

# DDU 2026 | Agenda

Day 1: Decision & Risk   Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2026   09:30 to 17:30	
<b>Registration &amp; Morning Tea</b>	
Welcome	Co-convenors / LHC
<b>Session 1 - Paediatric Grand Rounds</b>	<b>Plenary Chair: Mr Kris Lundine Consult Room Chair: Mr Otis Shirley &amp; Dr Brian Hsu</b>
Patient work-up 1	Dr David Farrington
Patient work-up 2	Dr Burt Yaszay
Patient work-up 3	Prof René Castelein
Open discussion - Pt 1, 2 & 3	Open Discussion
Where are they now? DDU 2025 patient follow-up	Dr Adam Parr
Wrap Up	Mr Kris Lundine
<b>Session 2 - Paediatric Precision</b>	<b>Chair: Mr Yi Yang</b>
Abnormal MRI in paediatric scoliosis – when an ortho consultant needs a neuro consultant	Dr Catherine Cartwright
Scott's Parabola in paediatric spine deformity	Dr David Farrington
Dynamic distraction of the spine - development and 10yrs clinical experience	Prof René Castelein
Evolution of selective thoracic fusion and how tethering influences surgical decision making	Dr Burt Yaszay
Regional/ethnic parameters in deformity assessment	Dr Reuben Soh
Questions & discussion	
<b>Lunch</b>	

<b>Session 3: Neurological Tolerance and Complex Spine</b>	<b>Chair: Mr Paul Smith</b>
The Donut hole: caring for the paediatric syndromic spine patients as they transition into adulthood	Dr Serena Hu
Management of CP and neuromuscular patients living longer and long term spine care strategies	Dr Burt Yaszay
Cervicothoracic transition risk -is it ok to stop at C7?	A/Prof Gus Gonzalvo
Cervical deformity correction: radiographic data from the Synergy FDA trial	Dr Neil Duggal
When alignment meets the cord/correction vs neurological reserve (myelopathy)	Dr Schalk Burger
Thoracolumbar scoli with radiculopathy - when is decompression vs fusion enough?	Dr Catherine Cartwright
Questions & discussion	
<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
<b>Session 4: Surgical Debates: philosophy under pressure</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Prashanth Rao</b>
DEBATE TOPIC 1: Patient-specific implants: Necessary evolution or expensive distraction	For / Against
DEBATE TOPIC 2: Single-position surgery (versus staged reconstruction): efficiency or compromise	Dr Soh (For) vs Dr Sama (Against)
DEBATE TOPIC 3 : Radiographic perfection vs functional reality: aim for perfection/accept good	Dr Gehrchen (Perfection) vs Dr Hu (Good)
Questions and Discussion	
<b>Close Day 1</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>Gala Dinner: The Trust</b>	
<b>6:30 - 10:00 pm</b>	

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<b>Day 2: Durability &amp; Accountability   Saturday, 15th August 2026   08:30 to 16:30</b>	
Welcome	08:30 am
<b>Session 5: Innovation Under Scrutiny</b>	<b>Chair: Mr Radek Kindl</b>
Clinical judgement vs technology hype - how should new technologies be adopted?	Mr Mo Awad
Terminator tendencies: the melding of AI into clinical medicine	Dr Ou Yang Youheng
Endoscopy in the cervical spine - where are we and what holds for the future.	Dr Dennis Hey
Surgeon decision intelligence - predictive analytical modelling for best surgical outcomes	Dr Andrew Sama
Thoracic disc - endoscopic spine surgery consideration	Prof Min-Seok Kang
Endoscopic treatment of thoracolumbar metastases	Dr Yingda Li
Questions & discussion	
<b>Morning Tea</b>	
<b>Session 6: Failure and Salvage in Complex Spine</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Randolph Gray</b>
Failed back surgery syndrome - what does this even mean?	Dr Rob Kuru
How to use registry data to improve results?	TBC
Failure to fuse - can biologics make a difference?	Dr Martin Gehrchen
Bone health optimisation, infection considerations	Dr Serena Hu
Neuromonitoring failures: making the best of a bad situation	Dr Susan Liew
Questions & discussion	
<b>Lunch</b>	

<b>Session 7: Credentialing, standards and the evolving scope of spine surgery</b>	<b>Chair: A/Prof John Cunningham</b>
Credentialing in complex spine surgery - who should operate?	Dr Schalk Burger
Hospital mandates for work/life balance and impact to clinicians	Mr Ron Jithoo
Integrated ortho and neuro spine teams	Dr Andrew Sama
Should endoscopic spine surgery become a core training requirement?	TBC
TBC	TBC
Questions & discussion	
<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
<b>Session 8: Access vs Innovation: Can we have both?</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Brian Hsu</b>
Panel - The future of Spine - Various Perspectives	Panel Discussion
<b>Meeting wrap-up and close</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>

*Agenda and timing subject to change*



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