



South West Surgical Conference 2026



Feedback - February 2026

South West Surgical Conference 2026

The South West Surgical Conference was held at the RILD Building in Exeter and was organised by the student-led Exeter Surgical Society committee. Running from 0830 to 1700 hours, the event was primarily aimed at medical students with an interest in surgery.

The conference featured four speakers from a range of surgical specialties, including consultants, registrars, and junior doctors, who shared their experiences and insights into surgical practice and career pathways.

Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in four hands-on workshops led by clinicians, covering CST portfolio building, suturing, laparoscopic skills, and local free flap techniques. In addition, the event included poster presentations, graded and awarded by a panel of two to three consultants.

The programme was designed to provide both educational and practical learning opportunities, with keynote talks in the morning, interactive workshops after lunch, and the poster presentation in the afternoon. The event also encouraged engagement with speakers and networking with peers.

Food, drinks, and refreshments were provided, with both a short break and a longer lunch break scheduled. Attendees gained exposure to a variety of surgical specialties, develop practical skills, and deepened their understanding of surgical career pathways.

Course Information

Course Date:	14th February 2026
Venue:	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital RILD Building, Exeter
Attendance:	37 Delegates
Aimed at:	Medical Students of All Years
Conference Fee:	£10.00



Programme

0830 – 0900 Registration and Welcome

0900 – 0915 Opening Remarks

0915 – 1000 MR Session

1000 – 1045 MR Session

1045 – 1100

Coffee Break

1100 – 1145 MR Session

1145 – 1230 MR Session

1230 – 1400

Lunch Break and Poster Presentations

1400 – 1445 Laparoscopic Surgery

1445 – 1530 Basics of Suturing

1530 – 1615 CST Portfolio

1615 – 1700 Local Free Flaps

Faculty and Speakers

Mr Robert Bethune, MA(Hons), MBBS(Hons), MSc, FRCS

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Cha Rajakaruna, MB ChB, MRCS (Eng & Edin), MD, FRCS (C-Th)

Consultant Cardiac Surgeon

Bristol Heart Institute, England

Ms Irem Gürbüz, MD

Trust Doctor

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Andrew Wanees, MSc, FACS

Senior Registrar in General Surgery

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Parag Dhumane, MD

General Surgery Registrar, Department of Emergency Abdominal Surgery

Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust, England

Mr Mhd Anas Murad, MD, MRCS, PGCert

ST3 Registrar in General Surgery

Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust, England

Ms Mary Gare, MBBS

Clinical Surgical Fellow

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Eslam Hassan, MB BCh, MSc, MRCS

General Surgery Registrar

Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust, England

Mr Ram Ragatha, MB ChB

Urology Registrar

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Ms Sara-Jane Horne, BM BS

ST3 Registrar in Vascular Surgery

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Ahmed Gafar, MD, MSc

Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, England

Mr Mazin Mukhaiber, BM BS

Foundation Year 2 Doctor

West Middlesex University Hospital, England

Organisers

Miss Adeela Muzaffar
Co-President

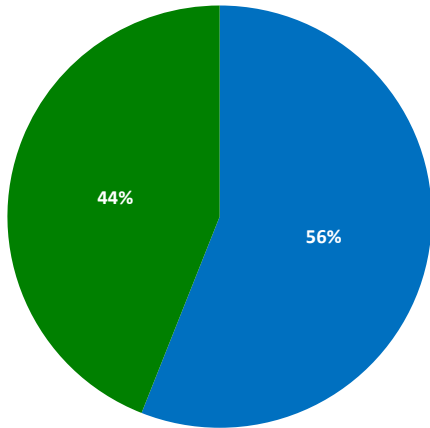
Mr Rais Aslam
Co-President

Mr Patryk Chlopas
Conference Lead

Mr Emre Alp
Conference Lead

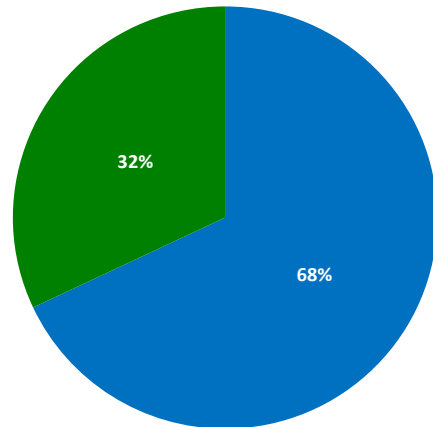
Overall Feedback

How was the content of the conference?



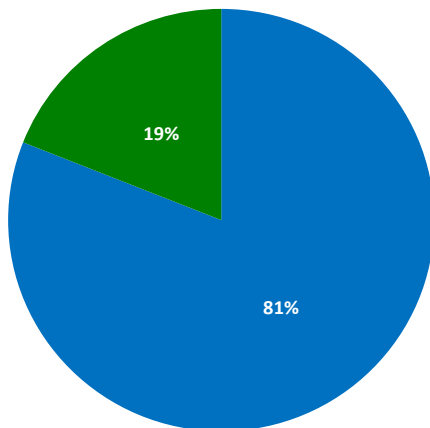
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

How would you rate the general academic standard of the speakers?



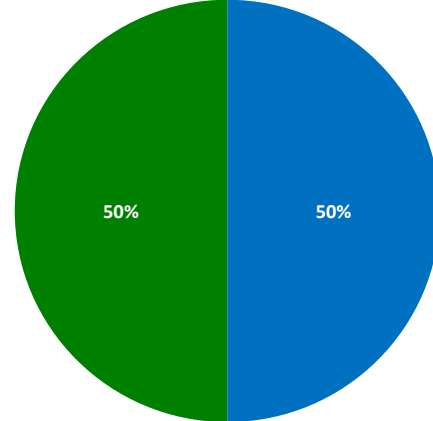
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Life of a Colorectal Surgeon in Zambia and the NHS - Mr Robert Bethune



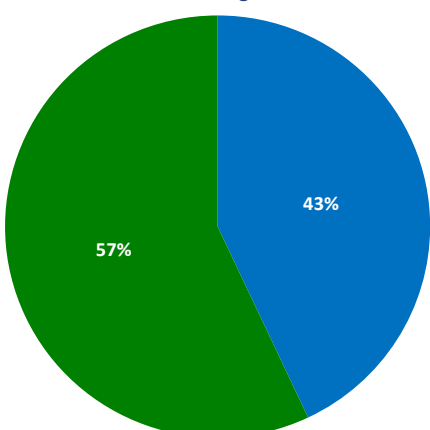
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

The Future of Cardiovascular Interventions- The Sky is the Limit - Mr Cha Rajakaruna



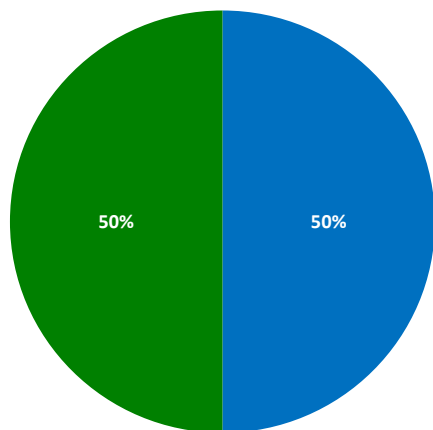
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Reflections on Neurosurgery and Spine Fellowships in India & Malaysia - Mr See Yung Phang



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

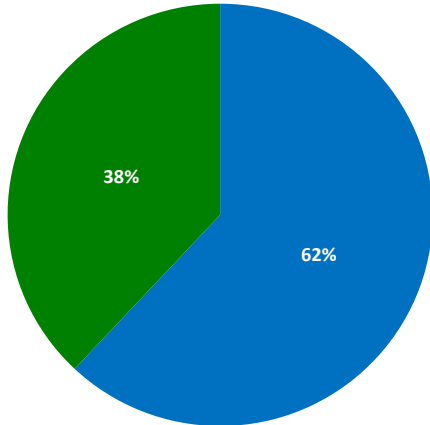
Burns - Surgical Principles in Assessment and Management - Mr Ahmed Gafar



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

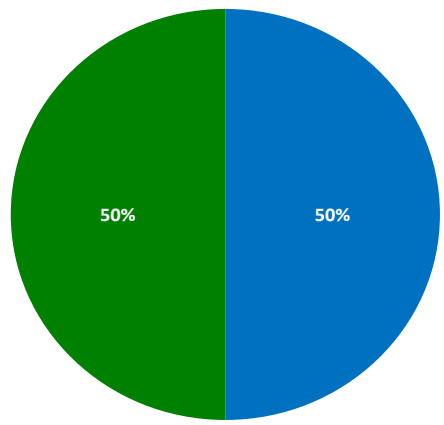
Overall Feedback

Workshops: CST Portfolio



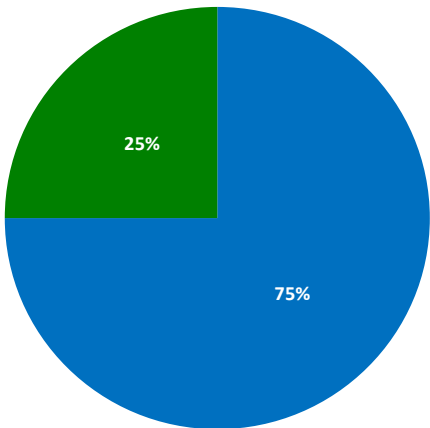
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Workshops: Suturing



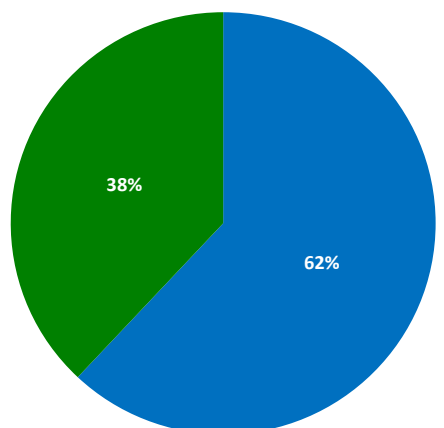
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Did Not Attend

Workshops: Laparoscopic Skills



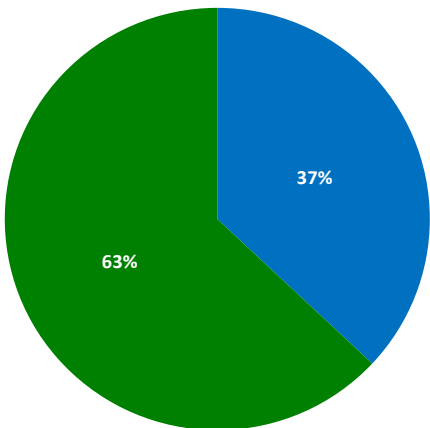
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Did Not Attend

Workshops: Local Flap



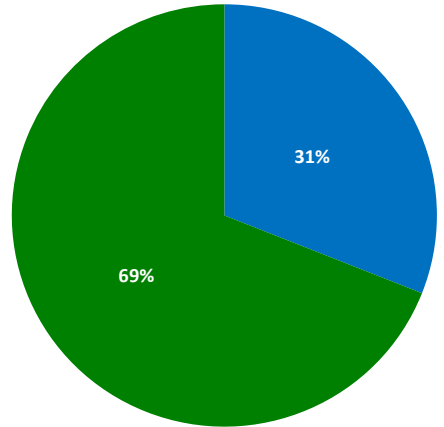
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Did Not Attend

How were the facilities and venue?



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

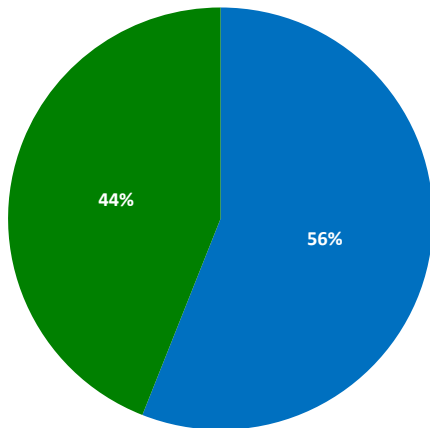
How were the refreshments and lunch?



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

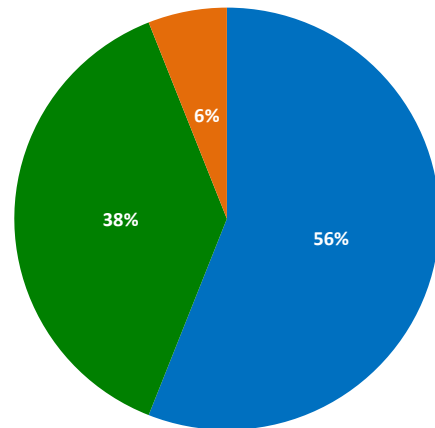
Overall Feedback

How was the general friendliness of the faculty and organisers?



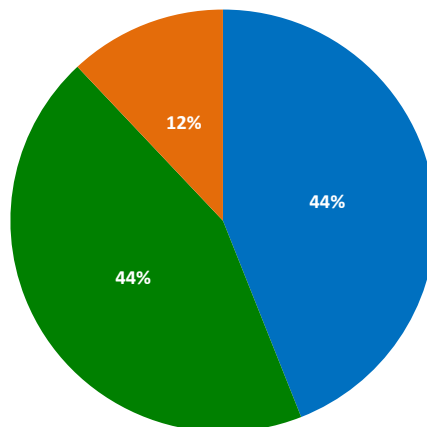
■ Very friendly ■ Friendly ■ Neutral
■ Not very friendly ■ Can't comment

Would you recommend this conference to a friend?



■ Most certainly ■ Certainly ■ Probably ■ Unlikely ■ Not at all

Do you think that this conference provided good value for money?



■ Most certainly ■ Certainly ■ Probably ■ Unlikely ■ Not at all

Individual Comments

Very good.

LS
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Good balance of activities that were fun and useful and sessions that provided insight into the career.

MA
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Very good.

ZC
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

It was really good and useful.

RM
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Very good.

EF
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Nicely planned out.

DV
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Great event, workshops were amazing.

YA
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Very interactive and interesting.

VC
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK



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- Final Year Medicine and Surgical Revision Courses
- Training the Clinical Anatomy Trainer
- Essential Surgical Skills and Principles for Aspiring Surgeons
- Clinical Anatomy as Applied to Trauma and Emergency Medicine
- Surgical Anatomy of Important Operative Procedures

Postgraduate:

Exam Preparation Courses

- MRCS Part A
- MRCS Part B OSCE
- MRCS (ENT) OSCE
- FRCS (General Surgery) Section I
- FRCS (General Surgery) Section II
- FRCS (T&O) Section II
- MRCP PACES
- ST3 Interview Preparation (General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery)

Skills Development Courses

- Fresh Frozen Cadaveric Courses
- Intercollegiate Basic Surgical Skills (RCSEd)
- Essential Surgical Skills and Principles for Aspiring Surgeons
- Infant Hip Ultrasound (Graf Method) for Diagnosis and Management of Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip
- Crash Course for Orthopaedic On-Calls
- Management of Hand Fractures and Principles of Fracture Fixation
- Vascular Ultrasound Skills



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Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Surgical Education

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Publications



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- MRCS Part B OSCE
- MRCS (ENT) OSCE

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