

Course Title:

USANZ Trainee Week 2025, Masonic Centre, Sydney, Australia, 16th November 2025 to 20th November 2025

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Association Member:

UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIA (UAA)

THAI UROLOGY ASSOCIATION (TUA)

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A. Background

The USANZ Resident Trainee Week 2025 at the Sydney Masonic Centre brought together urology trainees from Australia and New Zealand, as well as international participants from BSoT, EAU, CUA, and UAA, for a week of learning, skill-building, and networking.

This year, four trainees from Indonesia, Japan, India, and Thailand were selected as international representatives by the Urological Association of Asia (UAA). I'm grateful to be the Thai representative, working alongside colleagues from diverse regions and training systems.

Participating in the USANZ Trainee Week 2025 has been an honor and a privilege. It has been meaningful to learn within a world-class educational environment and to exchange knowledge and make connections with trainees from multiple continents.

B) Program objectives

The program aimed to provide structured academic and clinical training. Its objectives were to:

- Provide structured viva practice and assessment simulations for USANZ trainees, while allowing international participants to observe these exercises
- Enhance clinical knowledge through updates to guidelines, lectures, and case-based discussions.
- Promote academic exchange, shared learning, and open debate among trainees from different countries.
- Encourage professional connections and cultural understanding.

C) Lessons learnt

On the first day, I watched the structured viva practice sessions for USANZ trainees. The exam format—divided into Pathology, SOE, OPSA, and CIM—was quite different from the Thai system. Observing how trainees approached each part improved my understanding of the clinical reasoning level expected in the USANZ program.

Starting from the following days, I attended academic sessions and conference updates designed to support exam preparation. Reviews of guidelines, case discussions, and trainee presentations showed how clinical knowledge is organized, applied, and assessed. I gained a deeper understanding of how disease management strategies are customized to the healthcare settings in Australia and New Zealand, including differences in guidelines (mainly from EAU), diagnostic pathways, and treatment options.

Beyond the official program, I learned a lot about the training culture in Australia and New Zealand and exchanged perspectives with locals. I made new friends, enjoyed exploring Sydney, and developed a deeper appreciation for the local environment and culture.

D) Networking

The program provided many opportunities to connect with trainees and faculty from Australia, New Zealand, and other participating regions. Conversations during sessions, breaks, and evening events allowed me to share clinical perspectives, compare training structures, and gain a better understanding of the daily experiences of residents across different countries.

I appreciated the supportive and welcoming attitude of both the USANZ trainees and faculty, which made every discussion engaging and enjoyable. I also built meaningful connections with my fellow international delegates. Cecilia from South Africa shared valuable insights during her conference lecture and helped expand my understanding of global training methods. Aksel from Armenia and I exchanged cultural perspectives and discussed how our training systems differ.

I also spent much of my time with Yasmina from Indonesia and Sho from Japan, who accompanied me throughout the week. We exchanged knowledge, discussed clinical experiences, explored Sydney together, and shared perspectives on training and culture. Their company made the entire program even more memorable.

These interactions enhanced my academic experience and significantly contributed to the collaborative and friendly atmosphere of the week.

E) Benefits

This program provided important academic, clinical, and personal benefits. Watching the structured viva sessions and assessment methods enhanced my understanding of the exam system and clarified the level of integrated clinical reasoning expected from trainees. The guideline updates, case-based discussions, and trainee presentations offered practical insights that will be helpful for both exam preparation and daily clinical practice.

I also gained a clearer understanding of how disease management is tailored to the healthcare settings in Australia and New Zealand. Variations in guideline focus, diagnostic procedures, and treatment options demonstrated how local resources and practice patterns influence clinical decisions.

On a personal level, meeting trainees from various countries enriched the experience beyond academics. Sharing perspectives, exchanging cultures, and exploring Sydney with international colleagues made the week both memorable and enjoyable. These interactions strengthened my connection to the global urology community and added meaningful depth to the program.

Overall, the training week significantly enhanced my professional growth and personal development.

F) Recommendations

The program was highly valuable, and expanding its reach would benefit trainees across the region. I want to recommend:

- Maintaining this conference as a regular event is important because it offers a strong platform for organized learning, exam preparation, and international collaboration.
- Increasing member participation, communication, and engagement from UAA and participating countries, including Thailand, can encourage more residents' involvement of residents in future events.

G) Any other Comments

I want to sincerely thank Dr.Scott Leslie for leading and organizing such a well-structured and meaningful program. His dedication to providing an excellent academic and cultural experience made the whole week truly memorable.

I would also like to thank the USANZ Office, especially Jennifer Hislop and Deborah Klein, for their outstanding support. They assisted both local trainees and international delegates with great care, ensuring every detail was well managed.

I felt truly grateful for the warm and heartfelt welcome we received throughout the program. Their kindness, hospitality, and attention to detail played a major role in making this an unforgettable experience.

H) Photographs with captions



UAA group: Thanakrit (Thailand), Sho (Japan), Sajal (India), Yasmina (Indonesia)



Thanakrit with Dr. Scott Leslis at USANZ Training Week 2025



Jennifer Hislop, Sajal (India), and Thanakrit (Thailand)



Dr. Rose He, an intermediate-level expert from Australia, presents an update on prostate screening guidelines.



UAA Dinner: Yasmina (Indonesia), Thanakrit (Thailand), Sho (Japan)