

Paediatric laparoscopic surgery issue

It is my privilege to write an introduction for this edition of the *South African Journal of Surgery*, which records a milestone event, documents a high standard of contributions from paediatric surgery trainees, and bodes well for the future of paediatric surgery in South Africa.

This was the very first surgical endoscopic course to be held at the giant 3 600-bed Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, and was convened by Jerome Loveland, head of the 'Bara' unit of the Division of Paediatric Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand.

We were most fortunate to have Mr Joe Curry from Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, as the international expert instructor. Thank you, Joe, for lending us your time and expertise. We look forward to an ongoing association.

This paediatric laparoscopic surgery congress could not have taken place without the shared sponsorship from Karl-Storz Endosurgery, Johnson & Johnson, Ethicon and Investec Private Bank, and I thank them for their support.

Nothing would have been possible without our recently and proudly acquired Storz OR1 digital endoscopic theatre, the acquisition of which we owe to the Carte Blanche 'Make a Difference' Campaign, and specifically to Nestle, who were the sponsors of the endoscopic theatre.

The texts of all presentations that were submitted were deemed suitable for publication. Special congratulations to the youngest and newest trainee on circuit, Dr Corné de Vos from Tygerberg Hospital, whose presentation on anorectal outcomes was judged to be the best contribution.

A final thanks to all attendees and contributors, with an assurance that the first paediatric endoscopic surgery course in Johannesburg will not be the last.

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