

Tom and Mo in Manila: UAA and AURC 2026

We, Mo Li and Tom Clarkson were given a fantastic opportunity to attend the AURC and UAA in Manila in September 2026, thanks to the generous support from the **Australasian Urological Foundation (AUF)** and **USANZ**.

Manila is a vibrant city. The city has a rich history and mixed cultures. The course and UAA meeting were held at the Newport World Resort in Pasay city. The organising committee of the AURC (Asian Urology Residents Course) injected a great amount of effort into the course. We participated in weekly group projects and discussion over Zoom with trainees from all over Asia. During the 3-day face to face course, we heard from a range of high-quality international speakers including a number of guest speakers from AUA.

It was great to engage with international trainees from a wide variety of ethical and cultural backgrounds. Many were very curious about the healthcare systems and the urological training in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. We also learnt and discussed many barriers that different healthcare systems face where resources are scarce. In Australia and NZ, we are privileged to be able to afford the cost of many advanced technologies. During the course, the male predominance was still very apparent with a less than 10% female contingent. We did however meet the first female urology trainee from Cambodia!

Following the course was the UAA. The meeting was well attended and showcased expertise and cutting-edge technologies. We watched a Chinese Professor, in full business attire on stage, operating robotically on a patient in Beijing, almost 3000km away, whilst another surgeon performing a complex partial nephrectomy with tumor thrombus. Stressful even without the giant audience! The industry hall had a huge range of new technologies on display, from new robot platforms to 5fr ureteroscopes.

Filipino hospitality and culture were on full display at all times. We were brought along to a potassium citrate dinner run for the local urologists which doubled as an open mic night. We were able to establish the first Oceania/Asian Urological band with one of the local urologists! Our new friends took us to local hotspots and recommended delicious local cuisines.

It was a fantastic and unforgettable trip. It broadened our views and gave us opportunities to form new friendship. Next year will be in Bangkok, see you there!







