

Meet the faculty. The course is fortunate to have a prestigious selection of internationally recognized experts in their respective fields. Please see the details below to become familiar with the proctors and guests. There is ample time in the program and at the social sessions to meet and interact with the faculty.

National Faculty



Dr Armin Gretschel is a specialist neurosurgeon practicing at Tygerberg Academic hospital and is a senior lecturer in the Division of neurosurgery at the University of Stellenbosch. He completed his neurosurgical training at the University of Stellenbosch. Dr Gretschel has a special interest in vascular neurosurgery, endovascular Neurointervention and skull base surgery. After completion of his Endovascular Neurointervention fellowship he started the Neurointervention unit at Tygerberg hospital. He is currently in the process of establishing a cerebral revascularization service at his

hospital with a view to offer a comprehensive neurovascular fellowship. Dr Gretschel has been recognized by his peers as an exceptionally skilled neurosurgeon with a dedication to academic neurosurgery. He is the perfect combination of an excellent clinician and exceptional mentor. His commitment to the pursuit of excellence in his neurosurgical career is mirrored by his dedicated involvement in numerous hobbies, including but not limited to brewing his own beer, surfing, playing soccer and competing in Ironman races.



Dr Christos Profyris completed his medical degree with Distinction at the University of Oxford. He completed his Neurosurgical training at the University of the Witwatersrand and achieved his Neurosurgery Fellowship qualification from the College of Medicine of South Africa. Dr Profyris completed the Charles Teo Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery Fellowship under Professor Charles Teo. Dr Profyris has a special interest in the application of keyhole and endoscopic techniques to vascular, skull base, pituitary and neuro-oncological procedures. He is head of Department at the

Neurosurgery Unit at Helen Joseph Hospital in Johannesburg under the University of the Witwatersrand and also works at Netcare Milpark Hospital.



Dr. Darlene Lubbe is an Associate Professor in the Division of Otolaryngology at Groote Schuur Hospital at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her main interest is endoscopic sinus, skull base and transorbital / multiportal surgery.

She currently runs the Karl Storz training programme in endoscopic sinus and skull base surgery for Sub-Saharan Africa. She has been involved in the development of instruments for transorbital skull base surgery and airway devices (Trachealator) and has co-authored chapters on transorbital and skull

base surgery, describing the different surgical approaches. She has presented her work on transorbital surgery at many international conferences across the world and has more recently started her PhD to further investigate the role of multiportal surgery to address olfactory disorders.



Dr. Gary Kroukamp is an ENT Specialist, practising from rooms at Kingsbury Hospital in Claremont, Cape Town. He also holds a teaching sessional appointment as an ENT Consultant and Senior Lecturer at the Tygerberg Hospital, a tertiary teaching hospital associated with the University of Stellenbosch. His duties involve teaching specialists in training and medical students.

Gary's interests in the ENT field include; ENT conditions in Children, nasal allergy, sinusitis and sinus surgery, snoring, ear diseases, hearing loss, voice problems, surfer's ear surgery, vertigo/balance

disorders and cochlear Implants and other implantable hearing solutions.

In conjunction with neurosurgeons he specializes in skull base and pituitary surgery.

Gary also works closely with other medical specialists, including ophthalmologists and neurosurgeons. He performs advanced endoscopic surgery procedures for re-routing tear ducts and for removing pituitary tumours with these fellow specialists.

He has attended courses in:

Advanced Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in Cambridge and Winchester in the UK

Ear and Temporal Bone Surgery Courses at Stellenbosch University and the University of Pretoria

Cochlear Implant Course – Mechelen, Belgium

Advanced Cochlear Implant Course – Antwerp, Belgium

Auditory Brainstem Implant Course – Fulda, Germany.

Cochlear Implant and Implantable Hearing Solutions Course – in Warsaw, Poland

Advanced Skull Base Surgery courses in Columbus, Ohio, USA and in Leiden, Netherlands
He is a member of the ENT Society of South Africa and the South African Cochlear Implantation Group. He is convenor of the Southern Suburbs ENT Journal Club.

He is a recipient of a Merit Award from the South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery in recognition of outstanding service.



Dr Pedro Monteiro qualified as an ENT surgeon from the University of Cape Town in 2014. His specialist interest is in Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base Surgery. He completed a Fellowship at Groote Schuur Hospital working under Professor Darlene Lubbe in this field in 2016 .

A KES scholar, Dr Monteiro completed his undergraduate training in Johannesburg at The University of the Witwatersrand in 1997. He moved to England after his internship and began his ENT specialisation in London working at Guy's and St Thomas', Royal Free and Royal Throat, Nose, Ear

Hospitals. He completed a Diploma in Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in London before immigrating back to Cape Town to complete his ENT specialisation.

Other interests include running, football and formula one.

International Guest Faculty



Dr. Alvaro Campero is a 51-year-old neurosurgeon who works in Argentina. He performed the Neurosurgery training in Argentina, and then completed his studies in United States, Brazil and Germany. His major areas of interest are Skull Base Surgery and Neuroanatomy. He is currently the Chairman and Full Professor of Neurosurgery at University of Tucumán in Argentina. He is also Vice-President of the Argentine Association of Neurosurgery and Member of the World Academy of Neurological Surgery. Dr. Campero stands out in Latin America in the field of education; he has given more than 600 international conferences in different

countries. In addition, together with his research group, he has published 6 books, 25 book chapters, and 135 articles indexed in PubMed.



Dr. Daniel Prevedello is the vice chair for Academic Affairs and director of the Skull Base and Pituitary Surgery Programs at the OSUCCC – James. He joined The Ohio State University in 2010 and became a professor in 2017. His medical journey began in Brazil, where he attended medical school and finished my residency. He then completed a fellowship in neuroendocrine and pituitary surgery at the University of Virginia and another in skull base and cerebrovascular surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. He specializes in brain and skull base tumors, and is a pioneer in endoscopic endonasal approach (EEA) and other minimally invasive

techniques for brain tumor removal. He is one a few neurosurgeons in the world who have performed more than 1,000 EEA cases. This technique allows surgeons to access the base of the skull, the intracranial cavity and the top of the spine by operating through the nose and paranasal sinuses. His current research focuses on developing minimally invasive approaches to the brain and skull base that will result in the best surgical tumor resection possible with the least amount of disruption to normal tissue. His individualized patient approach, combined with opportunities for research, makes The James a very fulfilling place to work. There are few places that offer the types of highly specialized surgery that he and his team do, and he is proud to be a part of their patients' care.



Professor Doo-Sik Kong is currently serving as the section director of endoscopic skull base center at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University. Professor Kong has made significant contributions to the medical community through his innovative surgical techniques and research endeavors. In 1996, Professor Kong earned his MD degree from Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. He then pursued a residency in Neurological Surgery at Samsung Medical Center, where he honed his skills and passion for skull base and neuro-oncology. His dedication to advancing his expertise led him to complete advanced fellowship training in the same fields at the same institution.

Throughout his career, Professor Kong has demonstrated exceptional proficiency in performing endoscopic endonasal surgery and transorbital surgery for complex brain tumors. Additionally, he utilizes cutting-edge image-guided keyhole endo- and micro-surgery to achieve the best possible outcomes for his patients. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field, Professor Kong was appointed as a professor at Samsung Medical Center in 2017. Moreover, he serves as the co-chair of the Skull Base Committee in the World Federation of Neurological Surgery, further cementing his prominence on the global stage. Within his home country, he remains an active member and influential figure in the Korean Society of Endoscopic Neurosurgery, where his research efforts focus on developing innovative and novel approaches in skull base and endoscopic surgery.



Dr. Marco Verstegen works as an endoscopic skull-base surgeon at the center of endocrine tumors in Leiden, Netherlands. He is the Chair of pituitary surgery, neurosurgical department University of Leiden and a faculty member for endoscopic skull-base courses Amsterdam, Leiden, Bologna and Athens since 2014. He was also the Chair of pituitary surgery for the Dutch neurosurgical society 2018-2022. Dr Verstegen is a member of the skull-base group and the pituitary group of the Dutch neurosurgical society.



Dr. Samy Youssef completed his neurosurgery residency at the prestigious Ain-Shams University in Cairo, Egypt during which time he was able to complete a PhD in the Neurosciences through a joint program with Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Dr. Youssef also completed a two-year pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Hahnemann University during the mid-portion of his neurosurgical training. Following graduation he completed two fellowships in skull base surgery, the first at the University of Cincinnati from 2001-2002 and the second at the University of South Florida

from 2002-2003, which included a fellowship in cerebrovascular surgery as well. With a desire to continue his medical career in the United States he entered into a second neurosurgical residency at the University of South Florida. He completed this residency in 2008 and joined the department for 6 years as a faculty member at the University of South Florida, rising from the rank of Assistant to Associate Professor. Dr. Youssef joined the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado as director of the skull base program in June of 2014. Currently he's a Professor of Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology, and Fellowship program director. He is Vice Chairman for education and director of the skull base surgery program.

He holds patents covering both novel surgical techniques and instrumentation for complex skull surgery. His research both in the laboratory and in the operating room have resulted in multiple publications and patents. He founded and edited Contemporary Skull Base Surgery Textbook. He is the author of over 100 publications including peer-review, abstracts and book chapters. Dr. Youssef has given over 150 presentations nationally and internationally. Dr. Youssef's interest is in the combined endoscopic and microsurgery techniques to further develop lesser invasive surgery in our field.



Dr. Timothy Smith is a neurosurgeon-scientist who seeks to understand, predict, and improve clinical outcomes for neurosurgical patients by combining the use of epidemiological data, advanced statistical analysis, and emerging biological/information system technologies. Trained as an epidemiologist and statistician in addition to neurosurgical residency, he routinely applies these disciplines to his work with skullbase patients. Dr. Smith is the Director of the Multidisciplinary Pituitary Center at Brigham & Women's Hospital, the Director of the Endoscopic Skullbase and Pituitary Fellowship, Director of the Neuro-plastics Center, the Director of Data Science

for the Department of Neurosurgery, and the Director of the Computational Neuroscience Outcomes Center (CNOCC) at the Brigham & Women's Hospital Department of Neurosurgery. This data science center strives to collect and maintain prospective data on all neurosurgical patients cared for by the neurosurgical department, as well as implement process and outcome improvement through comparison with national data. The center also provides statistical and design expertise to faculty and their academic teams. Through the lab, Dr. Smith has mentored over 30 international fellows, 50 medical students, and 50+ graduate student/gap year students from all over the world.