

Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2013

Beijing hosts annual event on minimally invasive surgery



Dr. Alberto Breda
Chief, Kidney
Transplant Surgical
Program
Fundació Puigvert
Barcelona (ES)

abreda@fundacio-
puigvert.es



Prof. Vito Pansadoro
Director
Vincenzo Pansadoro
Foundation
Centre of Robotic
Laparoscopy
Rome (IT)

vitopansadoro@
mclink.it

The meeting "Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics" has been one of the most important and exciting annual events for institutions and urologists who are building up their skills and expertise for minimally invasive surgery.

This year the course coordinators were Dr. Inderbir Gill, Dr. Vito Pansadoro, Dr. Yinghao Sun and Dr. Xu Zhang. For the first time the annual event was held outside Europe at the Chinese PLA General Hospital (301) in Beijing, China, as part of the first official joint co-operation between the Chinese and European urology communities.

EAU Section of Uro-Technology



Fig. 6: Invited Faculty

Fostering the tradition for excellence, the congress provided participants the opportunity to experience a broad range of live surgeries, case presentations and key lectures by the world's leading urologists who specialise in laparoscopy and robotics.

On the opening day, following a short introduction to the congress with keynote remarks from the General and Medical Directors of the PLA General Hospital (Figures), the Chairmen of the Congress (Dr. Pansadoro, Dr. Zhang and Dr. Gill) and the vice president of the Italian Society of Urology Dr.

Vespasiani, the first case was held with Dr. Bollens performing a laparoscopic left radical nephrectomy.

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. Zhang, Stolzenburg, Jun Dong, Bin Fu, Li, Antonio Alcaraz and the author (Breda) (Figure 2). Dr. Gill performed a robotic right nephrectomy with a caval thrombectomy. This was an extremely difficult procedure performed with excellent results.

In the evening we attended the Gala Dinner which also featured spectacular shows organised and presented by the Nursing-Team from the PLA Hospital (Figure 3)

Bladder cases
On Friday the procedures focused on bladder cases with laparoscopic and robotic cystectomies performed by Drs. Gill and Yin. Robotic adrenalectomy was performed by Dr. Jens Rassweiler, while Prof. Pansadoro led a robotic ureteral reimplantation. Dr. Bollens also successfully performed a laparoscopic vesico-vaginal fistula repair while Prof. Janetschek performed a laparoscopic retroperitoneal lymphadenectomy.

For the social programme that evening, we enjoyed a fantastic faculty dinner which took place at the Imperial Summer Palace (Figure 4).

On Saturday, following tradition, the programme was fully dedicated to prostate cancer. There were seven radical prostatectomies including an extraperitoneal prostatectomy done robotically by Dr. Stolzenburg, a standard robotic prostatectomy by Dr. Patel and a robotic prostatectomy performed by Dr. Bocciardi during which he showed the "Bocciardi technique."

Prof. Pansadoro also performed an extra-fascial prostatectomy using a technique he developed. Finally, Dr. Zhang showed his robotic approach in performing a large-size prostatectomy. (Figure 5)

Without a doubt, the conference was a success with over 1,000 participants including invited faculty members from China and other Asian countries (Figure 6 and 7).

For their outstanding hospitality and efficient organization, I extend my congratulations to all the faculty, nurses and staff members of the PLA General Hospital, Department of Urology, under the direction of Dr. Xu Zhang.

And as in previous years, the conference would have not been possible without the magnificent help and collaboration from the secretariat Fedra Congressi directed by Raffaella Greco and sponsors Karl Storz, Intuitive, Chindex, Bk Medical, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Astellas, Baxter, Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Ipsen, MSD and Surgiquest. My congratulations also to Prof. Pansadoro for maintaining the high quality of this event which is now on its tenth year.

Finally, as one of the meeting's course directors, I would like to extend the invitation to the "Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2014" which will return to Europe.

To be held in Barcelona, Spain, the 2014 conference will be held at the Fira Palace Hotel, with all the surgeries to be transmitted live from Fundació Puigvert Hospital under the direction of Dr. H. Villavicencio. The course directors are Dr. H. Villavicencio, Dr. J. Palou, Dr. A. Breda, Dr. I. Gill and Prof. Pansadoro.

We hope to see you all in Barcelona!



Fig. 1: Zhang with Staff Members and Direction of the PLA Medical Hospital



Fig. 2: Conference room with a live case transmission



Fig. 3: Nursing-Team from the PLA Medical Hospital



Fig. 4: Dr. Zhang and Dr. Pansadoro at the Gala Dinner at the Imperial Gardens



Fig. 5: Dr. Zhang with his team during a radical prostatectomy



Fig. 7: Faculty members at the closing ceremony