

DDU 2026 | Agenda

Day 1: Decision & Risk Friday, 14 th August 2026 09:30 to 17:30	
Registration & Morning Tea	
Welcome	Co-convenors / LHC
Session 1: Paediatric Grand Rounds	Plenary Chair: Mr Kris Lundine Consult Room Chair: Mr Otis Shirley & Dr Brian Hsu
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
Session 2: Paediatric Precision	Chair: Mr Yi Yang
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	
Lunch	

Session 3: Neurological Tolerance and Complex Spine	Chair: Mr Paul Smith
The Donut Hole: Caring for 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	
Afternoon Tea	
Session 4: Surgical Debates - philosophy under pressure	Chair: Dr Prashanth Rao
DEBATE TOPIC 1: Patient specific implants: Necessary evolution or expensive distraction	Dr Mike Selby (Necessary evolution) vs Mr Otis Shirley (Expensive distraction)
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 & discussion	
Close Day 1	5:30 pm
Gala Dinner: The Trust	
6:30 - 10:00 pm	

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Day 2: Durability & Accountability Saturday, 15 th August 2026 08:30 to 16:30	
Welcome	08:30 am
Session 5: Innovation Under Scrutiny	Chair: Mr Radek Kindl
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	
Morning Tea	
Session 6: Failure and Salvage in Complex Spine	Chair: Dr Randolph Gray
Failed back surgery syndrome - what does this even mean?	A/Prof John Cunningham
Can we reduce revision rates in deformity correction?	Prof René Castelein
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	
Lunch	

Session 7: Credentialing, standards and the evolving scope of spine surgery	Chair: A/Prof John Cunningham
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	
Afternoon Tea	
Session 8: Access vs Innovation: Can we have both?	Chair: Dr Brian Hsu
How do we balance innovation, health economics and patient care?	Dr Brian Hsu Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon Mr John Viscogliosi CEO VB Spine Prof René Castelein Chief Medical Officer / Co-Founder, Cresco Mr Dean Breckenridge Senior Healthcare Executive Dr Dave Edis Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon
Meeting wrap-up and close	4:30 pm

Agenda and timing subject to change