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ADVANCING SURGICAL PROFICIENCY: INSIGHTS FROM THE 7TH UiTM BASIC LAPAROSCOPIC SKILLS WORKSHOP

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The 7th UiTM Basic Laparoscopic Skills Workshop held at Hospital Al Sultan Abdullah Puncak Alam on 6th and 7th December 2023, showcased an established platform for surgical trainees and medical officers to build their understanding and skills in laparoscopic surgery. With a primary focus on cultivating a strong foundation in laparoscopic surgery, the workshop provided participants with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience essential for advancing their surgical proficiency.

Since its inception at the Clinical Skills Laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine in Sungai Buloh eight years ago (with a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic), our workshop has evolved to its current location at the state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Laboratory at Hospital Al Sultan Abdullah for the past two years.

In this workshop, ten participants hailing from diverse regions of the country engaged in a comprehensive learning experience aimed at mastering the intricacies of laparoscopic surgery, comprehending laparoscopic systems and instruments, and refining fundamental laparoscopic surgical skills.



The first day commenced with theoretical lectures elucidating the basics of laparoscopic surgery. Following this foundational knowledge acquisition, participants delved into hands-on sessions structured into two segments: dry lab and wet lab. The dry lab segment involved skill development through a series of tasks employing fixed items to enhance basic repetitive skills. Conversely, the wet lab segment entailed performing procedures utilizing animal organs such as sheep intestines, stomachs, livers, and gallbladders. Throughout the two-day workshop, the procedural complexity escalated progressively, encompassing diagnostic laparoscopy, laparoscopic appendectomy, and culminating in laparoscopic cholecystectomy.



The apex of the workshop was undoubtedly the laparoscopic cholecystectomy, where we pioneered a novel approach utilizing sheep liver to simulate human anatomy and tissue integrity. Our innovative method afforded participants an unparalleled opportunity to experience realistic tissue handling, a facet often lacking in simulated training environments.

The workshop prided itself on a distinguished faculty comprising experts from renowned surgical institutions. Guided by luminaries such as Associate Prof. Dato' Nik Ritza and Mr. Zairul Azwan from Hospital Canselor Tunku Muhriz, along with Mr. Yan Yang Wai from Hospital Raja Perempuan Bainun, Ipoh, our participants received invaluable mentorship. Additionally, our in-house trainers, Associate Prof. Madya Mr. Yahya and Associate Prof. Madya Mr. Ahmad Ramzi, alongside departmental surgeons, provided personalized two-to-one mentorship, enriching the learning experience for all participants.

In conclusion, the 7th UITM Basic Laparoscopic Skills Workshop exemplified a commitment to innovation and excellence in surgical education. As participants departed with enhanced knowledge, skills, and inspiration, they embodied the promise of a brighter future for surgical practice, driven by passion, expertise, and collaboration.