

# West Midlands Surgical Training

Centre

## NEWSLETTER

*Dear Partners in Education,*

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

*I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing, The West Midlands Training Centre during 2024, myself and the team have enjoyed working with you all.*

*There has been a consistent high level of attention to detail from you all as course organisers, resulting in some outstanding training. I am certain this will lead to better patient outcomes in the future.*

*I hope you enjoy the introduction of our newsletter; we hope to provide you with important and exciting training centre information throughout the year.*

*Thank you to Laura, our administrator for the idea and for implementing it on behalf of the team.*

*Please feel free to offer feedback on the newsletter, by emailing the STC management team.*

*Please note that we are almost fully booked for 2025 and we are taking bookings for 2026/2027.*

*We are restricting weekend working to two Saturdays per month which will enable our staff to have a good work/ life balance.*

*I am sure you understand.*

*I hope you enjoy your Christmas, and we are very much looking forward to working with you in the new year.*



*Best regards  
Simon*

## WMSTC Staff

We have had some new staff members join us in 2024 and hope that you get to meet them soon.

Let's put a face to the name...



**Simon Ford**  
Centre Manager



**Davina**  
Centre Deputy



**Laura**  
Centre  
Administrator



**Steve**  
Laboratory  
Technician



**Jess**  
Bank  
Laboratory  
Technician



**Ryley**  
Supported Intern  
Centre Assistant

# 2024

## Trust OSCAR nomination for Simon's work within the centre



*Simon has transformed the surgical training centre and its accessibility to all specialities.*

*Cadaveric surgical training is now part of the registrar teaching curriculum for trauma and orthopaedics only due to his efforts.*

*Each year we run two sessions on surgical techniques at no extra cost. This was never possible in the past due to many reasons, but most notably the cost.*

*Simon has truly led the way to revolutionise surgical training. This has directly led to better patient care*

## Recent Reviews received from our clients and delegates

We are now offering feedback via QR codes for course delegates and a link is being sent directly to course owners for separate feedback questions.

If you would like to provide feedback, please get in touch and we will be happy to assist you.



- ❖ Very helpful staff, extremely well-equipped centre, excellent training/teaching facility.
- ❖ The whole team is a delight to work with and the facilities are spot on. Ideal. TY
- ❖ Excellent training centre. Nothing I can suggest to improve
- ❖ It was great that we had almost one on one lessons to approach from different angles and what their experience is.
- ❖ Good practical examples of new technologies for clinical practice
- ❖ Great course. Particularly appreciated initial talk on background to the donations and cadavers used. Thank you.

# 2024

## New Investment in AV at the STC



### **The STC has a newly installed AV and Video Conferencing system, providing the following:**

- ❖ 6 x audio Headsets for faculty use during demonstrations. This can also be used for intra faculty communication.
- ❖ Each of the 7 stations has HDMI and DVI inputs for compatible devices such as microscopes, C-Arms, surgical robots, etc.
- ❖ Each of the 7 stations also has a 4K endoscope and an overhead camera. 2 portable POV 4K cameras can be mounted to any station.
- ❖ Each of the 7 stations has a bench screen which can display footage from any of the inputs.
- ❖ Ceiling-mounted Pan Tilt Zoom 4K camera that can capture the whole lab but also can zoom in to a particular station.
- ❖ PEARL system that can record synchronised footage from up to 6 inputs. These are uploaded to our secure cloud storage, can be edited and made available to faculty (and candidates) after the course.
- ❖ 30-seat seminar room with an 87 inch LCD screen and CISCO video conferencing system.
- ❖ Live footage from the lab can be streamed to the seminar room and/or to a MS Teams meeting for remote candidates or faculty.



# 2024

## Facts and Figures



Throughout the year we have ran 66 courses with over 1000 people improving their surgical skills and knowledge.

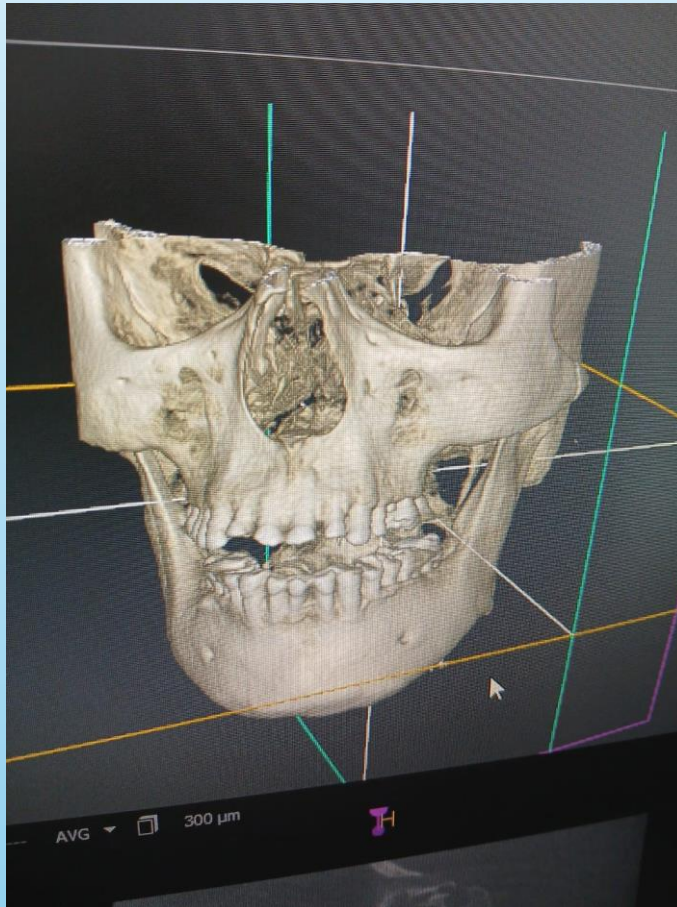
Throughout 2024 we have utilised the centre an average of 80%, this number exceeds even our own expectations! So thank you once again for choosing the WMST for your courses.

Please see some of the specialties that we have worked with this year

- ❖ **Neurology**
- ❖ **Spinal**
- ❖ **Trauma**
- ❖ **Orthopaedics**
- ❖ **Plastics**
- ❖ **Dental**
- ❖ **Ophthalmology**
- ❖ **Vascular**
- ❖ **Endoscopic surgery**
- ❖ **Rhinoplasty**
- ❖ **Maxilla Facial**
- ❖ **Gynaecology**
- ❖ **Emergency medicine**

# 2024

## CBCT Scanning



It's a pleasure for us to announce that we can now provide our dental and maxilla facial clients with pre-course CBCT scanning of donor Cephalus tissue.

To enable the planning, the tissue will be ordered in advance and CBCT scans performed upon arrival at the centre and stored until your course date.

During the planning process of your unique course, we will discuss how early the tissue will be required to allow for CBCT scanning. Recent experience shows that 3 weeks is usually suitable, however it can be extended if you require implants to be made.

These scans will be provided to you electronically in a DICOM format. We will use the donor ID number as the reference for your scan and relate this to the donor station on the day of your course.

**Please enquire for more details**

# 2024

## Lost Property



Over the last 12 months, we have accumulated some items that have been left behind. Please check with any relevant parties if they are missing anything, as we will be disposing of all items at the end of the summer.

In the future, we will be informing the course manager as soon as we find any items left.

- ❖ Glass drinks flask
- ❖ Pink drinks flask
- ❖ Black drinks flask
- ❖ Red Jumper
- ❖ White trainers
- ❖ +1 reading glasses
- ❖ Black Olympus Jacket
- ❖ Brown jumper
- ❖ Pink and black glasses
- ❖ I phone charger
- ❖ Loops leash

# 2024/2025

## Catering



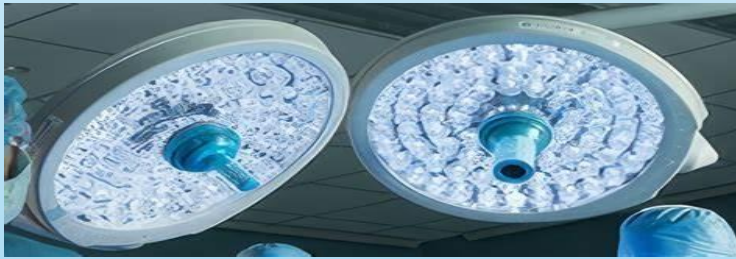
We are very lucky here at the STC to be able to offer some tasty catering choices to our clients.

- ❖ The Subway platters which have a wide variety of 3 inch sub choices, along with crisps, fruit and a cold drink.
- ❖ The ISS platter includes a combination of sandwiches and wraps, crisps, fruit platter and cold drink.
- ❖ Did somebody mention the potential of a 3<sup>rd</sup> option..... PIZZA! Watch this space as we explore if this is something we can offer in 2025!
- ❖ We are recommending all courses have the tasty pastry package for breakfast as we move forward into 2025.
- Please be reminded that for catering on a weekend, there is a £120.00 surcharge added to your catering costs.
- Please note that weekend catering requirements will be requested between four/five weeks prior to the course date, this is to ensure the necessary staffing is allocated



# 2024/2025

## Recent Updates



- ❖ We have 5 basic dental drills for use within the centre
- ❖ After careful consideration and review, we are no longer validating car parking.
- ❖ We have a new supplier for scrubs, they are a thicker material with pockets and a drawstring.
- ❖ Keep a look out for some exciting changes around the Training centre in 2025 with the potential of an extra changing room and some new theatre lights... We will be keeping everything crossed for funding approval!

### **Listening and working on feedback provided throughout 2024, we head into 2025...**

- ✓ Having ordered more stools for the laboratory.
- ✓ We now welcome Mac computers that work with our AV system.
- ✓ We have had our lecture theatre ventilation systems serviced and an issue was identified and rectified.

## Lest We Forget



We have received some feedback from a local plastic surgeon, which shows the direct improved outcome to a patient, by using a surgical donor to improve pre-operative surgical planning.

***'I thought I would fill you in on the positive outcome of the below patient. Maria was lead surgeon for her operation to remove a large skin tumour from her shoulder and subsequently coordinated the reconstruction of her defect, so all credit should go to her.'***

***For my small part, I'm sure I speak for us both when I say the ability to work with the West Midlands Surgical Training Centre contributed considerably to the positive outcome of this patient. The tumour was complex and the anatomy unusual. The ability to explore the area surgically, in advance, in the West Midlands Surgical Training Centre aided the operation considerably. An improved familiarity with the local anatomy reduced decision making in theatre and allowed pre-visualization of the problem and surgical approach. My thanks to the WMSTC team'***

## **A short message from me**

**As the festive season approaches, I would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on the superb work carried out by all my colleagues at WMSTC as well as our esteemed faculty, delegates, educational and corporate partners in advancing teaching and training opportunities.**

**It is imperative that clinical care of the highest quality is delivered across all healthcare providers. We at WMSTC and UHCW NHS Trust are in a unique position to be able to host an excellent facility providing highest quality cadaveric training as well as core educational updates across the spectrum of both art and craft of surgery. We would not be able to do this without the concerted effort of each and everyone involved, my sincere thank you to all.**

**Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year**

**Best wishes**

**Vinod**



**Professor Vinod Menon  
Director  
West Midlands Training Centre**