

MICS III Introduction

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The third annual Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Symposium (MICS III) took place in Key West, Florida on May 26-27, 2001, immediately following the Outcomes 2001 symposium. Highlighted by the lively debate, "Does the Future of Cardiac Surgery Lie with Interventional Cardiology?", between Dr. Bill Cohn and Dr. Steve Oesterle, the meeting again succeeded in provoking spirited controversy and discussion.

The symposium touched on topics ranging from conceptual approaches to surgery, such as "complete revascularization versus target lesion", to such highly specific technique-oriented presentations as "hemodynamic stability and other lessons learned in OPCAB". Most registrants, independent of their level of expertise or investigative study experience, came away feeling that they had learned something new and gained important novel insights. Edited manuscripts of these topics have been included herein as full papers from these Proceedings.

One of the main views expressed about this year's third annual meeting was that it was not only successful, but that the format should be expanded. The opportunity for exchanging views with many of the leading experts in this rapidly emerging field, in a meeting designed specifically to facilitate open, frank discussion within an atmosphere of relaxed, friendly collaboration, is especially appealing to junior faculty, as well as others wishing to embark on minimally invasive procedures.

For the upcoming MICS IV, we are locating to the University Campus facility in London, Ontario so that we can additionally provide a live surgery webcast of either one or both OPCAB and RAVECAB (Robotically Assisted Visually Enhanced). A more expanded scientific program featuring afternoon workshops and wetlabs for surgeons, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, and surgical nursing staff will also be available.

In addition to state of the art lectures, "how to..." sessions, and live telesurgery, the social program is also being carefully considered. The upcoming MICS IV will include tickets for an evening at the world famous Stratford Shakespearean Festival, with reserved seating of a featured work. Add to this a complementary beer and pizza Karaoke Saturday night, and the weekend of September 27-29, 2002, becomes a "don't miss" event!

The meeting location in London, Ontario is just a two-hour drive from the wine country of Niagara escarpment, Niagara Falls, and the 19th century charm of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its renowned Shaw Theatre Festival. The setting offers the fall charm of the turning of the leaves within the surrounding countryside, or any one of a number of other day trips. Check our website www.beatingheartsurgery.com for updates for the upcoming MICS IV program, registration, and abstract submission details.