

AGES & UGSA PELVIC FLOOR SYMPOSIUM Pre - Conference Workshops Program | 23 July 2026

A MULTIPLATFORM APPROACH TO ROBOTIC SURGERY IN BENIGN GYNAECOLOGY AND UROGYNAECOLOGY		IMRA
About this Workshop:		 MAX 20
Workshop Partners:     	This immersive workshop delivers hands-on training across four leading robotic platforms - Da Vinci Xi, DV5, Hugo, and Versius - offering a comprehensive learning experience for surgeons at all levels. Participants will develop essential robotic skills, including docking, instrument handling, and suturing, with guided instruction using high-fidelity Pindari hydrogel models. Tailored sessions cater to both new users seeking foundational training and experienced surgeons advancing their procedural proficiency. Attendees will also have the unique opportunity to compare system functionalities side-by-side, gaining insights into the strengths and applications of each platform. In addition, the workshop explores VR surgery and simulator-based learning, providing a dynamic, risk-free environment to refine robotic techniques. A dedicated urogynaecology component will showcase recorded cases and discussion of key procedures such as Burch colposuspension and sacrocolpopexy, illustrating platform-specific advantages in pelvic reconstructive surgery. Whether you're just beginning your robotic journey or looking to elevate your expertise, this workshop blends practical experience with cutting-edge technology to enhance surgical performance and confidence. NOTE: This workshop runs for a full day and will take place at the IMRA Centre (offsite location).	

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate basic robotic surgical skills** including docking, instrument handling, and suturing across Da Vinci Xi, DV, Hugo, and Versius platforms.
2. **Perform key procedural steps** (e.g. hysterectomy, myomectomy, cuff closure) using hydrogel simulation models in a multi-platform setting.
3. **Compare the strengths, limitations, and clinical applications** of major robotic systems used in benign gynaecological and urogynaecological surgery.
4. **Utilise simulator and VR technology** to enhance robotic skills in suturing, dissection, and camera control.
5. **Recognise key robotic applications in urogynaecology**, including continence and pelvic organ prolapse surgery, and understand where robotics may add value compared with laparoscopy.
6. **Describe current pathways for robotic surgical training and credentialing** and identify opportunities to progress within their own practice.

Workshop Faculty

- Dr Dean Conrad
- Dr Amani Harris
- Dr Anthony Cerqui
- Dr Danny Chou
- Dr Cherynne Johansson
- Dr Chin Yong
- Dr Anna Rosamilia
- Dr Sarah Choi
- Dr Harpreet Arora
- Dr Dan Krishnan
- Dr Catarina Ang
- Dr Vivien Yang
- Dr Yogesh Nikam
- Dr Kent Kuswanto
- Dr Naman Dahiya
- Dr Tarana Lucky
- Dr Pav Nanayakkara
- Dr Orla Donohoe

AGENDA

0845 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 0905	Welcome and Opening Remarks - Danny Chou
0905 - 0920	Pathways for Training in Robotic Surgery - Dean Conrad
0920 - 0935	Comparative Overview of Robotic Platforms - Anthony Cerqui
0935 - 0945	Hydrogel-Based Simulation in Robotic Surgery - Cherynne Johansson
0945 - 1000	Applications of Robotic Surgery in Urogynaecology - Chin Yong
1000 - 1005	Q&A
1005 - 1020	Morning Tea Break
1020 - 1225	Hands on Training: Fundamentals of Robotic Surgery
1225 - 1310	Lunch Break
1310 - 1645	Advanced Procedural Training – Pindari Hydrogel Models
1510 - 1525	Afternoon Tea Break
1645 - 1700	Closing Discussion & Key Takeaways - Danny Chou

URODYNAMICS WORKSHOP

M11, M Level

About this Workshop:

Workshop Partners:



GE HealthCare



Endotherapeutics
IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

In the ever-evolving world of urogynaecology, our one purpose remains providing holistic, evidence-based care to all patients. Join us for an afternoon (or morning) of urodynamic studies and find out how specialized bladder testing can enhance your care and treatment options. The workshop is designed to accommodate both novice clinicians and the seasoned experts alike.

The workshop includes didactic teaching, hands on training and test interpretation under the guidance of our local & international faculty. We welcome industry sponsors who bring a wealth of experience in the field of urodynamic studies.

Don't miss the opportunity to partake in this popular annual workshop, to hone your urodynamic skills!

Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this workshop, delegates will be able to:

1. Identify patients who may require urodynamic studies.
2. Be able to complete the setup for urodynamic studies and run the study.
3. Delegates will be able to interpret urodynamic study results and how to implement these as part of their patient management plan.

Workshop Faculty

- Dr Bernadette Brown
- Dr Lucy Bates
- Dr Frida Carswell
- Dr Rawan Bajis
- Rhiannon Mason RN

AGENDA

0730 - 0800	Registration
0800 - 0805	Welcome & Introduction - Bernadette Brown
0805 - 0820	Striving for One Purpose – Do Urodynamic Studies Lead Us Down Different Paths? Bernadette Brown
0820 - 0840	Components of the urodynamic study: What are we testing? – Rawan Bajis
0840 - 0900	Abnormal Bladder Function and How This is Reflected on the Urodynamic Study
0900 - 0920	Pelvic floor ultrasound scan in Urodynamic Studies – Frida Carswell
0920 - 0940	Artefacts and how they affect your study - Bernadette Brown
0940 - 1000	Morning Tea Break
1000 - 1130	Hands on Session • Urodynamics • Transperineal Ultrasound scan • Case Discussions
1130 - 1155	Q&A
1155 - 1200	Workshop Concludes
1200	Lunch

PESSARY WORKSHOP

M16, M Level

About this Workshop:



MAX 20

Workshop Partner:



This half day workshop is a comprehensive Pessary Workshop designed for healthcare professionals involved in pelvic floor management and pessary fitting. This hands-on workshop will cover clinical assessment of pelvic organ prolapse as well as recognising common vaginal and pelvic pathology during examinations. It will explore the physiotherapist's role in effective and safe pessary fitting, along with best practices for establishing a nurse-led pessary service, follow-up systems, and models of care. Participants will gain insights into credentialing in pessary care and fitting, as well as managing complications such as erosions, infections, and ulcerations.

The workshop will also cover pessary care, self-management, and patient education in line with TGA guidelines in pessary care. A hands-on practical session with pelvic models and real-world case studies will enhance clinical skills and confidence in pessary management.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the clinical assessment of prolapse and an overview of what pessaries are most appropriate in different clinical situations.
2. Discuss vulval and vaginal pathology, as well as the management of pessary complications.
3. Evaluate the role of physiotherapists and nurse-led clinics in pessary management including credentialing processes.

Workshop Faculty

- Payam Nikpoor
- Deb Karmakar

- Rebecca McDonald
- Chris Murray
- Kerry O'Sullivan

AGENDA

0730 - 0800 Registration

0800 - 0810 Welcome & Introduction

0810 - 0830 Clinical assessment & staging of Prolapse

0830 - 0850 Vaginal and Pelvic Pathology

0850 - 0910 Setting up a nurse-led pessary service including credentialing

0910 - 0930 The role of a physiotherapist in pessary fitting

0930 - 0950 Morning Tea Break

1010 - 1030 POP and SUI Pessaries

1030 - 1050 Recommended Practice for Pessary Care and Self-Management

1050 - 1200 Practical Sessions with Pelvic Model and Case Studies

1200 - 1300 Lunch

SIMULATION AND TRAINING IN FEMALE STRESS INCONTINENCE SURGERY		M12, M Level
About this Workshop:		 MAX 20
Workshop Partners:	Stress incontinence is a common condition and there are multiple surgical procedures with differing outcomes. Following a recent FDA alert, senate enquiry and adverse media publicity; the hitherto gold-standard treatment of mid urethral slings has lost some of its popularity with patients becoming mesh averse, hence the spotlight has shifted to other available treatments. As such, the landscape in surgical management of stress incontinence has undergone significant changes, with the new generation of surgeons lacking sufficient exposure to traditional incontinence procedures. There is a learning curve with all surgical procedures, and it has been found that simulation improves learning and ultimately patient outcomes. This workshop is targeted at fellows and young consultants who are offering incontinence procedures and aims to provide an overview of management of stress urinary incontinence and the practical enhancement of surgical training. Suggested Prior Reading/Learning: It is preferable that delegates registering for this workshop demonstrate some background knowledge in the surgical management of stress incontinence. Any pre-learning or pre-course assessment will be decided upon later once UGSA has been notified that the workshop submission has been accepted.	

Learning Outcomes:

Delegates who participate in this workshop will come away with:

1. An understanding of the pathophysiology of female stress incontinence and an evidence-based approach to its management.
2. An overview of current treatments (featuring surgical videos/simulation) and focus on the assessment of incontinence and appropriate patient selection.
3. This workshop will also look at credentialing, audit and recording outcomes in the Australian context and how this can be applied globally.

Workshop Faculty

- Dr Ruchi Singh
- Dr Lucy Bates
- Dr Fiona Bach
- Dr Linli Ow
- Dr Jenny King

AGENDA

0730 - 0800	Registration
0800 - 0808	Role of simulation-based training in surgery and how we can apply it in incontinence surgery - Ruchi Singh
0808 - 0818	Anatomy of the pelvic floor and pathophysiology in the context of surgical treatment of stress urinary incontinence - Lucy Bates
0818 - 0828	Role of urodynamics in female stress incontinence, counselling and consenting the patient for an incontinence procedure - Alon David, Linli Ow
0828 - 0834	Procedure specific video presentations with current evidence
0834 - 0844	Beyond complications and getting it right the first time: choosing the primary procedure - Ruch Singh/Fiona Bach
0844 - 0852	Current trends in SUI management: How does Australia compare to the rest of the world? Lucy Bates
0852 - 1000	Hands on Workshop Breakouts Station 1 – Facial Sling Station Station 2 – Burch Station Station 3 – Sling Station
1000 - 1030	Morning Tea Break
1145 - 1200	Conclusion and workshop evaluation
1200 - 1300	Lunch

CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN – BEYOND THE KNIFE

M15, M Level

About this Workshop:

Workshop Partners:



This workshop offers an evidence-based, in-depth exploration of the complexity of pelvic pain, featuring insights from leading Australian and international experts. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the mechanisms and drivers of chronic pelvic pain and learn about current medical and interventional treatment options.

The program will cover management approaches for chronic pelvic pain, bladder pain syndrome, and post-mesh pain. Practical demonstrations will showcase techniques such as bladder instillation therapies and the use of botulinum toxin for pelvic floor muscle overactivity, providing attendees with both theoretical knowledge and applied clinical skills.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the multifactorial mechanisms and drivers of chronic pelvic pain and explain how these influence management approaches.
2. Understand and describe treatment approaches for managing central nervous system sensitisation and pelvic floor muscle dysfunction in the context of chronic pelvic pain.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of interventional techniques, including bladder instillation therapies and botulinum toxin approaches for pelvic floor muscle overactivity, with attention to indications, procedural steps, and clinical considerations.

Workshop Faculty

- A/Prof Erin Nesbitt-Hawes
- Prof Katy Vincent
- Dr Karin Jones
- Dr Jason Chow
- Dr Victoria Buckley
- Prof Helena Frawley

AGENDA

0730 - 0800	Registration
0800 - 0810	Workshop Introduction
0810 - 0840	Mechanisms of Chronic Pelvic Pain including central sensitisation – Katy Vincent
0840 - 0910	Medical approach to management of nervous system dysfunction in chronic pelvic pain – Karin Jones
0910 - 0940	Evidence for physiotherapy treatment in persistent pelvic pain – Helena Frawley
0940 - 1010	Botulinum toxin treatment to the pelvic floor – evidence and approach – Erin Nesbitt-Hawes
1010 - 1040	Morning Tea Break
1040 - 1110	Bladder pain syndrome and treatment approaches – Victoria Buckley
1110 - 1140	Post mesh pain syndromes and their management – Jason Chow
1140 - 1200	Q&A
1200 - 1300	Lunch

OUTPATIENT HYSTEROSCOPY SPONSORED BY HOLOGIC

M15, M Level

About this Workshop:

Workshop Sponsored by:



This half-day workshop will focus on Outpatient Hysteroscopy within the Australian setting, where Clinicians from 3 of Australia's premier services will present on: applicable procedures for awake patients; different operating techniques; patient comfort considerations; and how to start-up a service in the public hospital setting, while also addressing the likely barriers encountered within this process.

These didactic presentations will also have a Q&A component, where following these, participants may choose to practice their techniques on hysteroscopic model simulators or use this time for more in-depth focused topic discussions with the facilitators.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify appropriate indications and patient selection criteria for outpatient hysteroscopy in awake patients and apply these within their clinical decision-making pathways.
2. Compare and implement different hysteroscopic techniques, including vaginoscopy and targeted pathology approaches, within their procedural practice.
3. Apply strategies to optimise patient comfort and procedural tolerance, including analgesia use and patient communication techniques, in outpatient settings.
4. Develop and initiate a structured approach to establishing or enhancing an outpatient hysteroscopy service, including addressing common barriers and integrating services into existing clinical workflows.
5. Describe the fundal block technique as well as patient and other clinical considerations in performing endometrial ablation in an outpatient clinic

Workshop Faculty

- Dr Kate Martin
- Dr Sally Byford
- A/Prof Emma Readman

AGENDA

1200 - 1300	Registration & Arrival Lunch
1300 - 1345	The GCUH Experience: Endometrial Ablation, the PCB protocol - Sally Byford
1345 - 1430	Modbury Service: vaginoscopy approach, specialised pathology targeting techniques - Kate Martin
1430 - 1515	How do I start a service? Reflections and learnings from Mercy Hospital for Women - Emma Readman
1515 - 1545	Afternoon Tea Break
1545 - 1700	Hands on Demonstrations with 1:1 Discussions with Facilitators
1700	Workshop concludes

VAGINAL SURGERY WORKSHOP	M12, M Level
About this Workshop:	 MAX 16

This hands-on workshop is designed to build confidence and technical competence in essential vaginal procedures encountered in everyday practice. Through expert-led demonstrations and practical learning, participants will refine skills in managing **complex vaginal tears**, performing **vNOTES**, undertaking **vaginal hysterectomy**, and placing **cervical cerclage**.

With a strong focus on surgical decision-making, anatomy, troubleshooting, and tips for challenging scenarios, this session bridges the gap between theory and real-world application. Ideal for general gynaecologists seeking to strengthen vaginal surgical capability, improve outcomes, and expand minimally invasive options for their patients.

Learning Outcomes:

Station 1: Overcoming Challenges in Vaginal Hysterectomy (VH)

- Apply structured approaches to challenging VH.
- Difficult colpotomy
- Learn practical tips to improve exposure and reduce complications.

Station 2: Introduction to vNOTES

- Understand indications and patient selection for vNOTES and vNOTES to enhance vaginal/endoscopic skills.
- Become familiar with equipment and vaginal port placement.
- Appreciate pelvic anatomy survey.

Station 3: Apical Vaginal Repair

- Review key anatomy for apical suspension (USL vs sacrospinous)
- Identify strategies to optimise support while minimising morbidity.

Station 4: Obstetric Trauma & Vaginal Cerclage

- Improve assessment and repair of difficult vaginal /obstetric trauma.
- Trouble shooting complications.
- Review indications and technique for vaginal cerclage placement

Workshop Faculty

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Dr Lucy Bates | • Dr Jens Erik Walter |
| • Dr Jenny King | • Dr Rebecca Young |
| • Dr Supuni Kapurubandara | • Dr Danii Paterson |
| • Dr Lin Li Ow | |

AGENDA

1200 - 1300 Registration & Arrival Lunch

1300 - 1315 Welcome & Orientation

1315 - 1640 Hands on Workshops (45 Min rotation per workshop)
Station 1: Overcoming Challenges in Vaginal Hysterectomy
Station 2: Introduction to vNOTES
Station 3: Apical Vaginal Repair
Station 4: Obstetric Trauma & Vaginal Cerclage

1445 - 1515 Afternoon Tea Break

1640 - 1700 Group Debrief & Take-Home Tips

1700 Workshop concludes

PERSISTENT PELVIC PAIN - BROADENING THE SCOPE AND THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

M13, M Level

About this Workshop:

Building on the knowledge and skills shared in the Chronic Pelvic Pain – Beyond the Knife Workshop, experienced medical and allied health clinicians working in pelvic pain will share further insights, lead case-based discussions of a range of PPP presentations such as bladder pain syndrome, IBS, vulvodynia and endometriosis-associated pain.

In this workshop participants will explore using a person-centred, trauma-informed, biopsychosocial approach to assess, formulate, and treat patients with persistent pelvic pain conditions. The focus will be on developing practical skills and tools, for working across a range of clinical settings. Challenges such as communicating effectively with patients, delivering pain education, managing flares, and working effectively with the MDT will be covered.

This package can be purchased as a bundle with the Chronic Pelvic Pain – Beyond the Knife Workshop, with a \$100 discount on the total cost of the two workshops.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the workshop participants will be comfortable with:

- Assessment and examination of the patient with persistent pelvic pain.
- Identifying symptoms and clinical features to help guide approaches to management.
- Implementing multidisciplinary strategies to help with persistent pelvic pain.

Workshop Faculty

- Shan Morrison
- Dr Megan Eddy
- Dr Megan de Souza
- Dr Shamitha Kathurusinghe
- Prof Helena Frawley
- Dr Karin Jones

AGENDA

1200 - 1300	Registration & Arrival Lunch
1300 - 1330	A Person-Centred Care Approach to Screening, Assessment and Examination of Pelvic Pain from the Perspective of Gynaecology, Pain Medicine, Pelvic Physiotherapy and Psychology – What is the same and what is Different.
1330 - 1415	The Importance and Value of Patient Communication – Act as a Placebo and Not a Nocebo
1400 - 1500	Clinical Reasoning Around Pain Phenotypes –in the Context of Pelvic Pain Presentations
1500 - 1530	Afternoon Tea Break
1530 - 1600	Small Group Case Studies with a Focus on Communication of Neuroscience and Pain Education that isn't Specific to Certain Disciplines
1600 - 1630	How To Prioritise Interventions – Right Person, Right Management, Right Time
1630 - 1700	Panel And Audience Discussion of Cases and Other Professional Issues Such as Communication Between Various Members of the Team – How to Ensure its Efficient and Effective
1700	Workshop Concludes

SACRAL NEUROMODULATION - WHEN A NOVEL TREATMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

M16, M Level

About this Workshop:



MAX 12

Workshop Partner:



This workshop comprises of didactic and hands-on training sessions. Faculty will address clinical questions around how sacral neuromodulation works and the role it plays in the treatment of various functional lower urinary tract and bowel symptoms. Delegates will be introduced to local company representatives who will be able to guide them in developing this unique skill set.

Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this workshop, delegates will have a clear understanding of:

- Clinical Indications of Sacral Neuromodulation
- When and how to incorporate sacral neuromodulation in their treatment pathway for women with urinary and bowel symptoms.
- Role of sacral neuromodulation in the treatment of non-obstructive voiding dysfunction such as Fowler's syndrome and functional bowel symptoms such as accidental bowel leakage.
- Hands on experience on insertion of the tined lead and pulse generator.
- Basic understanding of programming and controller function

Workshop Faculty

- Dr Payam Nikpoor
- Dr Felicity Gould

AGENDA

1200 - 1300 Registration & Arrival Lunch

1300 - 1310 Welcome and Introduction - **Payam Nikpoor**

1310 - 1340 Introduction to SNM in History. How it Works and its Clinical Application - **Payam Nikpoor**

1340 - 1410 SNM for Urinary Symptoms - **Felicity Gould**

1410 - 1440 SNM for Faecal Incontinence - **Payam Nikpoor**

1440 - 1510 Case-based Discussions

1510 - 1530 Afternoon Tea Break

1530 - 1645 Hands on Demonstrations

- Demonstration of patient positioning, x-ray landmarks
- Demonstration of devices, tined lead and IPGs
- Practice on models - insertion techniques and optimal lead placement.
- Charger and Programming – How do these work?

1645 - 1700 Closing remarks and feedback

1700 Workshops conclude

LAPAROSCOPIC / CYSTOSCOPIC WORKSHOP

M11, M Level

About this Workshop:



MAX 18

Advance your surgical skills in a hands-on environment designed for practising gynaecologists, urogynaecologists, fellows and trainees. This pre-conference workshop offers a rare opportunity to work directly with expert laparoscopic and urological trainers across three simultaneous skills stations: laparoscopic vault suturing and uterosacral suspension, laparoscopic identification of ureters, ureterolysis and management of urinary tract injuries, and a comprehensive cystoscopy wet lab covering equipment, ureteric catheterisation and operative techniques.

Registrations strictly limited - with a maximum of 18 participants and participants working in pairs with a dedicated facilitator, you will receive intensive, personalised instruction in a small-group setting.

Learning Outcomes:

- Conduct a structured preoperative assessment for women at higher risk of urinary tract complications during gynaecological surgery.
- Understand scope of practice and credentialing requirements for diagnostic and therapeutic urinary tract procedures and identify when to involve a Urogynaecologist and/or Urologist.
- Apply evidence-based indications for intraoperative cystoscopy and ureteric catheterisation.
- Understand strategies for preventing or minimising urinary tract injuries intraoperatively.
- Understand screening, diagnosis, and management of intraoperative and postoperative urinary tract injuries.
- Recognise and manage key diagnostic cystoscopy findings including interstitial cystitis, Hunner's ulcers and incidental bladder lesions, and apply appropriate therapeutic and referral pathways.
- Identify the full range of equipment available for diagnostic and operative cystoscopy, including scopes, catheters, guidewires, and therapeutic instruments.
- Perform cystoscopy, insertion of ureteric catheters and cystoscopic injections.
- Perform laparoscopic identification of ureters, vault closure at time of hysterectomy, vault suspension, and repair of bladder injuries.

Workshop Faculty

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Dr Clare Myers | • Dr Kate Tyson |
| • A/Prof J. Oliver Daly | • Dr Carmel McInerney |
| • Dr Debjyoti Karmarkar | • Dr Sam Mathew |
| | • Dr Sandra Elmer |

AGENDA

1200 - 1300 Registration & Arrival Lunch

1300 - 1305 Welcome and Workshop Overview

1305 - 1325 Intraoperative Assessment: Identifying Women at Higher Risk of Intraoperative Urinary Tract Complications - **Oliver Daly**

1325 - 1340 Scope of Practice, Credentialling and Governance

1340 - 1400 Preoperative Assessment: Identifying Women at Higher Risk of Intraoperative Urinary Tract Complications - **Oliver Daly**

1400 - 1420 Afternoon Tea Break

1420 - 1430 Wetlab Orientation: Station Briefing, Introductions and Safety

1430 - 1655 Hands On Workshops (45 Min Rotation, per station)

- Station 1 — Laparoscopic Suture of Vault / Uterosacral Suspension
- Station 2 — Ureteric Identification, Ureterolysis & Bladder/Ureteric Repair
- Station 3 — Cystoscopy: Equipment, Catheterisation & Operative Skills

1655 - 1700 Plenary Debrief, Key Takeaways, Q&A and Close

1700 Close of Workshop