

AGES PSM 2025

GRAND HYATT MELBOURNE | 28 - 30 AUGUST 2025

AGES PERI-OPERATIVE SURGICAL MEETING 2025 Pre-Conference Workshops Program

MULTIPLATFORM APPROACH TO ROBOTIC BENIGN GYNAECOLOGY

About this workshop:

Workshop Partners:

Medtronic



This immersive workshop delivers hands-on training across four leading robotic platforms—Da Vinci Xi, SP, 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.

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.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate basic robotic surgical skills including docking, instrument handling, and suturing across Da Vinci Xi, SP, 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 surgery.
4. Utilise simulator and VR technology to enhance robotic skills in suturing, dissection, and camera control.
5. Describe current pathways for robotic surgical training and credentialing, and identify opportunities to progress within their own practice.

Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean Conrad • Danny Chou • Alex Ades • Marcus Carey • Sarah Choi • Naman Dayiha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amani Harris • Cherynne Johansson • Dan Krishnan • Tarana Lucky • Mikhail Sarofim • Vivien Yang |
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Program:	
0900 - 0905	Welcome & Workshop Opening - Danny Chou
0905 - 0920	The Global Evolution of Robotic Surgery – Dr Sarah Choi
0920 - 0935	Pathways for Training in Robotic Surgery – Dr Dean Conrad
0935 - 0950	Comparative Overview of Robotic Platforms – Dr Mikhail Sarofim
0950 - 1005	Hydrogel-Based Simulation in Robotic Surgery- Dr Cherynne Johansson
1005 - 1020	Morning Tea Break
1020 - 1225	Hands-On Training: Fundamentals of Robotic Surgery (Workshop)
1225 - 1310	Lunch Break
1310 - 1645	Advanced Procedural Training – Pindari Hydrogel Models (Workshop)
1510 - 1525	Afternoon Tea Break
1645 - 1700	Closing Discussion & Key Takeaways – Dr Danny Chou
1700	Workshop Close

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ADVANCED VNOTES TECHNIQUES (Invitation Only)

About this workshop:

Workshop Sponsored by:



Join us for an exclusive surgical training workshop designed to enhance your practice and patient outcomes. Since you have already completed a vNOTES course, this workshop will focus on the pathway to offering vNOTES to more of your patients, providing benefits such as faster recovery, less postoperative pain, reduced operating time and shorter hospital stay¹.

Our esteemed faculty includes accomplished gynaecological surgeons who are considered leaders in these techniques and have successfully incorporated the vNOTES technique into their practices. They will share their expertise and insights on the following key topics:

- vNOTES technique for adnexectomy
- vNOTES technique with large uteri
- Solutions for challenging access

By attending, you will increase your confidence in patient selection for the vNOTES approach, gain a better understanding of how vNOTES can benefit more of your patients, and distinguish your practice by offering this advanced surgical option.

Don't miss this chance to elevate your skills and knowledge. Register now to express your interest and take this next step towards enhancing your surgical practice with vNOTES.

Confirmation and additional information will follow.

1. Baekelandt JF, De Mulder PA, Le Roy I, et al. Hysterectomy by transvaginal natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery versus laparoscopy as a day-care procedure: a randomised controlled trial. BJOG. 2019;126(1):105-113. doi:10.1111/1471-0528.15504

Learning Outcomes:

This workshop will support the delegates with the information and resources to be able to expand on existing vNOTES knowledge and skills, to understand the role of vNOTES for more wider indications including hysterectomy in high BMI patients and post C-section, adnexectomy and uterosacral ligament suspension.

Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Grover May • Dr Supuni Kupurubandara • Dr Mark Ruff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angus Flett • Lindsay Bailey |
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Program:	
0800 - 0830	Registration
0830 - 0845	Workshop Commences
0845 - 0900	Why vNOTES
0900 - 0915	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for vNOTES
0915 - 0930	Algorithm for vNOTES case selection
0930 - 0945	Dynamic Ultrasonography
0945 - 1000	vNOTES with previous C-section
1000 - 1030	vNOTES Anterior Entry
1030 - 1045	vNOTES for Large Uteri
1045 - 1100	vNOTES for High BMI
1100 - 1115	vNOTES Adnexal Procedures
1115 - 1130	vNOTES Prolapse Repair - USLS
1130 - 1215	Hands-on practicum – vNOTES simulation
1215 - 1230	Discussion and Workshop Wrap Up
1230 - 1330	Lunch

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THE PATH TO vNOTES FOR MIGS

About this workshop:

Workshop Sponsored by:



As AGES Consultants and Fellows, join us for a surgical training workshop designed to enhance your advanced laparoscopic surgery skills and prepare you for further training on the vNOTES technique in order to expand your armamentarium and offer an innovative minimally invasive approach.

Led by a distinguished faculty of accomplished minimally invasive and highly skilled surgeons who have successfully incorporated the vNOTES technique into their practice, this workshop will cover key benefits of vNOTES, including:

For patients, compared to laparoscopic surgery, vNOTES offers:

- Faster recovery¹
- Less pain¹
- No visible incisions¹

vNOTES also offers, compared to laparoscopic surgery:

- Shorter hospital stay¹
- Reduced operating time¹
- Improved ergonomics²

The workshop features a presentation of procedural videos to facilitate discussions on colpotomy creation and suggested techniques for minimally invasive surgery, along with hands-on sessions using simulation models to practice and refine your techniques. By attending, you will gain valuable insights and practical experience that will complement your current surgical skillset and boost your confidence in pelvic access. Don't miss this unique opportunity to advance your surgical expertise!

Register now to express your interest in this highly sought-after workshop. Confirmation and additional information will follow.

1. Baekelandt JF, De Mulder PA, Le Roy I, et al. Hysterectomy by transvaginal natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery versus laparoscopy as a day-care procedure: a randomised controlled trial. BJOG. 2019;126(1):105-113. doi:10.1111/1471-0528.15504
2. Burnett AF, Rojo MO. Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery for Gynecologic and Gynecologic Oncology Procedures. IntechOpen. 2021;1(9) doi:10.5772/intechopen.96082

Learning Outcomes:

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of vNOTES procedural steps and instrumentation used in the treatment of benign gynaecologic pathologies. The course includes the following:

- Pre-learning modules reviewing indications, clinical literature, anatomy, and instrument placement.

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- Hands-on practicum with lifelike Simsei™ tissue models to simulate vNOTES.
- Expert guidance and feedback from the faculty. • Continued education and support after course completion.

Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

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Program:

1300 – 1330	Registration
1330 - 1400	Welcome and introductions
1400 – 1415	What is vNOTES?
1415 – 1430	Why did we abandon vaginal surgery?
1430 – 1445	Why vNOTES?
1445 – 1500	Anterior Colpotomy
1500 – 1515	GelPoint™ V-Path setup and placement
1515 – 1530	vNOTES Hysterectomy
1530 – 1545	vNOTES Salpingectomy
1545 - 1700	Hands-on practicum – vNOTES simulation
1700 – 1730	Discussion and Workshop Wrap Up

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DAY CASE HYSTERECTOMY

About this workshop:

Workshop Partner

OLYMPUS®

Day-stay hysterectomy has been an established treatment pathway in the United States for several years and is increasingly gaining traction within the United Kingdom. Implementing day-case surgery offers numerous benefits, including significant reductions in hospital costs through decreased length of stay, lowered overall complication rates, and the preservation of patient safety and satisfaction.

This workshop is designed for healthcare professionals seeking to develop and implement a day-stay hysterectomy program within their institutions. Drawing on the expertise of leading teams from Australia and New Zealand, participants will gain valuable insights into diverse healthcare systems and practical guidance from program directors, clinical nurse specialists, and anaesthetists.

Attendees will receive comprehensive support, from the initial planning stages through to the establishment of a fully operational program. The session will also address both the advantages and potential challenges associated with day-stay hysterectomy, culminating in an interactive panel discussion and Q&A.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, attendees should be able to:

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages associated with day stay hysterectomy for patients and for the provider.
2. Obtain the tools to set up a day stay hysterectomy program within your own hospital.
3. Become aware of differing surgical techniques which improve pain outcomes and support same day discharge.
4. Implement anaesthetic techniques and apply enhanced recovery after surgery principles to support same day discharge.
5. Recognise of the importance of wrap around specialist nursing input including comprehensive pre-operative education, recognition of early signs of complications, effective post operative care and discharge planning.

Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graeme Walker • Jess Dunning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy Amy • Sally Byford • Megan Christie • Sam Holford • Michelle Louie • Paula Parker |
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Program:

0800 – 0815	Registration
0815 – 0845	Introduction to day case hysterectomy and experience at Gold Coast - Graeme Walker, Sally Byford
0845 – 0915	Day Case hysterectomy in USA - Michelle Louie
0915 – 0930	Day case hysterectomy in New Zealand context - Jessica Dunning, Megan Christie
0930 – 1000	Anaesthetic techniques to increase success with same day discharge - Guy Amy
1000 – 1030	Morning tea break
1030 – 1100:	Surgical techniques and best practices videos - Michelle Louie, Sam Holford
1100 – 1130	Role of the clinical nurse specialist - Megan Christie, Paula Parker
1130 - 1230	Discussion and Workshop Wrap Up
1230 - 1330	Lunch

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ULTRASOUND WORKSHOP

About this workshop:

This focused ultrasound workshop is tailored for laparoscopic surgeons aiming to enhance their understanding and use of pelvic ultrasound in the management of endometriosis. Through expert-led sessions, the workshop will introduce the IDEA consensus on standardised ultrasound assessment in women with endometriosis symptoms and explore how preoperative imaging can optimise patient care and surgical planning.

Participants will gain practical knowledge on identifying key ultrasound features, including pouch of Douglas obliteration and bowel nodules, with dedicated sessions on scanning techniques and a live demonstration. The workshop also covers the evolving role of ultrasound in diagnosing superficial endometriosis and includes case-based discussions to correlate ultrasound, MRI, and surgical findings. The session concludes with an interactive panel discussion, offering participants the opportunity to clarify concepts and discuss real-world applications with leading experts in the field. This workshop will provide attendees with actionable insights to enhance clinical practice.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. **Understand the IDEA consensus** for standardised ultrasound assessment in women presenting with symptoms of endometriosis.
2. **Recognise the clinical value of preoperative pelvic ultrasound** in guiding the management and surgical planning for patients with suspected endometriosis.
3. **Correlate imaging findings with surgical outcomes** by reviewing real-life case studies integrating ultrasound, MRI, and laparoscopic observations.
4. **Identify key sonographic features** of deep infiltrating endometriosis, including pouch of Douglas (POD) obliteration and bowel nodules.
5. **Appreciate the emerging role of ultrasound** in the diagnosis of superficial endometriosis and understand its limitations and potential.
6. **Develop practical scanning skills** through demonstration and hands-on observation, particularly in evaluating the posterior compartment.
7. **Engage in interactive discussion** to consolidate knowledge, clarify techniques, and explore the integration of ultrasound findings into surgical decision-making.

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Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

- George Condous
- Sofie Piessens
- Jay Hudgeons
- Rebecca Long

Program:

1330 - 1400	IDEA Consensus - What to Include in the Ultrasound Assessment of the Pelvis of Women with Endometriosis Symptoms - George Condous
1400 - 1420	How Preoperative Ultrasound can Improve the Management of Women with Endometriosis - Sofie Piessens
1420 - 1450	Case Study: Correlation Ultrasound - MRI and Surgery - Jay Hudgens
1450 - 1520	Afternoon Tea
1520 - 1535	Role of Ultrasound in the Diagnosis of Superficial Endometriosis - George Condous
1535 - 1605	Learn How to Scan POD Obliteration and Bowel Nodules - Rebecca Long
1605 - 1645	Live Scan with Particular Focus on POD Obliteration and Bowel Nodules - Sofie Piessens
1645 - 1700	Q&A & Panel Discussion
1700	Workshop Concludes

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ADVANCED OPERATIVE HYSTEROSCOPY

About this workshop:

Workshop Sponsored by



This half-day course will consist of two didactic sessions, followed by a hands-on workshop. The first speaker will be Dr. Michelle Louie, ND., MSCR, FACOG from the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. This session will focus on redefining the value of the visual biopsy, where Dr. Louie will share case studies, experiences, and her expert perspective on the value of visual sampling in hysteroscopy.

Following this, Dr Kate Martin, FRANZCOG, MBBS from Adelaide will present on Advanced Hysteroscopic Techniques, with topics ranging from the vaginoscopic approach to specialized techniques for approaching difficult pathology. Each topic will have dedicated time for Q&A.

Following the didactic session, participants will have the opportunity to practice techniques on simulated pathology/models under the guidance of expert faculty using mHTR equipment under full irrigation conditions.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, delegates should be able to:

1. Understand the Value of Visual Biopsy in Hysteroscopy

- Describe the concept of the "visual biopsy" and its role in contemporary hysteroscopic practice.
- Identify the clinical advantages and limitations of visual sampling as presented through real-world case studies.
- Analyze the decision-making process regarding when and how visual biopsy can optimize patient outcomes.

2. Apply Advanced Hysteroscopic Techniques

- Demonstrate knowledge of advanced hysteroscopic approaches, including the vaginoscopic method.
- Recognize strategies for navigating and treating difficult intrauterine pathology.
- Evaluate different techniques for specific clinical scenarios, integrating theoretical knowledge with expert recommendations.

3. Engage in Evidence-Based Clinical Discussions

- Participate actively in Q&A sessions to clarify concepts and expand on practical challenges.
- Critically appraise the presented evidence and expert experiences to inform personal clinical practice.

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4. Develop Hands-On Technical Proficiency

- Perform simulated hysteroscopic procedures using mHTR equipment under realistic irrigation conditions.
- Practice specific skills for visual sampling, vaginoscopic entry, and management of complex pathology on models.
- Integrate feedback from expert faculty to refine technique and troubleshoot common procedural difficulties.

Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

- Michelle Louie
- Kate Martin

Program:

1230 - 1330	Registration
1330 - 1415	The Value of the Visual Biopsy - Michelle Louie
1415 - 1430	Q&A
1430 - 1515	Advanced Hysteroscopic Techniques - Dr Kate Martin
1515 - 1530	Q&A
1530 - 1600	Afternoon Tea
1600 - 1700	Hands on Workshop
1700	Workshop Close

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PAIN AND THE GYNAECOLOGIST: A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON PELVIC PAIN

About this workshop:

25% of women experience chronic pelvic pain. It accounts for a significant portion of our clinical workload—yet our teaching and tools remain largely biomedical and surgical (and often focused solely on endometriosis).

This is THE pain workshop for gynaecologists and JMOs — whether you're a surgeon or a generalist, this workshop will help you see these patients through a new lens and make pain management central, not peripheral, to your practice.

Meet our exceptional team:

- Shan Morrison – Leading pelvic physiotherapist, passionate about improving outcomes for both patients and gynaecologists.
- Shanika Chandra – PhD psychologist and creator of the first online program for endometriosis.
- Angela Chia
- Jo Hatzistergos
- Dr Jason Chow – Gynaecologist, pain specialist, and Clinical Lead of the Royal Pain Service, Sydney.

Plus, additional pain specialists and experts! Bring your hardest cases—we'll workshop them together.

We'll cover:

- How to predict which patients may not respond well to surgery.
- Strategies to enhance the patient journey before their first operation.
- Approaches to managing complex pain presentations in the emergency department during high-pressure shifts.
- And why some of our current practices may inadvertently be causing harm.

You will:

- Gain deeper insight into your patients' pain experiences.
- Learn to incorporate powerful, lesser-known outcome measures.
- Understand persistent post-surgical pain, neuropathic pain, and nociplastic pain mechanisms.

This workshop is about doing pain better—for your patients and for you.

Learning Outcomes:

1. By the end of this workshop, delegates will be able to:
2. Predict and improve the outcomes for your surgeries for pain.
3. Build skills to manage the vulnerable patient.
4. Learn safe opioid management.
5. Integrate allied health into the core of your practice.

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Workshop Facilitators & Faculty

- Jason Chow
- Shan Morrison
- Shanika Chandra
- Angela Chia
- Jo Hatzistergos

Program:

1230 - 1330	Registration
1330 - 1415	The Value of the Visual Biopsy - Michelle Louie
1415 - 1430	Q&A
1430 - 1515	Advanced Hysteroscopic Techniques - Dr Kate Martin
1515 - 1530	Q&A
1530 - 1600	Afternoon Tea
1600 - 1700	Hands on Workshop
1700	Workshop Close