Dr Nigel Robertson

Specialist Anaesthetist, Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Auckland City Hospital

Dr Nigel Robertson is a Specialist Anaesthetist at Auckland City Hospital. Born and raised in Scotland, he obtained his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh before emigrating to Auckland with his New Zealand wife, Kathy in 1988. Dr. Robertson was seconded to the Auckland City Hospital building programme in 2000 and became the design coordinator for the operating rooms and medical advisor to the project, having a hands-on role in many aspects of the building project. He then became Clinical Director of the adult services (level 8) operating rooms and anaesthesia, leading the migration of services into the new unit in October 2003. He remained CD of Level 8 Operating Rooms and Anaesthesia until 2009. Since then, he has become active in the Clinical Practice Committee at ADHB, the College of Anaesthetists (next NZ committee Chair) and has also written a chapter on OR design and efficiency for a forthcoming book, “Operating Room Leadership and Management” (edited by Kaye, Fox and Urman) due to be published by Cambridge University press in December 2012.

Operating Rooms Designed for Efficiency

Hospital re-builds or new-builds are “once in a career” events for most healthcare staff. Designing new operating rooms for a hospital is possibly the most cost-effective intervention (if done well) over the life of the building, as surgery is the major revenue driver for most healthcare organisations. But good design depends on a clear understanding of the scope of work to be performed in the unit and the complex relationships between the OR suite and the other elements of the peri-operative patient pathway. This talk will explore the concept of efficiency and productivity in operating rooms and how Lean thinking can be applied to design concepts for operating room suites. It will also outline a toolkit for healthcare staff to navigate their way through the design and build process.