DEMYSTIFYING SURGICAL ROBOTICS WEBINAR

Academy for Healthcare Science, AHCS, and the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, WCSIM

Wednesday 17th June 2026
12:00 - 14:00

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Overview

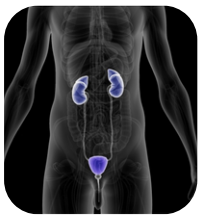
Surgical Robotics is a rapidly growing area in medical treatment, enabling superior outcomes and the ability to tackle procedures that might otherwise be unviable. The aim of this webinar is to understand surgical robots through exploration of the Da Vinci robot, manufactured by Intuitive Surgical Inc. In addition, the challenges, solutions and benefits of surgical robots in three surgical specialities, urological, colorectal and thoracic, as well anaesthesia for these procedures will be presented and discussed. After our presentations, there will be time for questions, comments and discussion as these specific examples may offer an insight into other procedures where surgical robots could be gainfully employed.

Programme

Topics and Speakers

Da Vinci surgical robot

Mr Daniel Mukser, *Marketing Director, UK and Ireland, Intuitive Surgical Inc.*

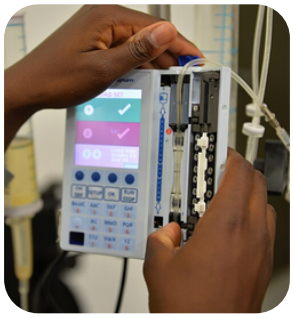


Challenges, solutions and benefits of robots in surgical specialities

Mr Omar Al Kadhi, *Consultant Urologist**

Professor Irshad Shaikh, *Consultant General and Colorectal surgeon**

Mr Vasileios Kouritas, *Consultant Thoracic Surgeon**



Challenges, solutions and benefits of robots in anaesthesia

Dr. Henry O'Connor, *Consultant, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine**

Q&A Session

*Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, United Kingdom

Profiles

Co-chairs

Professor Stephen O'Connor FREng

Visiting Professor, Royal Academy of Engineering and City St George's University of London, Senior Warden at WCSIM

Stephen O'Connor is a chartered biomedical engineer with an international reputation as an expert in implantable devices. He has advanced medical technology in the fields of cardiology and neurology to improve diagnosis, therapy and most importantly patient outcomes. His work on implantable defibrillators from 1991 has benefited millions of patients worldwide. He has contributed greatly to the work of professional bodies over decades, particularly the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, IPEM, where he was President, 2019 – 2021. Stephen is a Fellow of IPEM and Institute of Physics, an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Healthcare Science and the Royal College of Physicians as well as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He is currently a Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor at City St George's University of London.

Mr Simon Flower BSc (Hons)

Founder & Managing Director, STL Ethos and Liveryman and court member at WCSIM

Simon is an Engineering graduate whose career spans manufacturing, consulting, and service sectors. Starting at Lucas Applied Technology, he led product development and manufacturing systems engineering before moving to Lucas Aerospace to lead the European transformation of their aftermarket business. He spent fifteen years with PA Consulting Group working across many industry sectors in the US and UK, specialising in performance improvement, complex project delivery, and Lean NPD. Simon then served as VP Strategic Projects and CEO of the Indian operation at Carnival UK. Today, he runs the boutique consultancy STL Ethos Ltd. An accredited Lean Practitioner from LERC, he delivers bespoke lectures and training and has been a member of Southampton University's Business School Advisory Board.

Speakers

Daniel Musker BEng (Hons), MCIM

Marketing Director, UK & Ireland, Intuitive Surgical Inc.

Daniel Musker is an experienced marketing professional with a robust background in the medical device industry. He has been serving as the Director of Marketing for the UK and Ireland at Intuitive, leading on marketing activities for da Vinci Surgery in the field of soft-tissue surgical robotics, since January 2022. Daniel previously held senior marketing positions at Smith & Nephew, focusing on advanced surgical devices and robotics for the UK, Ireland, and Nordics. Daniel's career also includes extensive product management roles at Stryker, overseeing various medical segments across multiple regions. Daniel has an educational foundation in Engineering and Management from the University of Exeter and is a Chartered Marketer through the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Mr Omar Al Kadhi PhD, FRCS

Consultant Urologist, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, United Kingdom

Mr Omar Al Kadhi is a Consultant Urological Surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, specialising in urological oncology with particular focus on bladder and prostate cancer. He has a strong interest in robotic and minimally invasive surgery, having performed over 300 robot assisted procedures since his appointment as a consultant in 2018.

Omar completed his higher specialist training in the East of England, including advanced training in Cambridge and Norwich, followed by a prestigious robotic surgery fellowship at University College Hospital, London. He holds a PhD in prostate cancer from the University of East Anglia.

Omar currently serves as the Urology Cancer Lead in Norwich, contributing to multidisciplinary care and service development.

Professor Irshad Shaikh FRCS

Consultant General and Colorectal surgeon, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, United Kingdom

Professor Irshad Shaikh is a consultant colorectal surgeon at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norwich since 2014. He trained in Scotland, Southeast Thames London rotation for higher surgical training and RSO fellowship and Ethicon sponsored laparoscopic fellowship at St Mark's Hospital, London and training in locally advanced rectal cancers including pelvic exenteration.

He leads robotic colorectal surgery, locally advanced rectal cancer surgery and jointly leads anal cancer surgery. He is a European / UK robotic colorectal proctor and has supported starting robotic colorectal programs in numerous hospitals in the UK. In addition, he has published and presented extensively in peer reviewed journals / conferences. He was appointed as Honorary Professor of Surgery at the University of East Anglia in 2023.

Mr Vasileios K Kouritas PhD, FRCS

Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, United Kingdom

Mr Vasileios K Kouritas is a Consultant in Thoracic Surgery at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals. His area of expertise includes a special interest in robotic-assisted thoracic surgery. He is leading the department’s robotic surgery program and from 2021 switched completely to robotic surgery. He is a member of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Robotic Group. Mr Kouritas has a special interest in emphysema, especially robotic fissure division to increase valve efficiency. He co-chairs the Emphysema Task Force of the European Association of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons, EACTS. He is actively involved with clinical and basic research. His PhD thesis involved basic research on pleural physiology. He is the research lead for the Thoracic Surgery department. He is co-editor of numerous journals and has recently been appointed as an EACTS Thoracic Domain member.

Dr Henry O'Connor FRCA, FICM

Consultant, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, United Kingdom

Dr O'Connor is a Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia with an interest in perioperative care for complex surgical patients. He has collaborated closely with the colorectal and thoracic surgeons at the NNUH on a range of innovative projects, including the use of quadratus lumborum blocks for robotic colorectal surgery and the application of pulmonary artery catheterisation in lung volume reduction surgery. His work focuses on optimising anaesthetic and critical care strategies to identify risk and enhance outcomes in advanced and minimally invasive surgical techniques, including robotic surgery.

Find out more about AHCS and WCSIM

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We look forward to seeing you at the webinar!