



Welsh National Surgical Conference 2026



Feedback - February 2026

Welsh National Surgical Conference 2026

The Welsh National Surgical Conference 2026 took place on 14 February 2026 at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Now in its 8th year, this highly anticipated student-led event brought together medical students and junior doctors from across the UK who are passionate about pursuing a career in surgery. The conference aimed to provide an inspiring and practical overview of surgical specialties, portfolio development, and the latest innovations shaping the future of surgery.

Delegates heard from expert speakers including Mr Thomas Bragg, Mr Alexander Durst, Professor Julie Cornish, and Mr Alex Cole, all of whom shared insights into career progression, clinical excellence, and research opportunities within surgery. Attendees also gained hands-on experience through a diverse range of workshops led by experienced surgeons, including fixation, laparoscopic skills, tendon repair, microsurgery, bowel anastomosis, and ENT airway procedures. A dedicated portfolio clinic and MSRA practice station further helped students strengthen their applications for surgical training.

With its combination of keynote talks, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, the Welsh National Surgical Conference 2026 offered an invaluable opportunity to enhance skills, build connections, and be inspired by leaders in the field. Previous delegates have praised its engaging content, friendly atmosphere, and tangible career benefits.

Course Information

Venue:	University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
Date:	14th February 2026
Attendance:	76 Delegates
Aimed at:	Medical Students (of All Years), Foundation Year 1 and 2 Doctors
Conference Fee:	£20.00



Programme

- 0830-0850 Registration
- 0850-0900 Introduction
- 0900-0930 “So, You Want to Be A Surgeon?” (Mr Bragg)
- 0930-1000 Psychosocial Consequences of Emergency Laparotomy (Professor Cornish)
- 1000-1030 Portfolio Building (Mr Cole)

1030-1045

Refreshment Break

- 1045-1115 “Things I Would Tell My Younger Self” (Mr Durst)
- 1115-1145 The David Nott Foundation (Dr Gough and Professor Jeffrey)

1145-1245

Lunch

- 1245-1250 Allocation to Workshops
- 1250-1350 Workshop 1
- 1350-1450 Workshop 2
- 1450-1550 Workshop 3
- 1550-1600 RMBF Brief and Prizes

Faculty

Speakers

Mr Thomas Bragg

Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Sarcoma Surgeon
Morrison Hospital, Swansea

Mr Alexander Durst

Consultant Spinal Surgeon
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

Professor Julie Cornish

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

Mr Alex Cole

Core Surgical Trainee
Morrison Hospital, Swansea

Workshop Tutors

Mr Ahmed Emam

Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
Morrison Hospital, Swansea

Lt Col Guang Yim

Consultant Burns, Major Trauma, and Limb Reconstruction Surgeon
Morrison Hospital, Swansea

Miss Jennifer Waterman

Specialty Registrar in General Surgery
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

Organisers

Swansea

Miss Brittany Askew

Mr Hamze Hasan

Mr Yusef Ibraheem

Miss Palesa Ndlovu

Mr Jonson Foo

Miss Jessie Lenton

Miss Mai Wallace

Miss Chloe Lewis

Mr Andrew Nelhans

Miss Maira Xiromeriti

Miss Imani Delani

Cardiff

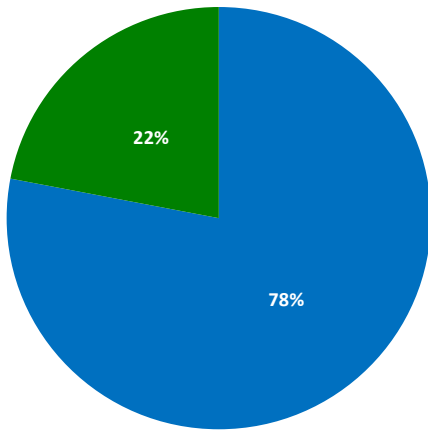
Mr Jonathan Varghese

Mr Sanay Goyal

Mr Louis Clayton

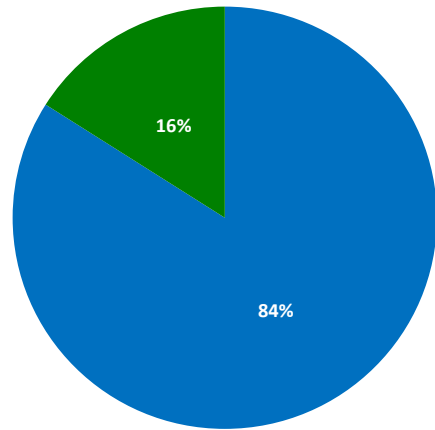
Overall Feedback

How was the content of the conference?



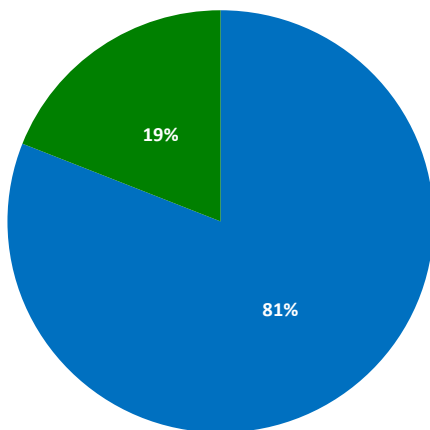
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

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



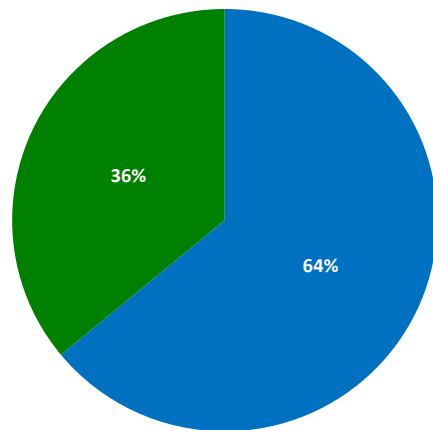
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"So, You Want to Be A Surgeon?" (Mr Bragg)



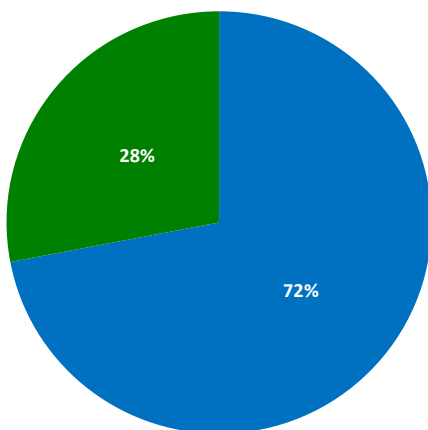
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Psychosocial Consequences of Emergency Laparotomy (Professor Cornish)



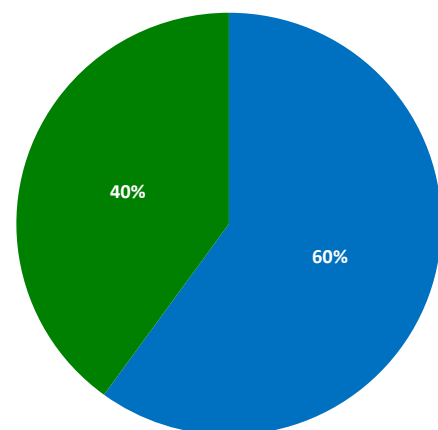
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Portfolio Building (Mr Cole)



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

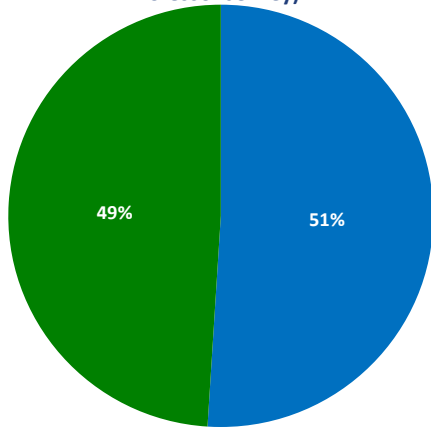
"Things I Would Tell My Younger Self" (Mr Durst)



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

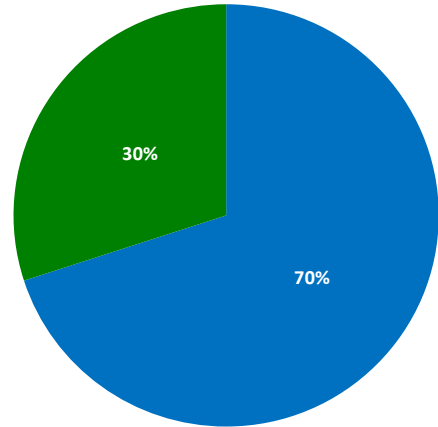
Overall Feedback

The David Nott Foundation (Dr Gough and Professor Jeffrey)



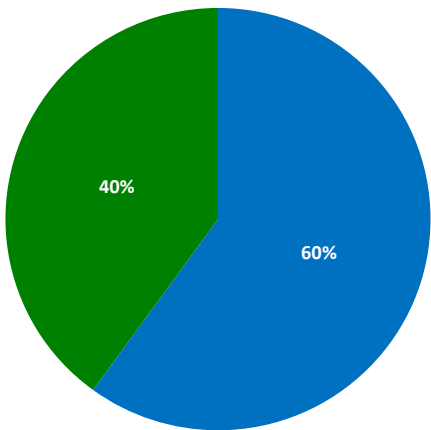
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Fracture Fixation



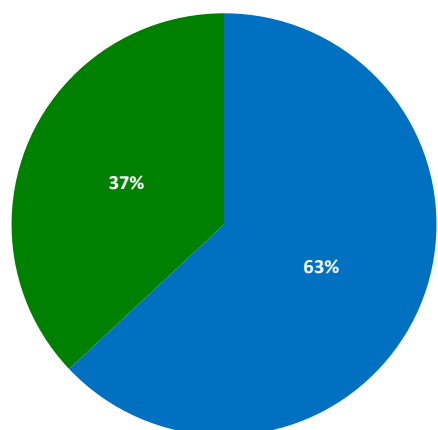
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Laparoscopic Skills



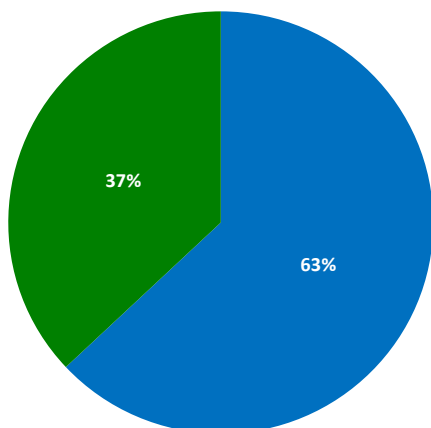
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Tracheostomy Insertion



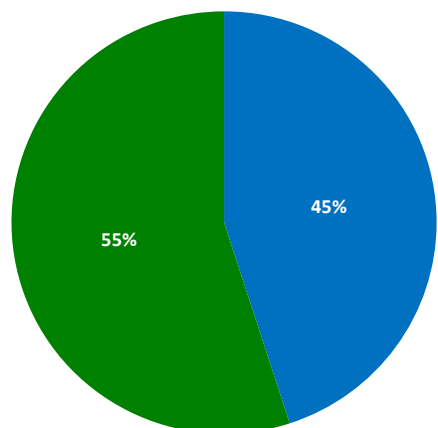
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Knot Tying and Suturing



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

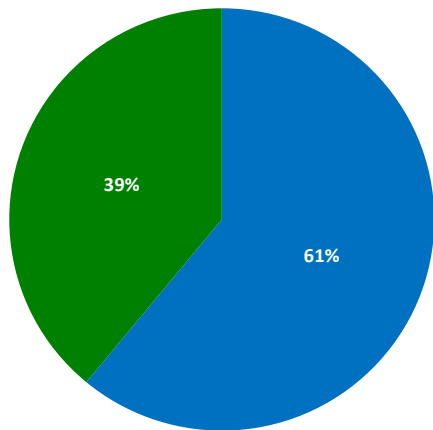
VRiMS



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

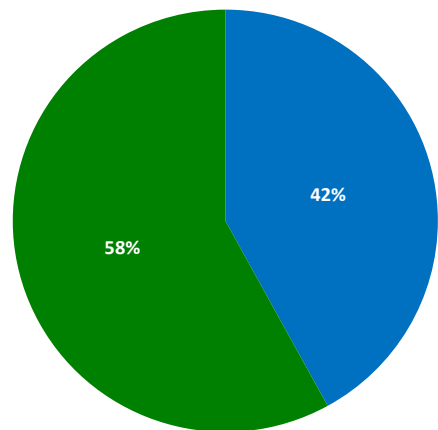
Overall Feedback

Tendon Fixation



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

Bowel Anastomosis



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

Individual Comments

Absolutely amazing overall.

Everyone was so friendly and it was very organised to get to our rooms.

Good conference and a good introduction to surgical conferences.

Really useful and engaging.

The teaching delivered was clear, informative and very interesting. The advice given by clinicians was also really helpful and enlightening. I feel as though I have learned a lot. Thank you for everything!

The conference was really well structured with all the academic teachers really willing to answer any questions. The workshops were really useful and everyone was so supportive. The layout was really well organised and was easy to navigate through the day.

Well organised and presented, enjoyed the talks and workshops.

Really helpful and good.

It was all well organised and great for opportunities.

I found it very enjoyable and interesting. It helped me understand surgery more and made me more interested as well.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day at the conference. I found all the talks to be informative and engaging. The workshops that I attended were taught to an excellent standard. I hope to attend again next year.

Very well-organised conference with a good range of speakers and interactive workshops which helped improve my surgical skills.

Really enjoyed it and found it to be very insightful for a career in medicine.

The overall conference was carried out well and it was very informative, i was able to speak to different doctors about their experience and thank you for organising it.

Good workshops and teaching.

The conference was well organised with a good range of talks and workshops available. It was great to have a mix of academic topics and talk-based around career progression and portfolio building, which are things not frequently covered in university teaching.



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Undergraduate:

- 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



Postgraduate Programmes in Surgery:

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Surgical Education

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Surgical Education

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Surgical Anatomy

Publications



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Resources for:

- Medical Students
- Dental Students
- International Entrance Exams
- MRCS Part A
- MRCS Part B OSCE
- MRCS (ENT) OSCE

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