Enthusiastic response for E-BLUS course in Indonesia

ESU-ESUT collaborate in first laparoscopy training course in Indonesia

With endourology as theme in the 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indonesian Urological Association (IIAU), a laparoscopy training course based on the ESUs European training and assessment in basic laparoscopic urological skills (E-BLUS) attracted a high number of participants during the IIAU congress held in Manado, Indonesia.

Held from October 22 to 23 last year, the European School of Urology (ESU) and the EAU Section of Uro-Technology (ESUT) collaborated to support the IIAU by organising a master class session and basic/advanced laparoscopic urological courses. The author, as a member of ESUs laparoscopy training group and the European Urology Residents Education Programme (EUREP) mentor team, gave two lectures in the ESUT master class session and in the basic and advanced laparoscopy courses.

The master class lectures covered urogynecology in laparoscopy and tips and tricks in retroperitoneal nephrectomy. On the other hand, the laparoscopy training course was mainly based on the ESUs E-BLUS, a validated laparoscopy training programme which both the ESU and ESUT are promoting outside Europe. Thirty urologists and residents attended the course in Manado and completed the E-BLUS-based exercises. The participants were not only enthusiastic about the training format, but also successfully accomplished the training goals. Indonesian urologists clearly showed their skills and aptitude for laparoscopic procedures with many of the trainees performing excellently in the various levels of the course.

During the warm-up session, considered as a pre-E-BLUS exam session, the four exam steps were accomplished by the Manado participants within average time limits. The participants were particularly inspired to perform since the E-BLUS employs training box exercises designed to train basic laparoscopic skills. The validation of these exercises allows an objective measurement of the trainees skills level. With time and quality criteria for performing the exercises set at the intermediate novice level, the E-BLUS can be considered as an appropriate entry test.

E-BLUS assess

Another advantage of the E-BLUS programme, is its easy access and availability. Both the theoretical course and instructional videos are available online (www.uroweb.org - Education) and can be accessed by everyone registered at the website.

At present, the exam and hands-on training sessions are mainly organised during the EUREP and the EAU Annual Congress. Exams and training sessions are open to meeting delegates. Admission to the exam requires that the candidate has practiced the E-BLUS exercises previously "at home" (self-reported), and has successfully completed the online theoretical laparoscopy course.

"The ESU started last year to promote the E-BLUS exam to National Societies. ESU offers support to National Societies who are interested in conducting this laparoscopic entry exam during their national meetings. The first pilot in Italy, held in October 2023, was a success," according to Dr. Ren Van Clynumbrouck, lead contact person for the E-BLUS programme.

Van Clynumbrouck also emphasized the excellent joint ESU-ESUT collaboration in this endeavour, which ensures the success of the E-BLUS.

With standardization of laparoscopic skills as one of the programmes aims, the ESU guides the exam procedure and provides validated exercise models with documentation. The ESU also collaborates with a large group of experienced laparoscopic tutors/examiners from various countries, said Elgin Lichtensauer-Kalligis, EAU Education Online Manager.

Indonesian experience

In Indonesia, the advanced training using the OPF trainer was also very useful and well-attended. Dr. Irwan Wahyudi, who completed his laparoscopy and robotic training in Heidelberg under the mentorship of Prof. J.B. Rassweiler, delivered an excellent job in leading the course. Aside from Wahyudi, Indonesian faculty members Dr. Pieter Bivro and Dr. Cahidr Moctiar, IIAU president, also provided their full support and welcomed the close collaboration between the IIAU, ESU and ESUT.

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Plans are now underway to offer the E-BLUS exam during this year s IIAUs 36th Annual Scientific Meeting in Lombok. At the conclusion of the course last year at least 20 urologists expressed their interest to join this years planned laparoscopy course.

The Indonesian hospitality in Manado was also remarkable with the faculty members getting a glimpse of Manados natural attractions, considered one of the worlds dive paradise sites. The IIAU president, Dr. Moctiar, congress secretary Dr. Andry and Drs. Bivro and Wahyudi have all shown warm hospitality. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our Indonesian colleagues and we hope to further strengthen this scientific collaboration and friendly partnership.