



ALL YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR...

Dr. François Saulnier is a highly respected and internationally recognised Specialist in small-animal surgery whose career has spanned decades, continents, and some of the most prestigious veterinary institutions in the world. As the founder of a new peripatetic surgical service in Hong Kong, Dr. François brings an exceptional level of expertise directly to veterinary practices and pet owners across the region—offering advanced, compassionate, and personalised care wherever it is needed most.

His journey through veterinary medicine began in France, where he completed the rigorous veterinary curriculum at École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort (ENV Alfort) in Paris. Even at this early stage, his academic path revealed a strong fascination with anatomy, physiology, and the complex mechanisms of disease. His DVM thesis, which studied the “Morphological, functional and metabolic adaptations of the heart muscle in young rats,” reflected a deep interest in research and a commitment to understanding medicine at its most fundamental level. This focus on scientific depth eventually shaped his career-long dedication to evidence-based surgery.

Following graduation, Dr. François pursued a series of enriching **internships and surgical internships** at the **Maisons-Alfort Veterinary Hospital**, gaining intensive, hands-on experience in small-animal medicine, emergencies, and surgery. These foundational years—spent in demanding night emergency positions across Paris—sharpened his clinical judgment, resilience, and ability to work efficiently under pressure. They also ignited the passion for surgery that would define his professional trajectory.

By 2004, he had embarked on a prestigious **Small Animal Surgery residency** at the **University of Liège in Belgium** under the guidance of **renowned supervisors Prof. Balligand and Prof. Hamaide (Dipl. ECVS)**. During this period, he immersed himself in all aspects of small-animal surgery, from Orthopaedics and Soft tissue procedures to Neurosurgery. His residency years also included a series of **influential externships at institutions such as Michigan State University, the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, and the Atlantic Veterinary College** in Canada. These experiences exposed him to diverse surgical techniques, interdisciplinary collaboration, and some of the most advanced surgical programs in North America and Europe.

In 2009, Dr. François achieved one of the highest recognitions in his field: **Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS)**. He later completed **successful recertifications in both 2015, 2019 and 2025, reinforcing his commitment to ongoing professional development and ensuring that his knowledge remains at the forefront of veterinary surgical science**. In 2016, he also became an RCVS-recognised Specialist, further establishing his status as an expert in his discipline.

Over the following fifteen years, Dr. François built an extraordinary international career marked by leadership roles, academic appointments, and deep clinical experience. At the Atlantic Veterinary College in Canada, he served as an **Assistant Professor in small-animal surgery, teaching students, mentoring interns, and contributing to the college's surgical services**. His passion for education carried throughout his career, leading him to deliver numerous lectures and wet labs across Europe and Asia, as well as serving for several years as an External Examiner for the CertAVP synoptic examination at the University of Liverpool. His surgical practice continued to expand during his years in the United Kingdom, where he worked at several leading referral hospitals including **ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists** and **Rutland House Referral Hospital**. In these roles, he performed a broad spectrum of advanced soft tissue, orthopaedic, and neurosurgical procedures while managing complex and often life-threatening cases. He became known for his calm authority in the operating room, his meticulous technique, and his ability to communicate clearly and compassionately with pet owners facing difficult decisions.

In 2017, Dr. François moved to **Singapore** to found and head the **Department of Soft Tissue Surgery, Orthopaedics, and Neurosurgery** at **VES Hospital**. As a department leader, he established high surgical standards, expanded the hospital's capabilities, and continued to champion minimally invasive techniques, advanced orthopaedics, and cutting-edge neurosurgery. His work contributed to the rapid development of the region's veterinary surgical landscape, and he became a respected reference point for veterinarians seeking guidance on complicated surgical cases.



Three years later, he joined **City University of Hong Kong's Veterinary Medical Centre (CityU-VMC)** as a **Senior Clinician in the Department of Small Animal Surgery**, further contributing to the growing academic and clinical excellence of Hong Kong's veterinary sector. During his time there, he trained junior clinicians, delivered lectures for continuing education programs, and participated in CityU's White Coat Ceremony as a guest speaker—a role that highlighted both his mentorship and his influence on the next generation of veterinarians.

Throughout his career, Dr. François has remained a passionate contributor to scientific literature. His publications span topics such as lumbosacral stenosis, intracranial imaging, dermatophytosis, soft tissue oncology, and rare surgical case studies. Notably, he co-authored innovative work on bladder tumour resection techniques and contributed to the literature describing improved surgical approaches to the lumbosacral foramen. His research has appeared in respected journals including *Veterinary Surgery*, *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, *Veterinary Evidence*, *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, *Journal of Fungi*, and *Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound*. He has also presented posters and spoken at major international congresses such as ECVS, ESVOT, and ACVS.

Dr. Saulnier's surgical expertise is remarkably broad, with particular strengths in soft tissue surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, and minimally invasive procedures. His neurosurgical interests include atlantoaxial instability, spinal fractures and luxations, vertebral and spinal tumours, and lumbosacral foraminal stenosis—a field in which he has conducted extensive research. In soft tissue surgery, he regularly performs advanced oncologic procedures, thoracoscopic and laparoscopic interventions, and microsurgery using vessel-sealing, laser, and stapling technologies. His orthopaedic skill set includes arthroscopy, angular limb deformity correction, fracture repair using systems such as Synthes, IMEX, and SOP, minimally invasive plate osteosynthesis (MIPO), and total hip replacement. His experience also extends to interventional radiology, including tracheal and urethral stenting.

Today, as he establishes his new peripatetic surgical service in Hong Kong, Dr. Saulnier brings this vast international experience directly to veterinary clinics and pet owners across the city. Peripatetic surgery—mobile specialist surgery provided on-site at partner clinics—allows pets to receive advanced procedures in a familiar environment, reduces stress for both animals and owners, and supports veterinarians in delivering world-class care without the need for referral to large hospitals. This service combines surgical excellence with flexibility, accessibility, and a deep respect for the bond between owners and their pets.

Whether performing a delicate neurosurgical operation, correcting a complex orthopaedic deformity, or managing intricate soft tissue cases, Dr. Saulnier is dedicated to providing personalised, evidence-based, and compassionate care. His philosophy is shaped by decades of working in diverse environments and cultures: every patient deserves the highest standard of treatment, every client deserves clear communication, and every veterinary team deserves reliable support when facing challenging surgical cases.

Outside the operating room, François is an enthusiast of creative and athletic pursuits. He enjoys fine painting classes, plays both saxophone and guitar, and pursues an active lifestyle through cross-fit, swimming, kite surfing, snowboarding, and diving. These interests reflect his belief in balance, precision, and continual self-development—values that also define his surgical approach.

With unmatched international credentials, a rich history of clinical leadership, and a passion for elevating surgical care in Hong Kong, Dr. François Saulnier is proud to offer a new and highly specialised mobile surgical service dedicated to helping pets live longer, healthier, and more comfortable lives. His mission is simple: to deliver the best of modern veterinary surgery—anywhere it is needed!