

Microsurgery Down Under

A Review of the University of Sydney's Microsurgical Skills Course

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Introduction

The University of Sydney's Microsurgical Skills Course for Ophthalmology is a three-day course run at the Sydney Eye Hospital.

The course is based on the Royal College of Ophthalmologist's highly popular UK course, and emigrated to the southern hemisphere three years ago.

It aims to introduce and teach basic ophthalmology microsurgical skills to junior doctors.

What did it Involve?

The course is held in the Sight Foundation Laboratory, a well equipped space featuring a lecture theatre, wet lab and 10 microscopes.

The course is well structured and involves a combination of lectures and practical sessions, with ten hours of pre-course online learning and a comprehensive 40-page manual.

Day One: instrument introduction, porcine corneal suturing, advanced procedures such as squint repair on replica eyes.

Day Two: advanced procedures on human cadavers including lid repair, lateral tarsorrhaphy, lateral canthotomy, flap repair and enucleation.

Day Three: phacoemulsification using dedicated machines, with use of the EyeSi simulator throughout the course.



Figure 1. Squint repair on a replica eye



Figure 2. Using human cadavers was a real highlight



Figure 3. Corneal suturing on porcine eyes



Figure 4. Phacoemulsification

What were the Highlights?

The course dinner on the first night with faculty and students was a great way to break the ice.

The teaching provided by ophthalmologists and ophthalmology fellows was excellent, all of whom were extremely friendly and helpful without being overbearing.

The opportunity to use human cadavers was a real privilege and a definite bonus of the course.

The phaco machines, recently retired from clinical practice, gave a high fidelity experience and allowed practice of the entire procedure.

Want to know more?

Email: ophthalmology.education@sydney.edu.au

for more information.