Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2014
Barcelona hosts quality meeting on minimal invasive surgery

On Thursday morning, a short introduction by the meeting directors was followed by welcome remarks from Prof. Walter Artibani, EAU general secretary and the chairman of the national and international sections (EUA, EUS, ESDE, EROV, SIR, AUV) (Fig. 1).

A master class titled “Robotic Surgery in kidney cancer with DOCmi&nu” was presented by Dr. Gill (Fig. 2). Dr. Pantaloni, congress chairman, introduced the first cases of renal surgery. For the entire day, transperitoneal and retroperitoneal laparoscopic and robotic radical and partial nephrectomies (with and without hilar clamping) performed by experienced surgeons including Drs. Buljevic, Mottrie, Alcaraz, Pfui and Rassweiler (Fig. 3). Prof. Jens Rassweiler also performed a laparoscopic 3 mm retropelvic vasectomy. Although most of these cases were extremely difficult procedures, they were performed with excellent results. In the evening we had the opportunity to attend the gala dinner at “Casa Batlló,” an iconic and modernist building designed by Gaudi which is considered by experts as Barcelona’s nicest house.

"Without a doubt the conference was a success with over 600 attendees from around the world."

On Friday, the procedures focused on the bladder with laparoscopic and robotic cystectomies (with intracorporeal diversion) performed by Drs. Palou, Wiltink, and Gill, and a laparoscopic nephron-sparing surgery by Dr. Breda. On the same day, Dr. Endres demonstrated a laparoscopic prostatic nerve release, and Dr. Janetschek carried out an excellent laparoscopic RPMD. Many other surgeons showed their outstanding skills in some amazing reconstructive surgeries. Dinner that night took place at the Santa Cruz de Tenerife University Hospital built by Dumeñich-Munizane in 1992. The building was in use until five years ago when it was declared a UNESCO heritage site.

Prostate cancer session Saturday, as per tradition, was fully dedicated to prostate cancer. A total of eight radical prostatectomies were performed including transperitoneal and retroperitoneal laparoscopic and robotic approaches by very experienced surgeons such as Drs. Patel, Gaston, Stolzenburg, Reinhofen, Guabardi, Rocco and Celis. Dr. Baccardi performed a case which showed the “Baccardi techniques” while Dr. Martinez-Pillato performed an elegant laparoscopic surgery.

Without a doubt the conference was a success with over 600 attendees from around the world. I would like to congratulate all the faculty, nurses and staff from Fundación Puigvert. Special mention must also be given to the Department of Urology and Anesthesiology directed by Drs. Humberto Villalobos and Daniel Hernando, respectively.

This conference, as in previous years, would have been impossible without the magnificent help and collaboration from the operators secretariat Feba Congress, directed by Rafaelita Groco and our sponsors including Karl Storz, Intuitive, Recordati, Coloplast, Ethicon, Astellas, Cookmed, DGM, Teleflex, Telefe and Surigica. Finally, our congratulations to Dr. Pantaloni for maintaining the quality of this meeting, which is now on its twelfth edition this year.

As one of the organisers, we invite you to the next Challenges in Laparoscopy & Robotics 2015, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey. We hope to see you all in Istanbul!

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