Advanced gynaecologic laparoscopic surgery courses

Major Anatomy Workshop with cadaveric dissections, models and 3D computer generated pelvic floor anatomy as you have never seen it before

SYDNEY WOMEN’S ENDO SURGERY CENTRE

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
SYDNEY WOMEN'S ENDOSURGERY CENTRE

On behalf of the members of the Sydney Women’s Endosurgery Centre (SWEC), I would like to invite you to participate in one of our advanced gynaecological laparoscopic surgery courses. The Centre was established in 1995 and the first workshop was held in 1996. It is the longest running AGES endorsed workshop in Australia. As so many Australian and overseas gynaecologists have attended the workshop since 1996, the course has become one of the foremost laparoscopic surgical skills courses in the Asia/Pacific region.

The reason for its popularity and success relates to the number of very experienced surgeons who are members of the SWEC team and are active participants, both in the operating theatre and in the wet and dry laboratories.

Other than Clermont Ferrand, no other unit in the world can boast of having so many experienced surgeons, with so many different styles, techniques and special interests on its teaching staff. They are all heavily involved throughout the five-day course. The faculty has a collective experience in laparoscopic surgery spanning three generations of gynaecologists and includes the surgeons who introduced many of the advanced laparoscopic techniques and operations into Australia.

In 2004, SWEC added Dr Michael Cooper and Dr Geoff Reid’s full day endometriosis workshop to our comprehensive five-day program. And, in 2005, in response to growing awareness of the major anatomical requirements of laparoscopic surgery, we have added the exciting Cadaver Anatomy Workshop.

The workshop involves lectures with the senior anatomist at the University of New South Wales and the SWEC surgeons to describe pure anatomy, surgical anatomy and procedure-based anatomy using computer generated 3D graphics, models, embalmed cadavers and the very lifelike fresh frozen cadavers. This gives the participants the chance to explore the pelvis in a way that has not
been available to most surgeons in the past and allows us to use this applied surgical anatomy to introduce the new laparoscopic and vaginal mesh pelvic floor reconstructions. We also run through video demonstrations of all the major surgery you will see during the week’s program.

The dry labs and pelvitrainers are state-of-the-art and include virtual reality trainers and synthetic pelvic models so that participants can spend lots of time practising those knots and simulating operations. There is a huge emphasis on curved needle suturing at the workshop to complement our focus on total laparoscopic hysterectomy and pelvic floor reconstruction.

The animal laboratory on the last day gives everyone the opportunity to tie those knots and reproduce some of the featured operations on a live specimen under the supervision of our SWEC surgeons.

SWEC has invested heavily in documentation technology which allows us to record, edit and disseminate surgical procedures, which are beamed digitally into the SWEC office. Participants receive a full set of procedures as part of their course documentation.

We have tried to make SWEC a vehicle for cutting edge new technology and to provide a framework to introduce new validated procedures to the course after they have been successfully trialled by the six SWEC surgeons.

The RANZCOG Guidelines state “Hospital Accreditation Committees will require evidence of a Fellow’s competence in performing new techniques before granting privileges.” This “must be preceded by adequate training through individual research, workshops or preceptorships”.

This SWEC AGES approved course fulfils these requirements perfectly.

Greg Cario
Program Director
Sydney Womens’ Endosurgery Centre
FACILITIES

SWEC is based in two modern teaching hospital facilities. The laparoscopic equipment used during the course is state-of-the-art. With the help of our sponsors, course participants are exposed to the most up-to-date equipment available, as well as the equipment commonly used in everyday practice.

Lectures and tutorials take place in the Board Room and Annexe of St George Private Hospital and the SWEC office located in the operating suite complex of the hospital. Here there is a large, wide screen high definition plasma relay from the live operating room, which allows surgeons to enter the live operating theatre or watch the relay while enjoying a cappuccino and interacting with other course participants and our Fellows. This flexibility has been very popular with our delegates.

The new Cadaver Anatomy Workshop takes place at the Department of Anatomy at the University of NSW; all transfers are provided by SWEC.

The Animal Laboratory takes place at the adjacent St George Public Hospital concourse.
**FACULTY**

Laparoscopic Fellows are attached to the SWEC unit for a period of two years and participate in all aspects of the course, including teaching. Fellows have been training with SWEC since 1995 and have hailed from leading medical centres in Australia and overseas.

*Dr Gregory M Cario MBBS FRCOG FRANZCOG* is a founder and director of SWEC. He is one of the pioneers of advanced laparoscopic surgery in Australia and was one of the first surgeons to perform the laparoscopic Burch colposuspension, laparoscopic tubal reanastomosis and laparoscopic mesh sacrocolpopexy procedures. He has performed over 500 laparoscopic Burch colposuspensions, 500 total laparoscopic hysterectomies and a very large number of pelvic floor reconstructions. He has published extensively on all aspects of laparoscopic surgery. He lectures, demonstrates and precepts widely at conferences in Australia and overseas.

*Dr Mark Carlton MBBS BScAg FRCOG FRANZCOG* is a founder and director of SWEC. He is a pioneer of laparoscopic surgery in Australia and one of the most senior laparoscopic surgeons in the country. He has a wealth of experience in traditional gynaecological surgery as well as advanced laparoscopic surgery over the last 10 years, resulting in his pioneering work in laparoscopic Burch colposuspension, total laparoscopic hysterectomy and pelvic floor reconstructions. He has published widely on laparoscopic surgery and helped to develop the very popular Carlton/SWEC knot pusher.
**Dr David Rosen MBBS FRANZCOG** was the first SWEC Research Fellow, completing his training in the unit before going overseas to further his experience. After publishing and presenting widely on laparoscopic surgery at Australian and overseas conferences, he returned to take up a post as specialist laparoscopic surgeon at SWEC. He has extensive experience in all aspects of laparoscopic surgery and has helped to train doctors and to popularise the hysteroscopic Essure technique in Australia. He is a major contributor to the workshop and runs the Registrar training course.

**Dr Danny Chou MBBS FRANZCOG** was the second SWEC Research Fellow, completing his training over two years in the unit before going overseas to further his experience. His video presentations of surgery and anatomy are legendary both in Australia and overseas, where he has presented widely. He has also published extensively on all aspects of laparoscopic surgery. He returned to Australia to take up a post as a specialist laparoscopic surgeon at SWEC and is a major contributor to the research training and workshop of SWEC.

**Dr Michael Cooper FRANZCOG** is a Visiting Medical Officer and Head of Endoscopic Surgery at King George V Hospital and has appointments to St Vincent’s Private Hospital and St Luke’s Hospital. He is a Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Department of O&G at Sydney University and Head of Gynaecology at St Luke’s Hospital. His major clinical and research interests are in the use of endoscopic surgery, particularly the treatment of endometriosis, and he has performed over 1000 advanced laparoscopic procedures including excision of endometriosis, hysterectomy, colposuspension, pelvic floor reconstruction and lymph node dissection.
Dr Geoffrey D Reid MBBS MRCOG FRANZCOG
is a gynaecologist in practice in Central Sydney, South West Sydney and the Southern Highlands of NSW. He is the Director of Gynaecological Endoscopy at Liverpool Hospital, and has appointments at St Luke’s Hospital – Potts Point, Hurstville Private Hospital – Hurstville, Southern Highlands Private Hospital – Bowral, John James Memorial Hospital – Canberra and The Wesley Hospital – Brisbane. His major interest is the treatment of women with endometriosis. More recently he has returned to the treatment of couples requiring Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART/IVF) – a service that many women with endometriosis require.

Professor Michael Chapman MBBS MD FRCOG FRANZCOG CREI
is a founder and director of SWEC. Trained in Adelaide, he moved to the United Kingdom where he developed extensive experience. He became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of London and returned to Australia after 15 years when he was appointed Professor at the University of New South Wales at St George Hospital. He has run IVF services in London, Naples, Jeddah and Sydney. He currently runs his own private obstetric practice as well as continuing to care for women in the public sector. His other interests include infertility and reproductive endocrinology. Professor Chapman lectures regularly at national and international meetings, he has published in excess of 80 peer-reviewed papers and been involved in a number of textbooks and lay publications.
WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- Surgeons with laparoscopic surgical skills should attend to see a particular advanced procedure demonstrated, like total laparoscopic hysterectomy and pelvic floor reconstruction.
- Surgeons with basic surgical skills should attend to broaden their repertoire of laparoscopic surgical interventions and learn curved needle suturing.
- Registrars of all grades should attend to be introduced to the minimal access surgical skills that will lead to a proficiency in basic laparoscopic surgery.
- Surgeons who want to be introduced to the new generation of laparoscopic and mesh pelvic floor operations.
- Surgeons who want to do a refresher course in pelvic anatomy and surgical procedure-based anatomy.

ADVANCED GYNAECOLOGIC LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY COURSE

Participants should be engaged in basic laparoscopic surgical procedures on a regular basis, and have a working knowledge of laparoscopic surgical set-up and safety.

PRECEPTOR PROGRAM

SWEC offers a preceptor program whereby a member of the group can visit a participating surgeon’s unit and perform, assist and observe the surgeon performing his/her laparoscopic surgical procedures.

These preceptorships can be facilitated through and partly subsidised by SWEC’s major sponsors.
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACCREDITATION

The course has been accredited by RANZCOG (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) for 43 Continuing Professional Development points. Practice Improvement points may also be obtained. Contact Practice Improvement staff at the College tel +61 3 9417 1699 or email pi@ranzcog.edu.au for further information.

COURSE DETAILS

The course first deals with basic laparoscopic surgical techniques, including safety and entry techniques and includes discussion regarding cameras equipment and electrosurgical risk management. Participants are introduced to advanced laparoscopic surgical techniques and intra-corporeal suturing using state-of-the-art surgical trainers and models.

The Cadaver Anatomy Workshop on Day One perfectly compliments the dry labs to build a solid basis for the live surgery that follows. We believe that these anatomical considerations are vital to the modern day laparoscopic surgeon.

The six principal surgeons of the SWEC demonstrate a selection of procedures including hysterectomy, pelvic floor repair, colposuspension and endometriosis. These surgeries are demonstrated during seven live operating sessions.

One of the major interests of the SWEC group is pelvic reconstructive surgery. This innovative laparoscopic surgery is demonstrated during the live operating sessions and lectures are held describing the basis of this approach to pelvic floor disorders.
The course culminates in an animal laboratory where the techniques learned and the surgeries seen are combined and practiced in a supervised environment. On completion of the course, participants will have increased knowledge and experience of advanced laparoscopic techniques. Courses are held three times each year usually in March, July and October.

The advanced laparoscopic surgery course is held four times each year, normally in March, June, August and October. It is held over a five-day period, beginning on Monday morning and ending on Friday afternoon. Because of the favourable participant/faculty ratio, there is close to one-to-one teaching at all stages. No other course offers so many experienced surgeons at the one time for live interactive teaching. This is why SWEC has such a high national and international profile.

Scrub nurses can be facilitated on the advanced course and arrangements made for them to accompany the nursing staff associated with the SWEC group. This will allow scrub staff to become-familiar with the techniques of advanced laparoscopic surgery operating theatre set-up as well as to see the procedures demonstrated.

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<td>Endometriosis workshop</td>
<td>Live operating</td>
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<td>Animal laboratory and final wrap-up</td>
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SEE RESERVATIONS FORM FOR DATES AND FEES
ENDOMETRIOSIS WORKSHOP

Morning

- Welcome
- Tutorials
  - Problems with identification of endometriosis
  - Pelvic anatomy for endometriosis surgeons
  - Techniques for the excision of endometriosis
  - Understanding energy sources
  - Approaches to colo-rectal endometriosis
  - Pelvic pain – the evidence base for excisional surgery
  - Infertility – the evidence base for excisional surgery
  - What postoperative treatments should we use?
- Discussion

Afternoon

- Surgery at St George Private Hospital
  - Three live operative cases to demonstrate the principles of excisional surgery
- Tutorials
  - Complications occur with this surgery – how to cope.
  - What is happening to research into endometriosis?
Sydney Women's Endosurgery Centre in association with Dr Mark Carlton have designed the first laparoscopic knot pusher suitable for tying and securing both intra- and extra-corporeal knots.

The unique design of this innovative knot pusher allows the suture to remain in contact with the pusher and to retain the suture when securing both ante-grade slip knots and standard surgical knots, whether tied intra- or extra-corporeally.

**Features**

- Re-usable
- Ease of sterilisation
- 4 mm diameter
- 45 cm long
- Rounded and bevelled pushing surfaces to prevent suture cutting and degradation
- Suitable for monofilament and braided sutures
- Most suture diameters
- Can also be used at open and vaginal surgery

Order form available on our website www.swec.com.au
**J&J / SWEC PELVITRAINERS**

During the dry labs you will get the chance to use the new J&J / SWEC pelvitrainers, which have revolutionised do-it-yourself manipulation and suturing practice. These trainers are completely portable and are self-contained, requiring no monitor or light source and, most importantly, no assistant.

They are extremely realistic and are used consistently by our Fellows to reach an assumed level of competence before live operating. They can be used on the coffee table in front of the TV to repetitively perform simple procedures on the models.

J&J and SWEC have packaged these models in a self-contained box trolley which includes the trainer, all the trocars, the instruments including a J&J needle holder, the SWEC / Carlton knotpusher and even the sutures for you to use. There is a very useful latex model to practice simple curved needle suturing, hysterectomy vault closure and the featured operation at SWEC, the uterosacral colpopexy.

This unit can be leased by each Australia-based course participant for one month at a nominal charge following the workshop. Please ask our Fellows about this if you are interested to reserve a unit, which will be couriered to you and picked up by SWEC.
ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is not included in the cost and participants should make their own arrangements. Local hotels (around a 10-minute taxi ride) to St George Hospital, which may offer competitive rates are:

Novotel Brighton le Sands
tel +61 2 9556 5111
e-mail h1656@accor-hotels.com

Airport Sydney International
tel +61 2 9556 1555
e-mail info@airportinn.com.au

Hotel Ibis
tel +61 2 8339 8500

We can also suggest you try lastminute.com.au or whotif.com.au for last minute accommodation listings

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Participants are invited to attend a course dinner as guests of the faculty at one of Sydney’s award winning seafood restaurants on the evening of the fourth day of the advanced course.