The 7th annual Emily Berend Adult Reconstruction Symposium (EBARS) had another successful year this past April at our own Duke University Medical Center. Created and hosted by former Duke Residents, Keith Berend, Michael Berend, and Michael Bolognesi, EBARS is held in loving memory of the brothers’ late mother, Emily Berend, to serve as an intensive and interactive forum to develop knowledge and skills for practicing evidence-based adult reconstruction. Now in its 7th year, it continues to be a favorite event of the educational year enjoyed by residents, fellows, and attending from near and far. The symposium spans the course of two days and features a variety of didactic and interactive sessions, including live cadaver demonstrations, review of the current literature, and debate over controversial topics.

This year’s distinguished guest speaker was Steve MacDonald from Western University in London, Ontario. MacDonald is a Professor and Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Western University, as well as current member of both the North American Hip and Knee Societies. MacDonald gave an outstanding opening talk on “Introducing new technology in total joint arthroplasty,” touching on the importance of well-researched technologic advancements along with a cautious approach to introducing such technology into one’s practice. Other guest speakers included David Dalury, (Chief of Orthopaedics at University of Maryland St Joseph Medical Center in Towson), Chris Christensen, (Lexington Clinic in Lexington, KY) and William Griffin, (Chairman of OrthoCarolina Research Institute and Director of OrthoCarolina Hip & Knee Center in Charlotte, North Carolina). Many of Duke’s esteemed attendings also served as course faculty including Blake Boggess, David Attarian, Rhett Hallows, Chad Mather, Steve Olson, and Samuel Wellman.

The event opened on Friday morning with several lectures covered a wide variety of topics including economics of joint arthroplasty, total knee surgical techniques, new technologies for total knee, infectious management, and principles of revision total knee. A welcome dinner was hosted by Bolognesi and his family at their home featuring the award winning Bull City BBQ Co dinner. The weather cooperated well, allowing for great discussions late into the night. The symposium started promptly the next morning with focus on surgical approaches to total hip arthroplasty, issues with trunnionosis, and metal-on-metal implants, then concluding with revision total hip techniques. Great times were had by all, and the wealth of information presented by faculty from such diverse backgrounds enhanced everyone’s knowledge in the field.

The 8th Annual EBARS will be held on April 29 and 30 at Duke University Medical Center with guest speaker Robert T Trousdale, of Mayo Clinic. As always, the Duke Orthopaedic residents are incredibly grateful to have such an excellent educational opportunity available featuring such accomplished experts in the field. We thank Michael Berend, Keith Berend, and Michael Bolognesi for carrying on this tradition and we look forward to this year’s event!
Michael Berend, (left) and Keith Berend, (right) expose a knee in the Duke Human Fresh Tissue Laboratory during a live demonstration cast live to EBARS 7 participants.

Participants at EBARS 7 engrossed in a presentation on unicompartmental knee arthroplasty given by Keith Berend.