

Lessons Learned

- Use the same equipment with the same software with the same versions!
After the event we did some troubleshooting to find out why the stereo video images flickered. The two computers with the stereo video codec did not have the same operating system or the same version of the software. As a result the frame rate was reduced.
- Use the backchannel when you need to communicate during the event.
Although we had set up a backchannel, we did not use it. After the event we discovered that Dr. Nezhat's voice was too loud and Dr. Heinrich's voice was too low. The CSIRO team had tried to signal us by writing it on a piece of paper but we were too preoccupied with other logistics to notice it.
- Have a person who can monitor the audio during the event.
- Be prepared with extra background material because surgery timing can't be controlled.
Dr. Heinrich's had expected to do an anatomy lesson with the residents but when the case turned out to be merely an appendectomy, he dropped that part of the plan. In addition, Dr. Nezhat and Dr. Heinrichs gave an impromptu lecture about the merits of surgical simulation because the surgery was delayed. The previous case was delayed.

It would always be preferable to do live surgery with the first case of the day so that the timing can be more predictable. Of course, with Australia, that would not be appropriate because of the time differences.