

# Science of Tissue Management (SoTM) Training Collaborations

*Reported by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani*

Surgery is an art, with scientific underpinnings.

Back in the day, it was enough for a trainee to learn by apprenticeship, patiently observing and emulating their trainer over many years.

Fast-forward to the present, and the increasing complexity of operations, ever-more sophisticated technology, and diminishing trainer-trainee ratios, have rendered the need for structured, standardised training in the science behind the art imperative.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, Dr Joseph Amaral, one of the innovators of ultrasonic surgical energy devices at Johnson & Johnson, met with regional key opinion leaders of the ASEAN Energy Council, in Kuala Lumpur. This was to discuss training of surgeons in the science behind energy devices, their interaction with tissues, and how this could be leveraged to optimise patient outcomes. A commitment was made to design a SoTM course for this purpose.



On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014, training of local SoTM faculty took place, facilitated by Dr B Satyanand Shastri and Dr Jaisinghani Vikram, at the Advanced Surgical Skills Centre (ASSC) in UKMMC.

Further training-the-trainers (6 from Malaysia) in colorectal-specific SoTM took place on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in Singapore, but it was not until 2016 that formal collaboration with CSAMM took place.

The first SoTM Trainees' Course was delivered as a Pre-Congress Workshop at the CSAMM Annual Scientific Congress on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Run at the Clinical Skills Unit in University of Malaya, 121 trainees and medical students

attended the interactive lectures, with a further 25 participating in the hands-on sessions.

Since then, a further two trainees' courses have been run under CSAMM - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016, at ASSC, as an AMM Golden Jubilee Pre-Congress workshop with 44 participants, and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, as a CSAMM Annual Scientific Congress Pre-Congress workshop with 117 participants.

Training curricula must evolve as technologies develop. In keeping with this, the colorectal SoTM was updated and disseminated to regional faculty (13 of 23 from Malaysia) as recently as 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Successful partnerships such as this are for the long-term. CSAMM and J&J cemented their collaboration by signing a memorandum of understanding on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

With the likelihood of mandatory SoTM training in the national surgical curriculum, this partnership is set to continue. In light of this, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 marked the signing of an extension to the MOU between CSAMM and J&J.

Taking place at University Malaya Medical Centre, and graced by the presence of UM Clinical Skills Unit Head, Professor Dr Jamiyah Hassan, the MOU was signed by President of CSAMM, Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, witnessed by CSAMM Senior Vice-President and Director for SoTM, Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani; and Mr Chin Keat Chyuan, Managing Director for J&J Malaysia, witnessed by Dr Yeoh Boon Hock, Medical Affairs Director for J&J.

Here's to a long and fruitful collaboration!

