



The Prince Charles
Hospital Foundation



Holy Spirit Northside
Private Hospital
Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of Charity
and Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

MEDIA RELEASE

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SHARING SKILLS FOR SURGICAL SUCCESS

Brisbane surgeons are providing a surgical skills exchange program to improve patient outcomes for hip replacement operations in China.

Orthopaedic Surgeon Professor Ross Crawford and colleagues is holding a mini-symposium at Brisbane's Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital yesterday and today, attended by nine surgeons from across mainland China.

Professor Crawford said the symposium will include presentations, case discussions and viewing live surgery using video feeds from the Holy Spirit Northside operating theatre into their conference room. This educational event is sponsored by medical device manufacturer, Stryker®, which makes the Exeter™ total hip replacement system.

"Using live video, the visiting doctors will be able to interact with the surgeon performing the joint replacement procedures," Prof Crawford said.

"Dr Hugh English from Holy Spirit Northside will be working with me so while one of us is operating the other can discuss the procedure and answer additional questions in the conference room. Mr Matthew Hubble and Mr John Timperley from Exeter in the United Kingdom will also be sharing their expertise as part of the training program."

Stafford MP and Infrastructure and Planning Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the symposium gave visiting surgeons an opportunity to see an expert in action.

"To watch Professor Crawford perform surgery live and to be able to ask questions during the procedure, I'd imagine would be a lot different to reading about the same operation in a text book," Mr Hinchliffe said.

The visiting Chinese doctors are the second group to participate in the skills exchange partnership between Stryker and Holy Spirit Northside. Using recently installed state-of-the-art communication technology from Stryker in the hospital operating theatres, such programs aim to provide wider access to surgical expertise from surgeons at Holy Spirit Northside to hospitals across the Asia region.

Collocated on the campus at Chermside is the Medical Engineering Research Facility (MERF), which further provides opportunities for training of surgeons to the highest standard. Stryker has an international commitment to orthopaedic surgical education and operates the Homer Stryker Centre for Orthopaedic Education in Mahwah, New Jersey, USA.

Professor Crawford is well respected throughout Asia, having performed more than 600 joint replacements in the past few years in Australia and countries including China, India and Malaysia as a visiting surgeon. He is Chair of the Orthopaedic Research Group at The Prince Charles Hospital as well as a QUT professor and surgeon at both Holy Spirit Northside and The Prince Charles Hospital.

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