

DURBAN is often described as a laid back city, but according to Professor Bhaskar Goolab, of the University of Witwatersrand, the city is also at the forefront of medical innovation, as was established on Wednesday last week when the eThekweni Hospital and Heart Centre (EHHC) played host to the third live endoscopy workshop organized jointly by the International Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (ISGE) and the Durban Obstetric and Gynaecological Society (DOGS).

The Northglen News team felt as if they had stepped into a scene from the hugely popular Grey's Anatomy as they got a back-seat pass to the exciting two-day workshops where live laparoscopic surgeries were being transmitted to an auditorium where young gynaecologists could learn the skills required for minimal invasive surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery is performed by making small incisions in the patient and, by using a telescope, the surgeons are able to execute complicated and simple surgeries which, traditionally, required large incisions. While minimally invasive surgeries is not a new innovation more complicated procedures are being performed by this method, hence the need for doctors to constantly update their skills.

"Minimally invasive surgeries have many benefits such as rapid recovery, minimal pain, minimal loss of blood and an excellent cosmetic outcome. This is the future of gynaecology, and many of the operations will be performed though laparoscopic means. It is therefore important that all gynaecologists become adequately skilled in the new technology" said Prof Goolab, who is also the Chairman of the Training Committee.

Laparoscopic and hysteroscopic procedures were performed by the invited Endoscopic experts, Professor Hélder Ferreira (Portugal) and Professor Bruno van Herendael (Belgium) and resident gynaecologist, Dr K T Subrayen.

One of the latest innovations demonstrated at the workshop was the 3D camera. This new technology will further enhance the benefits of endoscopic surgeries. Ethekewini Hospital & Heart Centre already has state of the art facilities with digital operating rooms and the facility to transmit live surgery to the auditorium. The audience in the auditorium is in constant communication with the surgeon during the operation.