



FURTHER EDUCATION

Intensive day lab course a hit

They are not held regularly but one attendee of Podiatric Surgeon Dr Haydar Ozcan's intensive one day laboratory course in nail surgery, wart curettage and injection techniques course thinks it should be.

Attendee Dr Abbie Najjarine said the course was the best way to learn podiatric techniques while working on a real foot.

"All podiatrists should do refresher courses and cadaver training is the best method of learning new injection therapies that are available but not being widely used. I thought the day was fantastic and as the feet were fresh they looked and felt very alive," he said.

Held at the historical Sydney Hospital, surrounded by wonderful parks, this workshop is the second Dr Ozcan has facilitated as part of the Association's CPD program, although the first was a while ago.

"I purposefully designed the course to enhance a podiatrist's clinical and diagnostic skills of the foot and ankle pathology. Attendees covered a variety of subjects such as injection techniques, nail surgery, neuroma, heel pain, subtalar joint injections and wart curettage. They were also given quite a bit of freedom to investigate the foot," Dr Ozcan said.

"Attendees ultimately learned the essentials of surgical and injection techniques. This enabled them to improve their surgical skills by using this unique opportunity to practice.

"This was a very hands-on course and the Sydney Hospital labs are state-of-the-art with audio visual equipment and a lecture theatre to accommodate 50 people. All in all a wonderful venue," he said.

"The day started with injection lectures which covered safety, maximum safe doses, drugs that are involved and routes of administration. Great emphasis was put on the technical and practical aspects of the techniques, aimed at podiatrists in real life situations. I think this is very useful so podiatrists can use their skills almost the next day without any fear," Dr Ozcan said.

The approach to lectures was engaging but casual with many questions asked throughout the presentation. "This really excited me as the audience was very focused," he said.

The next stage of the course was Partial Nail Avulsion where practical techniques, misconceptions, incorrect techniques and useful tips were covered. This was followed by wart curettage, a video presentation and hands on practical work on fresh cadavers, with the day closing with free dis-



Dr Haydar Ozcan with course attendees

section time for podiatrist focusing on the parts of foot they were interested in.

"I give credit to the Association for initiating such a useful and well needed course. In a climate where other professions are eating into fields of Podiatry I feel we need to expand our level of knowledge and skills to areas which we have the rights to tap into. This course should be done by all Podiatrists," Dr Ozcan said.

One attendee who travelled more than 300kms to be at the course said it was well worth it.

Sarah Coombs of Twinkle Toes, Wauchope and Kempsey Podiatry, said she had attended the first course a few years ago and thought once again it was brilliant as well as improved.

"I thought it was particularly useful to be able to look at the full anatomy of the foot by having the time to dissect the foot as we pleased. In other similar courses I have been on this has not been allowed and the course was far more expensive than this one, so really great value for money too, highly recommended," she said.

The course was \$680 for members and \$1,360 for non-members – so great value for members. We will keep you posted on when the next one will be. Please email membership@podiatry.asn.au if you would like to be notified when that is.