

# EDITORIAL

## Highlights from the 5th UCT Robotic and Endourology workshop

A few years ago, I co-wrote an editorial in this journal making the case for the benefits of live surgery broadcast (LSB) as a means to teach.<sup>1</sup> Investigating the literature on LSB (much of it urological) made me think critically about its educational value and the importance of adhering to the EAU guidelines on LSB to ensure patient safety.

We recently hosted a downsized live surgery workshop. It was pared down because in the past year we've been struggling with staffing and we didn't want to overreach! Pared down also with minimal audio-visual broadcast.

The reduced workshop size made for a more intimate meeting where I hope those who attended were more able to interact and learn.

We hosted Rami Issa and Chris Anderson from St George's University Hospital in London. They are both pioneers of robotic surgery in the United Kingdom (UK). Rami performed a robotic cystectomy and neo-bladder which offered a great deal to learn from.

Prof. Andreas Gross, the Head in Hamburg and President elect of the Society of Endourology performed some ThuLep cases. The

timing of this was useful as we're trying to establish BiPoLEP locally in an attempt to move to being able to offer an affordable minimally invasive option to our BPE patients.

Lastly, Graham Watson, of Eastbourne, UK and Medi Tech Trust (a urological charity which donates medical equipment around the



The East London Mandela Day initiative led by Dr. Khanyisa Makamba and Dr. Jeff John



Emmanuel Njuma and Landry Mbouche (both fellows from Cameroon) being trained in PCNL by Graham Watson (left) and Rami Issa and Chris Anderson from St George's University Hospital in London (right).

world) taught PCNL. Graham is a leader in urological outreach into Africa and Asia to teach PCNL.

**Mandela Day initiative** (courtesy of Dr. Jeff John, Walter Sisulu University, Frere Hospital, East London)

In a wonderful demonstration of compassion and dedication, over 100 doctors, including 40 specialists, gathered to conduct urological surgeries for “state” patients who had been on waiting lists for months, if not years. This collaborative project was part of the African Synergy Health (ASH) Mandela initiative, which embodied Nelson Mandela’s values of service and community. In collaboration with the National Department of Health, provincial governments, and sponsors, 168 surgeries were carried out in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape provinces.

In Gauteng (5th, 15th–19th July 2024), 75 procedures were carried out at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Urology Hospital, and Advanced Health Groenkloof. In the Eastern Cape (8th–12th July 2024), 93 procedures were done at Frere Hospital, Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, Cure Day Beacon Bay, Life Beacon Bay, and Royal Buffalo Specialist Hospital. To commemorate Nelson Mandela’s 67 years of public service, both provinces set a target of completing surgeries for 67 patients, which they easily exceeded.

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## References

1. Lazarus J, Thomson SR. Live video transmission for urology workshops: yea or nay? *African Urology*. 2022;02(2). <https://doi.org/10.36303/AUJ.0035>.