venue



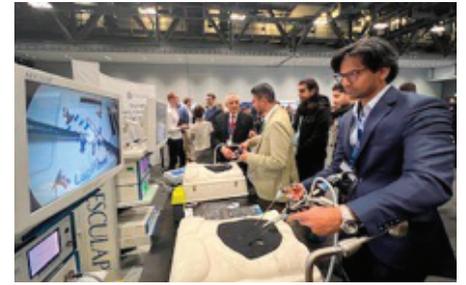
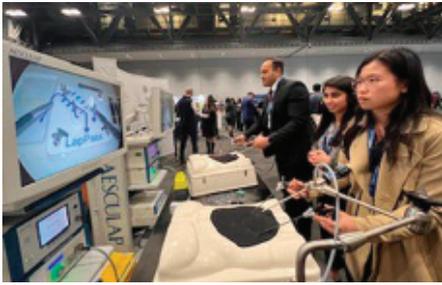
The post congress workshops were well attended, and I think this model of congress works well. The anatomy labs, cadaveric operating and non-technical skills training worked well and is of high value. The networking in this small meeting was phenomenal and after three long years there were great opportunities to renew old friendships and build new ones.

Overall, a really good meeting and we look forward to the Symposium of Surgical Innovation in Bucharest next year.

**Professor Tan Arulampalam**  
President Elect, ALSGBl

# 47th Annual Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) Conference 2023 – Reconnect and Inspire

3–5 March 2023, Arena and Convention Centre (ACC) Liverpool

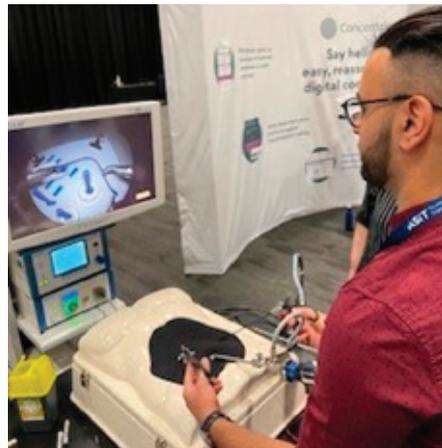


The 47th annual ASiT conference was hosted in at the Arena and convention centre (ACC) Liverpool on the 3 – 5 March 2023 attracting over 1000 delegates at all stages of training. With the invaluable help of MedAll, trainees from all over the world were able to join the conference proceedings virtually making it a truly global surgical training event. A record number of low-cost courses were delivered across various surgical specialty 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.

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 sessions. The interactive poster hall continued this year where the top scoring abstracts in each abstract category had the opportunity to present in a "spotlight session". This gave a greater number of delegates the opportunity to present and disseminate their work to peers. Over 40 oral and poster prizes were on offer for delegates as well as yoga and an interactive "escape room" experience. New session for this year included surgical subspecialty Journal club, the Black Belt academy of Surgical skills, Surgical sculpture modelling and an anatomy drawing workshop.

The Saturday mainstage plenary session "Reconnect & Inspire" opened with an interactive Q&A discussion with the Surgical Royal College presidents followed by an inspiring keynote lecture delivered by Mr Mohammed Belal about his journey back to the surgical workplace following a life changing cycling accident. There were thought provoking sessions on research and surgical Innovation, inspiring leadership, sustainability in surgery and delivering excellence in training. The ASiT Annual General meeting concluded Saturday's formal proceeding welcoming several new additions to the executive from council. The charity dinner took place at the stunning Liverpool World Museum in support of the British Heart Foundation and as per tradition the prestigious Silver, Scalpel, Suture and Scissors were awarded to the winning exemplary trainee at consultant, senior and junior surgical trainee grades respectively.

The focus of Sunday morning was on rebuilding training for system recovery, with talks



from the GMC, Health Education England (HEE), and Professor Tierney (ASGBI President) regarding the extended surgical Team Pilot, Miss Stella Vig and Mr Sas Banerjee and Mr Thangadorai Amalesh on innovative ways to enhance patient care and surgical training. The ASiT debate entitled - "This house believes that there are no longer incentives to enter traditional surgical training pathways!" generated lots of interesting discussion. The Sunday programme concluded with updates from the BMA junior doctors committee (JDC) as well as a summary of ASiT's Cost of Surgical Training (COST) Survey. Several breakout sessions were delivered across the weekend. There were sessions on planning a successful FY3, threat and error management, rethinking postgraduate surgical education, Women in Leadership and Mentoring, Parents in Surgery and a session led by PRISM completed the line-up of breakout sessions.

The ALSGBI laparoscopic prize this year was won by Mr Jason Kho for his abstract entitled "Predictors of re-intervention following index cholecystectomy." The ALSGBI stand proved extremely popular again this year. Delegates could get "hands on" and gain practical experience of laparoscopic skills and learn more about the LapPass® assessment from members of ALSGBI Council and Academy. ASiT are extremely grateful for the time of Mr Altaf Awan, Mr Imran Bhatti, Miss Tamsin Morrison (ALSGBI Academy President), Miss Nayaab Kader and all the Academy members who represented ALSGBI at the conference this year.

Each year the conferences success is the result of a true team effort. We thank our sponsors, our General Manager, Miss 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 2023 so memorable. ASiT 2023 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 to conference in 2024!

**Mr Joshua Clements**  
ASiT Representative on ALSGBI Council

# Cambridge Surgical Society WINS Conference

11 March 2023, Cambridge Medical School

I was invited to speak at the Cambridge Medical School Surgical Society Women in Surgery Conference on March 11 2023 about "A Path to General Surgery". This was a student led event, sponsored by the MDU and Wesleyan and I must commend the Cambridge Surgical Society for their high-level organisation and for putting together such a great line up of speakers. We had a morning of inspiring surgical talks and practical advice from associated organisations such as Wesleyan. This was followed by various workshops such as "Working in a surgical team" and a vibrant Women in Surgery Q&A panel, which I participated in.

The ALSGBI Academy have been involved in several Widening Participation and career events organised by the RCS and Medical School societies over the last couple of year as part of our outreach work. Not only has this afforded our junior Academy members the opportunity to facilitate practical workshops and deliver oral presentations on their topics of interest across the UK, which is incredibly rewarding; but more importantly, it has also enabled us to contribute to the early career path of future surgeons as an organisation.



This event was a great opportunity to listen and learn from senior female surgeons of different surgical specialties such as Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, ENT and Breast Surgery, as well as give some insight into my own experiences as a General Surgery trainee. Every time I attend a student event, I get the

opportunity to meet some fantastic people, I learn something new and leave full of ideas, which is essential when leading a trainee committee. I look forward to the next one!

**Ms Tamsin Morrison**  
ALSGBI Academy Chair

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1. Dip F et al. Randomized Trial of Near-infrared Incisionless Fluorescent Cholangiography. Ann Surg. 2019 Dec;270(6):992-999. DOI: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000003178

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# ALSGBI Basic Robotic Skills Course

12 March 2023, Griffin Institute, Northwick Park, London



The ALSGBI Basic Robotic Skills course has run 8 successful one-day taster sessions at The Griffin Institute. It has trained 72 surgeons to date on basic systems set up, troubleshooting, virtual reality on the da Vinci SimNow and da Vinci Surgical Skills Simulators, as well as dry and wet model simulation (ex-vivo porcine small bowel). Each platform allows an introduction and chance to improve all the aspects of basic robotic skills including depth perception, bimanual dexterity with wristed instruments, camera control, master controller workspace, energy usage, dissection, 4th arm use and the non-technical skills essential to communicate effectively and safely during robotic surgery.

Progression throughout the day is monitored with validated virtual reality scores to assess competency in certain tasks i.e., the Fundamental Robotic Skills VR curriculum. During the wet lab, each participant has a formative session with one-to-one feedback from expert faculty using an objective assessment tool, Modified- Global Evaluative Assessment Robotic Skills (M-GEARS). This enables each surgeon participant to receive meaningful feedback and individual points to improve upon.

Feedback for the course continues to be overwhelmingly positive, however, many participants highlight the desire for more procedure-specific courses, defining the next step and vision of the ALSGBI.

Alongside maturation of the course, robotic surgery in the UK is evolving, with a rapid expansion of different platforms and a huge training need developing. Additional consideration is therefore necessary with regards to

the national infrastructure for senior trainees and consultants.

The ALSGBI, Intuitive and CMR, basic robotic skills courses present a framework for future robotic platforms training, which is essential given the increased demand.

## ALSGBI Future Directions

As the leading minimally-invasive surgical society for General Surgeons, the ALSGBI will develop a long-term plan to provide effective, standardised, benchmarked, proficiency-based training and accreditation. Development of specialty-specific modules is essential, coupled with expanding the in-hospital proctoring scheme, to allow safe continuation into independent clinical practice.

Answering the call for training and standardisation, the ALSGBI Robotic Driving Licence Curriculum was developed and has been piloted. It is a 4-day intensive basic robotic skills course allowing participants to complete a virtual reality, dry and wet lab curriculum, reaching competency through proficiency-based assessment. Further courses are available in June and August this year. (<https://www.alsgbi.org/courses/>).

## Mr Matt Boal

Surgical Research Fellow  
General Surgery Registrar  
The Griffin Institute



# ALSGBI Basic Robotic Skills Course

12 March 2023, Griffin Institute, Northwick Park, London

## ALSGBI Basic Robotic Skills Course 12/03/23

Please give your overall star rating for this event

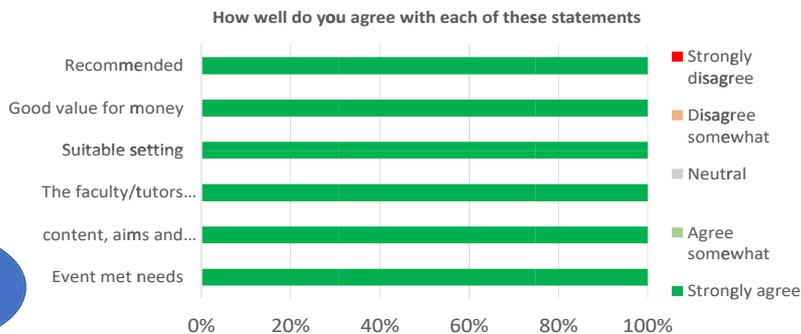
**5 ★**  
average rating

**100%**  
would recommend

### What were you hoping to gain from attending this event?

- Training in basic robotic surgery
- About suturing, experience with instruments and handling the robotic system
- Wanted to feel a robot and learn the basic steps
- First approach to robot
- Introduction to robot and see how it works
- Hand on
- Learn the basic of robotic skills
- Learn basics
- Praise the delegates as best as possible

Good tips.  
Excellent course,  
thank you.



### What was the most useful aspect?

- Access to robot
- Training
- Good communication and good teamwork. Very good friends and approachable faculty
- Tips and tricks, hands on session
- Hands on experience
- Hands on
- Good hands on experience
- Suturing
- Hands on robotic suturing
- Hands on to robot

### What aspects could be improved?

- To organise more courses
- Number of instructors (but explained that there was sickness absences)
- Food
- Better food
- Perhaps less delegates and smaller groups
- The delegates were more keen to work on Xi but we had one this time

### What are the next steps that you plan to take?

- To participate in more courses
- Attend driving license
- Driving license
- Starting training
- Use as a platform, I will continue more learning and attend courses

### What topics would you like to see us cover in future?

- Similar hands on Training
- Speciality specific i.e. Gynaecology
- Robotic AWR

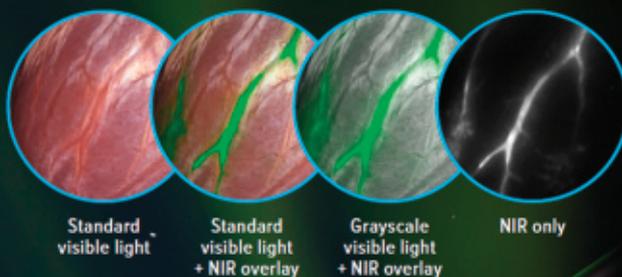
Very helpful and very well organised. Beyond my expectations.

Feedback from the March course

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## Near-Infrared Fluorescence Imaging

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# ALSGBI David Dunn Travelling Fellowship 2021



Towards the end of my training I was looking for potential opportunities to develop my Robotic colorectal experience in a centre for excellence under the tutelage of a passionate and motivated mentor. I sought advice from one of the most prominent robotic surgeons in the U.K. and trainer on the ALSGBI Robotics course, Jim Khan, who advised I contact Marcos Gomez Ruiz in Santander, Northern Spain. This was a name I had recognised from the plethora of robotic colorectal papers and European guidelines published over the last 10 years, and a quick Google search told me I was on to a winner. Once approached, Marcos was as friendly and helpful as his CV was impressive, and I quickly made the arrangements to visit.



Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital Santander is a large district general hospital, providing care for 600 000 Cantabrian patients. They see approximately 250 new colorectal cancers per year, operating on 80% of these. They have over 13 years' Robotic experience with a variety of Da Vinci systems, currently the Xi, and offer this to approximately 65% of their cancer patients. This is equivalent to the laparoscopic practice of most U.K. services as per the most recent National Bowel Cancer Audit data. Of the 7 colorectal consultants practising, 6 are fully

robotically trained and they have lists running most days of the week. Professor Ruiz is not only a proctor for Intuitive, training the next generation of robotic surgeons, but has also been instrumental in developing the European Coloproctology Society's Robotic educational platform 'Colorobotica'.

The weather may have been miserable (grey skies and rain for 90% of the time!) but the Robotic experience certainly wasn't! I observed some truly inspirational operating with magnificent poise and efficiency which reflected the experience and dedication of the department. I was most impressed by their ability, even post pandemic, to streamline the service to avoid



unnecessary delays and every morning a patient was on table at 9am ready to start. One particularly interesting case was a splenic flexure tumour in an elderly male patient, this rather controversial area prompts discussion regarding the merits of either an extended right hemicolectomy or an extended left. In this case the operating team decided upon a segmental resection with primary intracorporeal anastomosis, using ICG and the superior dexterity of the robotic platform to identify the appropriate blood supply. Another impressive case was a cancer recurrence



following anterior resection and primary anastomosis, they performed a robotic abdomino-perineal resection, skin to skin in 3.5 hours. At no point did the surgeon or operating team appear rushed or flustered, every single member understood their role to the point where even challenging cases, i.e. recurrence/re-operative surgery appeared routine. Astonishing to watch!

Despite the weather I was able to take in some of the stunning scenery of the port-based city, alongside some of the fabulous cuisine. On reflection this has been a remarkable experience which has helped me develop as a surgeon and without doubt aided my successful transition into a Consultant role. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the ALSGBI for their support and generous sponsorship and also the impressive team in Santander, I would thoroughly recommend this experience to anyone hoping to progress their colorectal and robotic understanding.

**Mr Steven Dixon**  
Consultant Colorectal Surgeon  
Wrexham Maelor Hospital



# SAVE THE DATE 2023

## NAVIGATING SUCCESS From Competency to Mastery

ALSGBI & ALTS Annual Scientific Meeting  
Thursday 30 November & Friday 1 December  
Portsmouth Guildhall | Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth | Hampshire PO1 2AB

ALSGBI Laparoscopic Surgery Training Day  
Saturday 2 December  
Queen Alexandra Hospital | Cosham  
Portsmouth PO6 3LY

ALSGBI Robotic Surgery Training Day  
Saturday 2 December  
Griffin Institute | Northwick Park  
& St Mark's Hospital y Block  
Watford Road | Harrow HA1 3UJ



<https://www.alsgbi.org>



ALSGBI #ALS2023

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

# DETAILS OF THE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP 2023

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

**The David Dunn Travelling Scholarship** is to the value of £2,500\*. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable a UK-based surgeon in training, or young consultant within 5 years of appointment, to extend their experience in minimal access surgery by a short visit to one or more centres. The successful scholar will be expected to give a report on their visit/s 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](mailto:jtreglohan@alsgbi.org) and be current members of the ALSGBI. The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September 2023. The successful applicant will be notified by 10 November 2023 and will be presented with their certificate at the ALSGBI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday 1 December in Portsmouth. For full information on the ALSGBI visit [www.alsgbi.org](http://www.alsgbi.org)

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

## DETAILS OF THE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2023

The **Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ALSGBI)** incorporating **Robotic & Technology Enhanced Surgery (RATES)** is funding one pump priming research grant to the value of £2,500.

Research is the foundation of good clinical practice and forms an essential source of knowledge for the surgeon, the surgical profession and medicine as a whole. The ALSGBI recognizes the importance of research in our roles as surgeons and aims to support surgical trainees, fellows and early year consultants (within 5 years of appointment) to undertake research projects that can build into larger scale studies. The purpose of this award is to introduce an academic element into laparoscopic and robotic surgical training.

The successful fellow will be expected to give a report on their research 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 by email at [jtreglohan@alsgbi.org](mailto:jtreglohan@alsgbi.org) and be current members of the ALSGBI. The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September 2023. The successful applicant will be notified by 10 November 2023 and will be presented with their certificate at the ALSGBI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday 1 December 2023. For full information on the ALSGBI visit [www.alsgbi.org](http://www.alsgbi.org)



# How Robotic Surgery is Revolutionising the Operating Room: A Look Inside Milton Keynes University Hospital Robotic Surgery Programme

NHS Trusts up and down the UK are working hard to clear the significant backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to limited hospital bed capacity, hospitals are looking to increase efficiencies in order to get more patients through the same number of beds – and many are looking to cutting-edge technologies to provide a helping hand.

Milton Keynes University Hospital was the first in the UK to install the next-generation surgical robot, Versius in 2019. In 2022, it reported an annual saving of 450 bed days following the adoption of Versius.

In our feature documentary, we went behind the theatre doors to hear directly from the teams working with Versius every day, to discover their experience of the surgical robotics programme to date, and what their plans for the future look like.

The team has reported that the implementation of surgical robotics has had a significant impact on patient outcomes. Enabled by the robot, the surgical team has been able to offer a minimal-access approach to a wider range of patients – with benefits including helping to get patients back at home and returning to normal activity faster<sup>(1,2)</sup>. The small and modular design of Versius has also enabled the team to quickly roll-out a multi-speciality robotics programme so as many patients as possible can benefit – and they have plans to extend to further specialties.

The surgeons using Versius have also reported less pain compared to when they operate with traditional laparoscopy. Some even feel this has helped

them avoid injury and will extend their surgical careers. A more efficient and cohesive team performance has been observed in the robotic theatres – and the hospital has recorded a positive impact on staff recruitment and retention.

To watch the full documentary, visit:



1 Schwenk W, Haase O, Neudecker J, Muller JM. Short term benefits for laparoscopic colorectal resection. Cochrane Database Syst Rev2005;3:CD003145.

2 Laudicella M, Walsh B, Munasinghe A, et al. Impact of laparoscopic versus open surgery on hospital costs for colon cancer: a population-based retrospective cohort study. BMJ Open 2016;6:e012977. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2016-012977.



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Ensuring equipment is available and working to specification is a crucial piece of the jigsaw in helping to tackle both increasing waiting lists and the NHS Net Zero target. With a KARL STORZ Managed Surgical Facility, dedicated On-site Endoscopic Specialists work full-time in your departments guaranteeing the correct reusable equipment is functioning, available and prepared for use. Furthermore, fully comprehensive maintenance contracts and fixed financing ensures equipment is maintained and serviced to its optimum throughout the contract term allowing the Trust to 'fire and forget'!

Working closely with NHS Trusts and Private Hospital Groups, KARL STORZ can address your requirements and tailor equipment and service levels:

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**On-Site Endoscopic Specialists:** Dedicated personnel concentrating on the management, availability and support across your entire KARL STORZ portfolio; ensuring best practices and maximising use and accessibility of reusable equipment.
- 
**Step Closer to Net Zero Surgery:** KARL STORZ offer a comprehensive portfolio of reusable surgical endoscopic equipment; which especially when tailored with a Managed Surgical Facility ensures high usage of reusable equipment that is fundamental in supporting the NHS Net Zero target.
- 
**Financial Predictability:** With predictable payments over a defined term, guaranteed uptime, a rolling replacement programme for equipment and the peace of mind of having a KARL STORZ specialist on site, many Trusts have realised their vision and are delivering better healthcare, through KARL STORZ Managed Surgical Facility contracts.

*Having an On-site Endoscopic Specialist (OES) from KARL STORZ to look after our theatres and instruments has meant that our staff can focus their valuable time on the patient, not the equipment. We transfer all risk associated with damage, maintenance, and service continuity, due to equipment, to KARL STORZ so we don't have to worry about it.*

**Leslieann Osborn**  
Assistant Director for Service Improvement,  
Darent Valley Hospital

For more information please contact your local KARL STORZ team on [surgicalsolutions-uk@karlstorz.com](mailto:surgicalsolutions-uk@karlstorz.com)

