

Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2014

Barcelona hosts quality meeting on minimal invasive surgery



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On Thursday morning, a short introduction by the meeting directors was followed by welcome remarks from Prof. Walter Artibani, EAU adjunct secretary and the chairmen of the national and international sections (EAU, ERUS, ESOU, ESUT, SIU, AEU) (Fig.1).

A master class titled "Robotic Surgery in kidney cancer with IVC thrombus" was presented by Dr. Gill. (Fig.2). Dr. Pansadoro, congress chairman, introduced the first cases of renal surgery. For the entire day, transperitoneal and retroperitoneal laparoscopic and robotic radical and partial nephrectomies (with and without hilar clamping) were performed by experienced surgeons including Drs. Bollens, Mottrie, Alcaraz, Peña and Liatsikos (Fig.3). Prof. Jens Rassweiler also performed a laparoscopic 3 mm retroperitoneal pyeloplasty. Although most of these cases were extremely difficult procedures, they were performed with excellent results. In the evening we had the opportunity to attend the gala dinner at "Casa Batlló," an iconic and modernist building designed by Gaudí and which is considered by experts as Barcelona's nicest house.



Fig. 2: Dr. I. Gill during his talk on IVC thrombus and Robotic Surgery in Kidney Cancer

Without a doubt the conference was a success with over 600 attendees from around the world. I would like to congratulate all the faculty, nurses and staff from Fundació Puigvert. Special mention must also be given to the Department of Urology and Anaesthesiology directed by Drs. Humberto Villavicencio and Daniel Hernando, respectively.

This conference, as in previous years, would have not been possible without the magnificent help and collaboration from the

operative secretariat Fedra Congressi directed by Raffaella Greco and our sponsors including Karl Storz, Intuitive, Recordati, Coloplast, Ethicon, Astellas, Covidien, DGM, Teleflex, Takeda and Surgique. Finally our congratulations to Dr. Pansadoro for maintaining the quality of this meeting, which is now on its eleventh edition this year.

As one of the organisers, we invite you to the next Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2015, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey. We hope to see you all in Istanbul!

After 11 years, the Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics Meeting has become one of the most important and exciting annual events for urologists and institutions specialised in minimally invasive surgery.

This year the course was held at the Fundació Puigvert in Barcelona with Drs. Alberto Breda, Inderbir Gill, Joan Palou, Vito Pansadoro and Humberto Villavicencio as course directors. Continuing the tradition for excellence achieved in previous meetings, this congress provided the opportunity to experience a broad spectrum of live surgery demonstrations, lectures and presentations by some of the world's leading urologists specialised in laparoscopy and robotics.

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Fig. 1: Dr. Jens Rassweiler at the welcome opening

On Friday, the procedures focussed on the bladder with laparoscopic and robotic cystectomies (with intracorporeal diversion) performed by Drs. Palou, Wiklund, and Gill, and a laparoscopic nephroureterectomy by Dr. Breda. On the same day, Dr. Erdogru demonstrated a laparoscopic pudendal nerve release, and Dr. Janetschek carried out an excellent laparoscopic RPLND. Many other surgeons showed their outstanding skills with some amazing reconstructive surgeries. Dinner that night took place at the Santa Creu i Sant Pau Historical Hospital built by Domènech-Muntaner in 1902. The building was in use until five years ago when it was declared a UNESCO heritage site.

Prostate cancer session

Saturday, as per tradition, was fully dedicated to prostate cancer. A total of eight radical prostatectomies were performed including transperitoneal and retroperitoneal laparoscopic and robotic approaches by very experienced surgeons such as Drs. Patel, Gaston, Stolzenburg, Hohenfellner, Gaboardi, Rocco and Celia. Dr. Bocciardi performed a case which showed the "Bocciardi technique" while Dr. Martínez-Piñero performed an elegant laparoscopic surgery.



Fig. 3: Live surgeries

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