

WFNS Education Course 2023

Karachi, August 10-12

To equip aspiring neurosurgeons in Pakistan with modern knowledge and training, the Department of Neurosurgery, Liaquat National Hospital, continued its tradition by hosting the WFNS Education Course 2023. This 3-day conference was a collaboration with the WFNS Spine Committee plus the Education, Skull Base, Trauma, Pediatric, and Endoscopy Committees.

The conference kicked off on August 10th with the **Endoscopy/Skull Base/Tumor Session**, moderated by Professor Tariq S. and Atiq A. This session commenced with a focus on the skull base, featuring Prof. Mahmood Q. from Kenya discussing skull base anatomy. It included remote presentations by Prof. Kenan on microsurgical approaches and consecutive keynote lectures by Prof. Vlad B. (Czech Republic) and Prof. Luis B. (Brazil) on meningioma management based on location and approaches to posterior fossa lesions. The session also highlighted the surgical importance of the jugular foramen and a meta-analysis of cavernomas.

Following these enlightening talks, the session transitioned to the **Endoscopy Segment**, moderated by Profs. Tariq K. and Atiq A. Prof. Imad K. from KSA delivered a keynote talk on the hybrid use of endoscopy in skull base surgeries. Other presentations included Prof. Mumtaz Ali on colloid cysts, Prof. Lal Rehman on the anatomy of the nose and sinuses, Prof. Khalid M. captivating the audience with his talk on endonasal surgery for microadenomas, followed by engaging Q&A sessions and discussions beneficial for young neurosurgeons and trainees.

The day continued with an engaging **Spine Session** moderated by Profs. Naqeeb A. and Mohsin Q. This session featured back-to-back keynote lectures on cervical deformity and deformity correction by Prof. Onur Y. (Turkey), management of sacral fractures and osteoporotic spine fractures by Prof. Mahmood Q., as well as discussions on lumbar disc prolapse guidelines by Prof. Salman S. and spinal parameter guidelines by Prof. Mohsin Q. Additionally, Prof. Serder K. (Turkey) presented on intramedullary tumor surgery and approaches to cervicothoracic junctions were discussed. The session concluded with case reviews and interactive discussions with experts. This was followed by a **refreshing trip** to the serene **Hawks Bay Beach**, where attendees enjoyed a mid-summer sunset, cricket, music, and delicious food.

The next day had a case presentation session by residents and young neurosurgeons, alongside management insights from esteemed neurosurgeons Prof. Graham F. (SA) and Prof. Nikolay P. (UK). A **Research Boot Camp Session** by Prof. Shahzad S. provided valuable tips and tricks for research endeavors, followed by a crucial talk on ethics and empathy in neurosurgery by Prof. Ahmed Ali Shah. The day proceeded with a **Trauma Session**, where lectures on neurotrauma, thoracolumbar and cervical trauma management, and osteoporosis guidelines were given by esteemed faculty.

The **Peds Session** followed, focusing on pediatric neurosurgical issues and divided into pre-lunch and post-lunch segments. Prof. Graham F. delivered a keynote on becoming a pediatric

neurosurgeon, while Prof. Hassan S. (USA) discussed craniosynostosis. Talks on pediatric medulloblastoma, epilepsy surgery, and endoscopic resection of craniopharyngiomas ensued, providing valuable insights to attendees. The day concluded with a **Skull Base Session II**, featuring talks on glioma management, hybrid surgery approaches, skull base chordomas, AVM technical tips, and insights into current AVM treatment. Prof. Ather Enam's talk on awake craniotomy marked the end of the 2-day session, followed by a post-quiz session that tested trainees and awarded cash prizes to winners and a gala dinner at the governor's house.

The Gala Dinner was all about a meet and greet session honoring our guest faculty and sharing reviews. The dinner was privileged with the auspicious presence of **Chief Secretary Sindh, Dr. Sohail Rajput**, who shared his regard and experience with the neurosurgery department and faculty. A lucky draw was conducted for the participants, and valuable neurosurgical books by pioneers of neurosurgery were distributed.

On August 12th, two **post-conference workshops** were held for participants interested in spine and skull base. The skull base workshop included hands-on learning from experts Profs. Vlad, Luis, Graham, Mahmood, Hassan, and more. The spine workshop focused on transforaminal discectomy and featured live surgery demonstrations and interactive discussions.

Certificates were awarded to participants, and the conference ended on a high note, promising further educational endeavors.

A **post-conference trip** was arranged for the Faculty to Skardu, a breathtakingly beautiful region in northern Pakistan known for its stunning landscapes, including the mighty Karakoram Range, lush valleys, serene lakes, and historical sites. The faculty enjoyed the 4 Days plan and visited different scenic beauty, with trekking and hiking, photography, and fishing and live BBQ. The faculty visited Khaplu Palace to see the history and the ancient monuments. In the end, the faculty was very relaxed with Skardu's tranquil environment away from the hustle and bustle.



