

**COMBINED DSTC® AND ASSET® COURSE**  
**MARCH 1-3, 2023**  
**VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Trauma Services at Vancouver General Hospital is conducting a Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC®) Course AND the Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET®) course from March 1-3, 2023. Participants will obtain certificates for both courses.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.**  
**SPACE IS LIMITED, SO SIGN UP TODAY!**  
**PRICE: \$2000.00 PER PARTICIPANT**

To register, please contact: Trauma Services, DSTC/ASSET Course Coordinator at [TraumaEduc@vch.ca](mailto:TraumaEduc@vch.ca) or by phone at (604) 875-4111 ext 69602.



**DEFINITIVE SURGICAL TRAUMA CARE (DSTC)<sup>®</sup> AND ADVANCED SURGICAL SKILLS  
FOR EXPOSURE IN TRAUMA (ASSET)<sup>®</sup>  
MARCH 1-3, 2023**

We are offering a unique educational opportunity in advanced Trauma Surgery. The DSTC Course<sup>®</sup>, designed exclusively for Surgeons, is being held from March 1-3, 2023. The training will combine the lessons and skills from ASSET with DSTC. The International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC), part of the International Society of Surgery, has been an international forum for trauma surgery since 1991. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has been providing ASSET courses since 2010.

These courses were developed for qualified surgeons with trauma as an integral (although possibly infrequent) part of their practice and designed to assist in their decision-making and operative approach relating to serious trauma. DSTC and ASSET are both a response to the lack of written material and teaching on strategic issues of resuscitation, early definitive care, and surgical priorities. It assumes all of the ATLS<sup>®</sup> principles and builds on them.

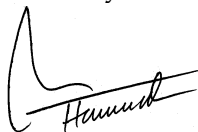
The Vancouver DSTC/ASSET course is sponsored by the Trauma Research and Education Fund (Vancouver) with industry support. Participation is limited to a maximum of 20 registrants only.

- Course Venue: **Vancouver General Hospital**
- Course Dates: **March 1-3, 2023**

This is a rare opportunity for a small group of Surgeons to work intensively over 3 days with highly experienced teaching faculty. I do hope you can join us.

For registration information, please contact the course coordinator, Glen Purcell at [glen.purcell@vch.ca](mailto:glen.purcell@vch.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Morad Hameed  
Course Director



Nasira Lakha, RN, BScN, MHS  
VGH Trauma Program Manager

*~ This program is recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of  
Canada (RCPSC) as a Traineeship under MOC Section 2 Self-Learning*



## DSTC DESCRIPTION

Injury (trauma) remains a major health care problem throughout the world. In addition to improving prevention and resuscitation, improved application of surgical skills is expected to save further lives and contribute to minimizing disability. It is widely recognized that training of surgeons in the management of trauma is substantially deficient because of:

- (a) Limited exposure within individual training programs to the types of patients required to develop the appropriate level of skills and
- (b) Traditional trauma surgery training, which has been organ specific but not well grounded in the management of multiply injured patients with competing priorities.

Consequently surgeons can finish training with sub-optimal skills in this field where there is often little time to contemplate an appropriate course of action.

Through the early 90's, it became apparent to a number of surgeons familiar with trauma management around the world, that there was a specific need for surgical training in decision making and the technical aspects of operative care of the trauma patient, placing particular emphasis on those who were close to, or had recently completed their training. DSTC had its origins in a meeting between Howard Champion (USA), David Mulder (Canada), Donald Trunkey (USA), Stephen Deane (Australia) and Abe Fingerhut (France) in October 1993.

This postgraduate surgical course for 20 participants assumes competence with assessment and resuscitative measures, which have become standardized in North America through the American College of Surgeons ATLS® Course. It draws on the specialist surgical training of all course participants

and reviews, strengthens and organizes the performance of established and new procedures specially required in trauma surgery. Courses have been conducted in Canada, Europe, USA, Asia and Australia. It is expected that this standardized course will have special relevance for surgeons in countries like Canada and Australia, where major trauma rates are relatively low as well as rapidly mobilized medical units in areas of conflict. It is also likely to be valuable in developing countries where education and physical resources are limited.

DSTC has developed in many continents under the umbrella of IATSIC, International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care. This seventeenth Canadian DSTC Course is being promoted by the Trauma Association of Canada and Trauma Services at Vancouver General Hospital. Increasingly it is being recognized that DSTC is an outstanding educational event meeting the very real needs of surgeons caring for the injured.

### **ASSET DESCRIPTION**

The ASSET course has been developed by the American College of Surgeons to supplement the training for operative management of trauma patients. The course uses human cadavers to teach surgical exposure of anatomic structures that when injured may pose a threat to life or limb.

The one day cadaver-based course follows this modular, body region approach. Each section begins with a short case-based overview, followed by a hands-on exposure performed by students under the close guidance of faculty. The student will be able to demonstrate his or her ability to perform each exposure independently and will receive feedback on knowledge and technical skills. In other words, the course allows the student to perform all the vascular and visceral exposures one would need to know in open management of major trauma.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

The courses are a mixture of manual and lecture based learning, case discussion, and surgical skills demonstration and practice.

- Three theory sessions addressing technical surgical strategies
- Two sessions addressing strategic thinking in Trauma Surgery
- Two laboratory sessions addressing technical surgical strategies
- One session on troubleshooting
- Hands on exposure to surgical techniques in a small group
- Certification in Stop the Bleed®
- Participation is limited to 20 students with a high faculty to participant ratio, allowing for two faculty members to four participants in hands-on practical skill sessions

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The course will run for three days with the following course materials:

- DSTC course manual addressing “Physiology and Organ Support”, decision making in trauma surgery and surgical techniques. Includes library of surgical videos.
- ASSET course manual with an overview of key surgical exposures in five key anatomic areas: neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis, extremities, upper and lower. Includes digital versions of presentations.
- Standardized Slides from IATSIC and ACS

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION

### Accreditation

The American College of Surgeons is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

The American College of Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Of the *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* listed above, a maximum of 5 credits meet the requirements for self-Assessment.

Of the *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* listed above, a maximum of 6 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* meet the requirements for Trauma/Critical Care.



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