

## **Workshop on Functional Reconstruction of the Head and Neck**

**June 19 – 22. 2011**

The Brånemark Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa invited the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine and the Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to provide the second workshop on "Functional Reconstruction of the Head and Neck". The workshop was also held as an ISMR event. The Brånemark Institute is a very well equipped purpose designed teaching facility at the Morningside Clinic in Johannesburg. The Morningside Clinic is a private hospital that has a focus on head and neck cancer care.

The workshop consisted of one day of lectures on microvascular reconstruction in functional reconstruction of the head and neck. Dr Dale Howes of the Brånemark Institute and a Board member of the ISMR felt it important for microvascular surgeons in South Africa to have exposure to current concepts in reconstructing for function with microvascular approaches. Dr Dale Howes and Dr Greg Boyes Varley (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon) provided support for the program at the Brånemark Institute. They were also very successful with attracting industry support for the workshop. The team from Edmonton teaching the program included Otolaryngologist Head and Neck Surgeons (Dr Hadi Seikaly and Dr Daniel O'Connell) and Maxillofacial Prosthodontists (Dr John Wolfaardt and Dr Martin Osswald) of iRSM/Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Alberta. The program and event organization was undertaken jointly by Dr Diana Shaw, iRSM and eDoc, South Africa. eDoc are event planners with the Brånemark Institute in Johannesburg. The ISMR had a strong presence at the workshop as Dr Wolfaardt is currently President of the ISMR and Dr Seikaly is an ISMR Board Member. Both Dr Osswald and Dr O'Conner are ISMR Board members. Participants at the workshop were encouraged to join and become active in the ISMR.

The Edmonton Team have developed hands-on workshop that uses a custom developed model to teach reconstructing for function with microvascular techniques. The workshop program provided lectures on microvascular reconstruction for functional rehabilitation, advanced digital designing of microvascular surgery, methods of assessment of function, maxillofacial prosthodontic treatment and other related topics. Dr Hadi Seikaly, Head of the Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Alberta considers that the teaching model developed at iRSM that is used in the hands-on surgery exercises represents a break through. Dr Seikaly feels that this is important as it allows courses to provide effective teaching that can be taken to the location of those wanting to learn functional reconstruction techniques.

The workshop in Johannesburg was the second time the program was offered and by all accounts was great success. The program will be repeated at intervals. Anyone interested in participating in or hosting the workshop should contact:

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Figure 1. The site of the Brånemark Institute at the Morningside Clinic, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Figure 2. The teaching facility prepared for the hands-on functional microvascular reconstruction workshop.



Figure 3. Dr Hadi Seikaly discussing surgical technique during the hands-on exercises.



Figure 4. Dr Greg Boyes Varley undertaking the functional reconstruction of the mandible exercise.