2025 WACS INTEGRATED REVISION COURSE IN CLINICAL SURGERY (IRCCS)

Concept and Plan

For the preceding 5 years, the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) have had hybrid integrated revision courses. The 2025 course will follow this format. This approach requires serious thought, robust engagement and utilization of different resources for success.

The following have been the pillars of the preceding successful courses hosted by the Departments of Surgery, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Abuja and Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos, Nigeria. They will continue to be utilized for this one.

1. A course website has been established. www.wacscoacirccs.org. This interactive website will be used for registration of participants, resource faculty, LOC staff and other relevant college (WACS) staff in IRCCS 2022. All registered participants, resource person, LOC, Surgery Faculty and College Staff will be issued with an access username and password.

The website will be used for course communications, sharing of course materials, OSCE and CBT portals, evaluations and results.

2. The Publicity materials (including flyers, banners) are disseminated online using multiple social media portals such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Twitter and Facebook, Emails. The publicity materials shall also be displayed on the WACS mainline website www.wacscoac.org as well as the course website: www.wacscoacirccs.org. The course website will continue to serve the Faculty in future courses.

3. Virtual Delivery of all Didactic Course contents (Lectures, tutorials etc). To achieve this, an online video conferencing suite has been set up using Zoom or Microsoft Teams Platforms. Both platforms are handy to provide back up. To ensure security, all lectures and other course contents are only to be accessed through the course website. Full access is exclusively for the registered participants.

4. Multicentre OSCE using Extended Reality Format (Both Conventional and Virtual modes). Training centres in different geographical zones shall be selected or recruited based on their proximity to participants training locations and depth of resource persons. Participants are to travel to these centres for the OSCE. The OSCE centres are linked virtually and connected to a central course communication/ command hub in Jos for real time monitoring of OSCE set up, progress, evaluation and to resolve issues promptly when they arise. As a result, the virtual WACS IRCCS LOC has been enlarged to include Centre OSCE Officers and their facilitators.

5. An online CBT shall be organized in conjunction with an IT team. Access to the CBT test materials shall also be obtained through the course website. Security measures have been put in place to prevent unauthorized access, while the questions and answers shall be staggered to eliminate cheating and group work.

6. Recruited Resource persons will be tutored on the concept and plan for the 2025 IRCCS. Online tutorials on the operations of the online platforms as well as expectations for the course will be delivered before the commencement of the course

7. A central IT communication and command secretariat is set up in Jos to control, monitor, harmonize and regulate all course activities including didactic, competence-based training activities, mentorship sessions as well as evaluations, this is to ensure a harmonious course flow reduce time and resource wastage, ensure cost effectiveness and overall outcome of the course.

8. Certificates of attendance and resource faculty shall be accessed via the website using the website customized access codes.

Prof. B. O. Ismaila   Dr. Jeneral Alfin

Course Coordinator   Course Secretary