

SELF Symposium Participant Booklet

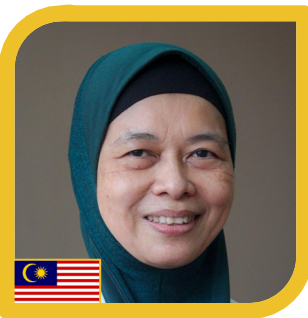
August 29-30, 2024



Participant List & Biographies

Dr Zaleha Abdullah Mahdy

Professor & Senior Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Zaleha Abdullah Mahdy graduated from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 1989. Between 1995 and 1998, she earned her Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) membership, Masters in Ob-Gyn (UKM), and MD (Newcastle University, UK). Her MD thesis on preeclampsia was sponsored by the RCOG. Currently, she is a Professor and Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at UKM Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur and served as Dean of the UKM Faculty of Medicine until February 2019. She was also the Director of UKM teaching hospital from February 2016 to November 2017. She has published 137 journal articles, several books, and over 150 abstracts. Her research interests include Malaysian antenatal growth charts, medical virtual reality (mVR), and drones for emergency medical care. She holds numerous

prestigious positions, including Malaysian Medical Council member, Chairperson of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Subcommittee, and President of the Perinatal Society of Malaysia. She attained a Taekwondo Black Belt in 2011 and is a regular cyclist.

Dr Lukman Abdur-Rahman

Professor of Surgery & Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
West African College of Surgeons



Dr Lukman Abdur-Rahman is a Professor of Surgery and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Surgeon in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, University of Ilorin and University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH), Nigeria, respectively.

He is the Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and the Vice Chairman of the Surgical Skills and Simulation Committee of the West African College of Surgeons, Pioneer Coordinator of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Laboratory (2014-2018), Coordinator of the Medical Educational Resources Unit (MERU, 2012-2014), Pioneer Director of the Centre for Injury Research and Safety Promotion (CIRASP) of the UITH, and Coordinator of the Basic Surgical Skills Course at Ilorin

Centre for West Africa College of Surgeons since 2015.

He is the Deputy Hub Director Nigeria for Education, Training, and Research for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Global Surgery Unit and the Site Principal Investigator for the NIHR Global Surgery Unit at UITH Ilorin. Lukman Abdur-Rahman is also the Vice President of the Association of Paediatric Surgeons of Nigeria.

Dr Barnabas Alayande

General Surgeon at the Center for Equity in Global Surgery
University of Global Health Equity



Barnabas Alayande, MBBS, PgDTh, MBA, FMCS (General Surgery), is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Global Health Equity, dedicated to improving global surgical care access for underserved areas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. With a background in Medicine, Surgery, Theology, and Business, he specialises in general surgery with interests in trauma care and human factors.

He has conducted research on thyroid surgery and haemorrhoid treatments and served as a medical officer and volunteer surgeon in Nigeria. Dr Alayande completed a Global Surgery fellowship with Harvard's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and is a Fogarty Global Health Fellow at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr Alayande has contributed to surgical curriculum development in Rwanda and Nigeria and has led research funded by the National Institute of Health, Fogarty International Center, and others. He has received numerous awards and honours for his work in global surgery and is a member of several prestigious surgical associations.

Dr Emmanuel Ameh

Chief Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
National Hospital, Abuja



Emmanuel A. Ameh, MBBS, FWACS, FACS, FRCSI is a Professor of Paediatric Surgery and Chief Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the National Hospital, Abuja, Nigeria. His work focuses on global surgery and improving access to children's surgical care in low-resource settings. He led the creation of Nigeria's first National Surgical, Obstetric, Anaesthesia, and Nursing Plan, prioritising children's surgery. He contributes to educational programmes for the West African College of Surgeons, the Association of Paediatric Surgeons of Nigeria, and the Pan-African Paediatric Surgical Association. He is the lead editor of the 2020 textbook *Pediatric Surgery: A Comprehensive Textbook for Africa* and was a Commissioner for the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery and the Lancet Nigeria Commission. Dr Ameh obtained his medical degree from Ahmadu

Bello University, Zaria, and completed Paediatric Surgery Fellowships at several renowned institutions, including training visits to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Children's Hospital of New York, St. James's Hospital, Leeds, and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London. He remains dedicated to training the next generation of paediatric surgeons in Nigeria and Africa.

Dr Abebe Bekele Zerihun

Dean of the School of Medicine, Professor of Surgery, General and Thoracic Surgeon
University of Global Health Equity



Abebe Bekele Zerihun, MD, FCS (ECSA), FACS, is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Research Affairs, Dean of the School of Medicine, and Professor of Surgery at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, specialising in thoracic and general surgery. He holds full professorships at Addis Ababa University and the University of Rwanda and is Editor-in-Chief of the East and Central Africa Journal of Surgery. He also serves on the editorial boards of the JAMA Health Forum and the Ethiopian Medical Journal.

Dr Bekele is a fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Master Surgical Educators of the American College of Surgeons. He is the Secretary General of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and chairs the Examinations and Credentials Committee. He has served as a senior advisor to the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health, CEO of Tikur Anbessa Teaching Hospital, and Dean of the School of Medicine at Addis Ababa University. Dr Bekele earned his MD from Gondar College of Medical Studies and completed fellowships in Medical Education and Simulation-Based Education. He is also certified in Surgical Leadership from Harvard Medical School.

Dr Emilie Calvello Hynes

Technical Officer
World Health Organization



Emilie Calvello Hynes, MD, MPH currently serves as a technical officer, Emergency and Critical Care for the World Health Organization. She trained in clinical medicine and public health at academic medical centres in the USA, and then cross-trained in disaster relief and austere trauma and emergency care. She spent her early career in humanitarian crisis response in multiple countries with various international non-governmental organisations and then pivoted her career to strengthen health systems to deliver emergency care in low- and middle-income countries. She is a full Professor of Emergency Medicine and has served as a subject matter expert to the World Bank, WHO Headquarters, US State Department, and to WHO Afghanistan for trauma and emergency care.

Dr Surafel Mulatu Djote

Assistant Professor, Consultant General Surgeon
Yekatit 12 Hospital Medical School



Surafel Mulatu Djote is an academic surgeon specializing in general and colorectal surgery at Yekatit 12 Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He graduated with an MD from Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences and completed his general surgery residency at the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons. He further advanced his expertise by undertaking a fellowship in colorectal surgery and advanced laparoscopy, including robotic surgery, at Asan Medical Center in Seoul, South Korea.

As a faculty member in the Department of Surgery at Yekatit 12 Hospital Medical College, Dr Mulatu established minimally invasive surgery services in 2021. His passion lies in expanding laparoscopic services to low-resource settings. He is deeply involved in training and mentoring surgical professionals and trainees.

Dr Mulatu leads the ALL-SAFE training site at Yekatit 12 Hospital Medical College, where he spearheads training and research on cost-effective simulation for surgical procedures.

Dr Lilian Gertrude Dodzo

Deputy Director Nurse and Midwifery Training, Education and Administration
Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care



Dr Lilian Gertrude Dodzo has 30 years of experience as a nurse-midwife and holds a PhD in Midwifery Education. Lilian completed a Leadership and Management course through AMREF in collaboration with the East Central and Southern College of Nursing and Midwifery (ECSACONM) as well as a certificate in Health Professions Education by North Coast Medical Training College in partnership with Maastricht University and ECSACONM. She is also a Global Leadership Fellow with the Florence Nightingale Foundation in the UK.

Currently, Lilian serves as Deputy Director of Nursing and Midwifery in the Ministry of Health and Child Care in Zimbabwe. As part of ECSACONM, she led the development of the midwifery fellowship programme curriculum and also serves as Council National Representative for Zimbabwe. Lilian is a proven researcher with several published articles and presented scientific papers, and she acts as an abstract reviewer for ECSACONM and International Confederation of Midwives conferences.

Her vision is to be a world-class nurse/midwifery leader, inspiring nurses and midwives to exceed their potential, and fostering teamwork to provide high-quality, comprehensive services through a primary health care approach.

Dr Ahmed ElSayed

Professor and Director

Alazhari Health Research Center, Alzaiem Alazhari University



Ahmed S. A. ElSayed, MBBS, FRCSED, FRSCED (CTh), FCS (ECSA), MHPE (Gazira), PGDIP (Bath) is a professor of surgery, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon and medical educationalist from Sudan who is currently the director at Alazhari Health Research Centre at Alzaiem Alazhari University in Khartoum, Sudan.

He is a member of many societies, including the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, a member of the Council of the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA), the previous Convener of the Cardiac Surgery Committee of the Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR)

from 2007 to 2017, Vice President of PASCAR from 2009 to 2013, an FCS and MCS examiner and member of Examinations and International Review Board committees of COSECSA, an external and internal examiner for surgery in Sudanese universities, an examiner to Addis Ababa University cardiothoracic surgery board, an MRCSEd examiner in Khartoum and Cairo, a former consultant to the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean office in Rheumatic Heart Disease and also in Quality in Extreme Adversity in 2019, and a former member of Advocacy Committee of World Heart Federation from 2020 to 2022.

He is active in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and has 66 published papers with nearly \$400,000 in grant funding since 2012. He has also given 14 guest lectures and 46 presentations in international, regional, and local conferences.

Mr Olubunmi (Bunmi) Fariyike

Medical Student (Year 4)

Stanford University



Bunmi Fariyike is a 4th year medical student and Knight-Hennessy Scholar at Stanford University planning to pursue a career in neurosurgery. He graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University with a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in Hispanic Studies. A proud Nigerian-American who is also fluent in Spanish, he is passionate about working at the intersection of engineering, medicine, and global health to improve neurosurgical access in Africa and Latin America. His global health research spans many fields, including water resource development in Ghana, sexual health initiatives in the Dominican Republic, and neurotrauma device research in Colombia.

Dr Reinou Groen

OBGYN

Alaska Native Medical Center



Reinou Groen did her OBGYN residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital after completing the Dutch Tropical Doctor Residency, including basic surgical and obstetrical care, and working with Doctors without Borders and other international organizations in several African countries. She earned a Master's Degree in International Health from the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam (KIT) and a PhD in International Epidemiology from the University of Amsterdam. The thesis for the PhD resulted from her work with Surgeons OverSeas where she, as research director, developed the Surgeons OverSeas Assessment of Surgical Needs (SOSAS), a multi-national population-based surgical survey executed in Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Nepal and leading to many research collaborations around the globe.

Her current focus is providing obstetric and gynaecological care for the Indigenous peoples of Alaska. She is a trainer for a state-wide collaborative on the education of OBGYN providers in rural areas, leads the quality control of her department, and is a researcher; all to ensure the best possible care is given.

Dr S.J. (Sally) Hanson

Site Director, University of Botswana OBGYN

Botswana Harvard Partnership



S. J. Hanson, MD, is the Site Director for the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre Botswana Program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in collaboration with the Botswana-Harvard Partnership. She is the OBGYN MMED Residency Program Director at the University of Botswana.

Dr Hanson is a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia and completed her residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has worked internationally with Doctors Without Borders, the World Health Organization, and Jhpiego.

She has participated in maternal health projects throughout the continent of Africa, emergency health care in Central America, and evidence-based obstetrics and gynaecology education in Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent. Dr Hanson worked with the Indian Health Service in the Southwestern United States and Alaska where she provided generalist care in rural settings in coastal Maine and on the Navajo reservation, high-risk obstetrics and gynaecologic surgical care at The Alaska Native Medical Center, and perinatal quality collaboration, simulation and education, and family planning outreach throughout Alaska. Her current area of interest is in novel adaptations of technology such as minimally invasive surgery and ultrasound for trainees in resource-austere settings. She is based in Botswana with her family.

Mr Joshua Hantke

Instructor, Emergency Medical Services
Foothills Community College



Joshua Hantke, NREMT-P, FP-C is a licensed flight and ground paramedic in California, USA. He currently works for REACH Air Medical Services in Napa, CA as a flight paramedic providing advanced care and rapid transportation to remote populations across a large part of Northern California. Mr Hantke also works as a ground paramedic for the Santa Clara County 911 system where he functions as a field training officer and paramedic preceptor. He is additionally a member of the EMS faculty at Foothill College teaching EMR, EMT, and paramedic students.

Mr Hantke has worked as a consultant with the Intuitive Foundation in developing the Appropedia National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) program and hopes to make emergency education more accessible for providers, current or future, so that they may continue to deliver the highest level of care in the midst of unpredictable conditions.

Dr JoAnna Hunter-Squires

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Indiana University & AMPATH



JoAnna L. Hunter-Squires, MD, FACS has been practising surgery since 2017. She chose her specialty because it allows her the opportunity to help her patients in a real way. She enjoys getting to know her patients and helping them through the healing process while they recover and thrive. Her practice philosophy is to provide the highest level of care in a warm and genuine environment and tailor that care to each individual patient.

Dr Hunter-Squires also worked at Moi University with the AMPATH academic partnership, seeking to improve the health of Kenyan people. In this role, she has contributed to the development of a low-cost simulator and skills curriculum to effectively teach open appendectomy to trainees in low-resource settings as well as the development of a surgical oncology programme.

Dr Hunter-Squires received her medical degree and completed her residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She further trained at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, in a breast surgical oncology fellowship.

Dr Wilhelmina Jallah

Founder

Hope for Women International



Dr Wilhelmina Jallah is a physician and former Minister of Health for Liberia (2018-2024). During her tenure, she led Liberia through a successful COVID-19 fight, ranking number 2 amongst other African countries for completing the COVID-19 vaccination programme. She also started the at-risk youth programme and was able to begin to reduce maternal mortality and sexual gender-based violence.

With over 30 years of experience in clinical services and public health, she founded Hope for Women International Medical Center Liberia, Inc., serving as CEO and Medical Director from 2012 to 2018. Under her leadership, the centre provided healthcare to over 50,000 patients, including during the

Ebola crisis. Dr Jallah also worked at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital as Acting Head and Educator for the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department and Director of the Gynecological Cancer Program. She was a surgeon on the National Fistula Team in 2008. As Minister of Health, she aimed to transform healthcare delivery through transparency, accountability, and good governance, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Jallah is a Fellow of the Liberia College of Physicians and the West African College of Physicians and currently chairs Liberia's COVID-19 Incident Management System.

Dr David Jeffcoach

Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon

University of California San Francisco Fresno



David R. Jeffcoach, MD, FACS, FCS (ECSA) is a trauma and acute care surgeon from California who spent the past four years working full time at Soddo Christian Hospital in southern Ethiopia as the Chair of Surgery and Program Director for the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) general surgery residency. Dr Jeffcoach has a strong interest in global surgical education and is the co-lead for team ALL-SAFE, winners of the Global Surgical Training Challenge. He is now on faculty at the University of California San Francisco Fresno as a trauma and acute care surgeon and assistant trauma medical director.

Dr Jeffcoach received his undergraduate degrees at California Polytechnic State University and his Doctor of Medicine from the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine. He completed his residency in general surgery at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine.

Dr Vikas Karade

CEO
AlgoSurg

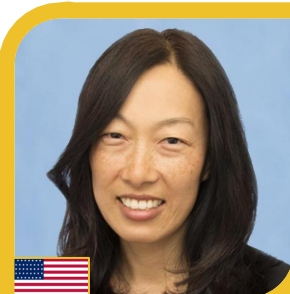


Vikas Karade is the founder of a Y-combinator backed startup company AlgoSurg Inc. He has over 10 years of experience in orthopaedic surgery simulations. He is a technology inventor who has received awards from the President and Prime Minister of India as well as many world-renowned institutions. He has won many national and international grant funding awards and has been invited as an innovation and motivation speaker at many reputable events and conferences. He is teaming up with passionate thinkers to build innovations and leadership for the better future of surgeries using AI, 3D simulations, and robotics.

Dr Karade received his Bachelor of Technology (Mechanical), Master of Technology (Computer-Integrated-Manufacturing) and Doctorate (Medical Image Processing and 3D Reconstruction) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Dr Grace Kim

Clinical Professor, Vice Chair of Education
University of Michigan



Grace J. Kim, MD is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan where she serves as an Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency as well as the Vice Chair for Education. Dr Kim is also the Chair of the General Surgery Council for the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons and serves on the Board of Directors. Dr Kim's research interests lie at the intersection of global surgery and surgical education. As co-lead of ALL-SAFE, Dr Kim has been able to combine her passions of surgical education and global surgery to serve learners, educators, and patients locally as well as around the world.

Dr Kim obtained her medical degree at Weill Cornell Medical College, completed her residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, and completed a fellowship in general surgery at the University of Texas.

Dr Dang Kim Khue

Senior Clinical Lecturer, Acting Program Director for General Surgery Residency
College of Health Sciences, VinUniversity



Dang Kim Khue graduated with a Doctor of Medicine and finished his surgical residency training at Hanoi Medical University. He has been practising surgery for eight years. After completing fellowship courses in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan, he strongly desires to improve surgical training and practice in Vietnam. At VinUniversity, Dr Khue strives to pursue academic research, work in a professional environment, train a new generation of surgeons, and ultimately improve the quality of patient care. He views VinUniversity as an excellent opportunity to fulfil his dream and the Hippocratic Oath: "I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow."

Dr Cara Liebert

Clinical Assistant Professor, General Surgery
Stanford Medicine



Cara Liebert is a board-certified General Surgeon specialising in minimally invasive surgery, focusing on robotic ventral hernia repair, abdominal wall reconstruction, and metabolic/bariatric surgery. She is a faculty member at VA Palo Alto Health Care System and a Clinical Assistant Professor at Stanford School of Medicine.

Dr Liebert graduated with Highest Distinction in Biology from UNC-Chapel Hill and earned her MD from Stanford, where she completed her General Surgery Residency and fellowships in Surgical Education and Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery.

She co-developed ENTRUST, a virtual patient simulation platform assessing trainees' decision-making competence with Dr Dana Lin and Edward F. Melcer, PhD. ENTRUST has been used for the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) Membership of the College of Surgeons (MCS) Examination since 2022.

Her research focuses on competency-based medical education and global surgical education. She holds several key roles, including Associate Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery and Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program.

Dr Carol Lim

Maternal Fetal Medicine Consultant
Ampang Hospital, Malaysia



Carol Lim is the Maternal Fetal Medicine Consultant and Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Ampang Hospital. Her interest is in obstetrics haemorrhage, obstetrics venous thromboembolism, patient blood management, and maternal health in general.

Dr Lim has been involved in development or review of various clinical practice guidelines and policymaking at state and national levels. She is also active in teaching and training of medical doctors, including speaking at conferences and conducting courses and workshops.

Ms Lemmy Mabuga

Senior Program Officer
East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing and Midwifery



Lemmy Mabuga, a Public Health specialist with over 20 years of experience, serves as a Senior Programme Officer at East, Central, and Southern Africa College of Nursing and Midwifery (ECSACONM). She excels in training health professionals and has expertise in environmental monitoring, children's rights, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, nutrition, and maternal and child health. She has a proven track record in programme design, planning, budgeting, monitoring, and leading initiatives that have improved regional health outcomes. Skilled in drafting reports, programme evaluation, and facilitating technical training, she contributes effectively to the Ministry of Health Technical Working Groups.

She is dedicated to advancing public health initiatives and enhancing community well-being through high-impact interventions and strategic partnerships. She holds a Master of Public Health from the Royal Tropical Institute in collaboration with Vrije University of Amsterdam, and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Makerere University.

Dr Emmanuel Makasa

Consultant, Orthopaedics & Trauma Surgery
University Teaching Hospital, Zambia



Emmanuel Malabo Makasa is a Global Health/Global Surgery consultant, professor, academician, researcher, and experienced clinician. He is the founding Executive Director of the Southern Africa Development Community's (SADC) University of Witwatersrand-based regional hub and Collaboration Centre for Surgical Healthcare Improvement and its spoke, the Centre for Surgical Healthcare Research in the Republic of Zambia. He chairs SADC's Technical Experts Working Group on surgical healthcare, the Partnerships Subcommittee of the Pan-African Surgical Health Forum, and is the Secretary General of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges. Professor Makasa serves on various boards and committees, including the Zambia Medical Association, Zambia Orthopaedics and Trauma Association, Lusaka Orthopaedics Research and Education Trust, Community Without Borders – Zambian Chapter, and Africa Directions.

He has extensive experience in global health diplomacy, regional and national surgical (peri-operative) health policy, and has worked as a senior health systems manager, honorary lecturer, and specialist clinician in orthopaedics and trauma surgery. Passionate about improving surgical healthcare in low- and middle-income countries, he has presented and published on universal access to surgical (peri-operative) healthcare in Africa and beyond.

Dr Ornella Masimbi

Manager, Simulation and Skills Center
University of Global Health Equity



Ornella Masimbi is a General Practitioner with over five years of experience in clinical care and healthcare simulation. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Rwanda and a Master of Science in Global Health Delivery from the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE).

As a Lecturer in the School of Medicine and Manager of the Simulation and Skills Center, she oversees operations and aligns simulation coursework with UGHE's curriculum.

Under her leadership, the centre has collaborated with renowned simulation centres such as Immersive Design Systems at Boston Children's Hospital to develop partnerships aimed at expanding Simulation-Based Education (SBE) in Rwanda and the East African Community. She is a fervent global health advocate, committed to improving medical education through research and access to advanced skills training and technologies for health workers in resource-limited countries.

Dr Tarek Meguid

Associate Professor, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
University of Namibia



Tarek Meguid is Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Namibia and Honorary Associate Professor at the Child Health Unit, Cape Town University, South Africa. He is a former Consultant at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and Associate Professor at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), School of Health and Medical Sciences, Zanzibar, Tanzania, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Namibia School of Medicine. Before that he had served as Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Bwaila Hospital and Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi. As co-founder of the Chitenje Maternity Trust in Malawi, he played a leading role in the planning and construction of two public maternity hospitals where all women can deliver in their own private rooms. He served as Medical

Officer and Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in northern Namibia's Onandjokwe Hospital for ten years before and after Namibia's independence and was visiting professor at the School of Law and Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, USA.

Tarek Meguid holds an MD from Maastricht University, the Netherlands; an MPhil in Maternal and Child Health from the University of Cape Town, South Africa; a DTM&H from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; an LLB from Nottingham Trent University; and a MSt in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University, all in the UK. He is Egyptian and German and the father of one daughter, Lara Meguid.

Dr Busisiwe Mlambo

Manager of Clinical Intelligence
Intuitive Surgical



Busisiwe Mlambo or "Busi" is a general surgeon from Zimbabwe, now based in Oxford, UK. She manages the Clinical Intelligence Team (CIT) in the Cortex division of the Digital Organization at Intuitive Surgical. CIT is responsible for the robotic surgery video annotations that provide the ground truth for machine learning algorithms and generate Objective Performance Indicators that provide surgeons with crucial, actionable insights that enable them to improve on the quality of surgery they deliver, which in turn improves patient outcomes. Busi is the Vice Chair for the Intuitive Foundation Outreach committee, which engages in initiatives to address the lack of women and minorities in STEM and healthcare professions. Busi is passionate about global surgery and the improvement in access to surgery in vulnerable populations by increasing the number of

surgeons who represent the communities in which they serve.

Dr Catherine Mohr

President
Intuitive Foundation



Catherine Mohr, MS, MD, is the President of the Intuitive Foundation, established in 2018 to promote health and advance education by making grants to 501(c)(3) organisations and foreign charities for medical research, STEM education, healthcare training, disaster relief, and similar purposes. She invests in R&D programmes to improve medical education and apply novel technologies to reduce global disease. Previously, Dr Mohr was the Vice President of Strategy at Intuitive Surgical, involved in research and strategy since 2006. Before joining Intuitive Surgical, she developed high-altitude aircraft, high-efficiency fuel cell power systems, CAD software, and medical devices.

Dr Mohr also developed the Surgical Education Learners Forum (SELF), which creates and evaluates training modules for clinicians in low-resource settings. SELF modules enable clinicians to independently learn and self-assess specific skills and are free-to-use and publicly available. She holds BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering from MIT and an MD from Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr Vanessa Moll

Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, VC of Quality and Safety
University of Minnesota



Vanessa Moll, MD, PhD, FCCM, FASA, DESA, is a Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and Vice Chair of Quality and Safety at the University of Minnesota, USA. A board-certified intensivist and anaesthesiologist, she has published over 50 articles and lectured globally. Passionate about global health equity, Dr Moll develops policies and clinical strategies to improve healthcare.

Dr Moll studied medicine at the Universities of Rostock and Leipzig, Germany, and earned a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Leipzig. She trained in Germany and completed an anaesthesiology residency and a critical care medicine fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine. She has worked in the US, Germany, Switzerland, and Africa.

Mr Eric O'Flynn

Programme Director for Education, Training and Advocacy
Institute of Global Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)



Eric O'Flynn is the Programme Director for Education, Training and Advocacy in the Institute of Global Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). Coming from an education background, he has worked on a wide range of education programmes in Ireland, Africa, and elsewhere.

He has worked on global surgery education programmes with RCSI since 2011, heading up the collaboration programme between the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa and RCSI for much of this time as well as working with partners such as the College of Anaesthesiologists of East, Central, and Southern Africa, KidsOR, and the World Health Organisation. He also worked on the Global Surgical Training Challenge. He has managed a variety of global surgery projects in e-learning, operating theatre process improvement, surgical simulation innovation, anaesthesiology training and training data collection, and he leads global surgery teaching activities in RCSI. Mr O'Flynn received his undergraduate degree from University College Cork, his Masters in Globalisation from Dublin City University, and his Master's in Leadership from the RCSI Institute of Leadership.

Mr John Ogunkeye

Executive Vice President
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Global Services



John Ogunkeye, MS is an experienced healthcare industry executive with a 40-year track record. As the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and Executive Vice President of ACGME Global Services, he offers leadership, financial stewardship, and strategic planning for the leading accreditor of US graduate medical education institutions and programmes. Additionally, he has extensive experience working with foreign governments and international organisations to establish the American postgraduate medical accreditation system, giving him excellent insight into global healthcare issues and cross-cultural healthcare environments.

Before joining ACGME, Mr Ogunkeye held leadership positions at several top US academic medical centres, including the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Sidney Kimmel Medical College–Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the University of Chicago, and the University of Colorado. He also serves on the Board of Intealth (ECFMG) and has contributed his expertise to other nonprofit boards, including physician practices, governmental authority, and an international agency. Mr Ogunkeye holds Master of Science degrees in biology and health care administration.

Ms Elizabeth Oywer

Registrar

East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing and Midwifery



Elizabeth O. Oywer brings over 40 years of experience in nursing education, practice, policy, and leadership in Kenya and globally. Her expertise spans health systems strengthening, workforce development, regulation, quality improvement, and research.

Ms Oywer has held senior roles such as Director of Nursing and CEO of the Nursing Council of Kenya, revolutionising nursing education and regulation. She has represented African nurses in prestigious organisations like the International Council of Nurses and the Global Network for Public Health Nursing, bringing international perspectives to regulatory challenges within Africa.

An accomplished researcher with several publications, Ms Oywer has also participated in WHO expert groups, enhancing knowledge sharing. Her extensive background in regulation, research, and global engagement supports the development of ethical and responsive regulatory systems in Africa.

Dr Ines Perić, PhD

Education Project Manager

Institute for Global Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)



Ines Perić is Education Project Manager at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Institute of Global Surgery. She has an MA in English Language and Literature and Pedagogy and a PhD in Pedagogy. Her background is in education, teacher training, and e-learning in several educational institutions in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ireland.

At the Institute of Global Surgery, Dr Perić is involved in developing e-learning programmes for paediatric surgeons and perioperative nurses and working on Global Surgical Training Challenge and UN Global Surgery Learning Hub.

Dr Godfrey Sama Philipo

Research and Patient Outcomes Coordinator

College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)



Godfrey Sama Philipo serves as the Research and Patient Outcomes Coordinator for the RCSI/COSECSA Collaboration Programme under the ECSA Health Community (ECSA-HC). He earned his medical degree from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania and holds a Master of Public Health from Southern Medical University in China, a Master of Global Surgical Care from the University of British Columbia (UBC), and completed a Global Surgery Fellowship at UCSF's Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia.

Dr Philipo is also an Adjunct Lecturer at the Branch for Global Surgical Care at UBC and is a co-founder of the International Students Surgical Network (InciSioN). His research focuses on paediatric surgery, cancer, and surgical oncology, conducted in collaboration with various local and international institutions. His interests include global surgery research, training, and education, incorporating Implementation Science into his work.

Dr Deborah Rooney

Director of Education and Research

University of Michigan



Deborah Rooney, PhD is the Director of Education and Research for the Clinical Simulation Center at the University of Michigan Medical School.

She has served as the Chair for the American College of Surgery AEI Technologies and Simulation Committee and contributed to the development of a simulation-based training and assessment programme for OB/GYN faculty at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr Rooney brings her expertise in medical education and simulation-based surgical education to her role as the Simulation Director and Evaluation Coordinator for ALL-SAFE, one of the winners of the Global Surgical Training Challenge.

Dr Rooney received her undergraduate degrees in Biology and Art from Michigan State University. At the University of Illinois Chicago, she earned a Master of Medical Sciences, Master of Science in Biomedical Visualization, and a Doctor of Education degree in Measurement, Evaluation, Statistics, and Assessment.

Mr Nigel Rossiter

Consultant in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery
Primary Trauma Care Foundation



Nigel D. Rossiter, MBBS, FRCSEd(Tr&Orth), FFSTEd, FIOTA, is a Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgeon from the UK. He is the interim Chair of the Primary Trauma Care Foundation and serves on the Faculty Advisory Board for Remote, Rural, and Humanitarian Healthcare at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He is involved with the Oxford University Global Surgery Group, WHO Global Alliance for Care of the Injured (GACI), and Wessex Global Health Hub.

Mr Rossiter founded the England Trauma Networks, Orthopaedic Trauma Society (OTS), and is an Emeritus Fellow of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA) & International OTA. He has participated in International Consensus panels, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) venous thromboembolism (VTE), and National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). Mr Rossiter has chaired various committees and co-authored the Superfluous Injury or Unnecessary Suffering (SIrUS) project for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) & original Surgeons in Training Education Programme (STEP) course for the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng). He has been recognised as Orthopaedic Trainer of the Year and National Health Service (NHS) Inspiring Educator of the Year finalist and received Honorary Fellowship of the British Orthopaedic Association and Award for excellence in medicine from Who's Who. He previously served in the British Army as a Trauma Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Dr Nobhojit Roy

Lead, Global Surgery
The George Institute of Global Health, India



Nobhojit Roy, MBBS, MPH, PhD is a trained General and Trauma surgeon, and Lead, Global Surgery at The George Institute of Global Health, India. Prior to this, he has been the Professor & Chief of Surgical Services at Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) in Mumbai, India; the National Advisor, Public Health Planning and Evidence to the Indian Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and Director of Health Systems Strengthening at the Bihar state level. He was one of the Lancet commissioners for Global Surgery (2015) and for Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries in the poorest billion (2020).

Dr Roy received his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, where he also completed the General Surgery Residency Program. He holds an MPH from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD from the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr Marisa Seepersaud

Paediatric Surgeon
Georgetown Public Hospital



Marisa Seepersaud, MD, MBBS, FCCS, FACS, MBA, is the Head of the Pediatric Surgical Unit at Georgetown Public Hospital and an Assistant Professor at the University of Guyana School of Medicine. For over twelve years, she has been improving surgical care for children with limited resources, and for nine of those years, she was the only paediatric surgeon in Guyana.

Dr Seepersaud implemented “daycare” surgeries to minimise hospital stays and partnered with Baby Heart to provide free heart surgeries globally. She received the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons Global Scholar Award in 2019. She is introducing specialised paediatric services and developing training programmes for the Pediatric Surgical Unit.

A graduate of the University of Guyana School of Medicine, she trained at the University of the West Indies, SickKids in Toronto, and Royal Manchester Hospital for Children. She is the Editor of the Journal of the Caribbean College of Surgeons and is pursuing an LLM in Medical Law and Ethics.

Dr Martin Derrick Smith

Chief Specialist and Head of the Department of Surgery
Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand



Martin D. Smith, MB BCh, FCS(SA), is a Professor of Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the Clinical Head of Surgery at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) in Soweto. In 2001, he established the Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Unit, one of South Africa's major training units.

Dr Smith recently retired as the Chairman and Academic Head of Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Dr Smith has served as President of the Pan-African Association of Surgeons, the European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA), and the International Hepato-Pancreato Biliary Association (IHPBA). He is currently the President of the

IHPBA Foundation. He received an honorary Fellowship of the European Board of Surgery in Hepato-Pancreatic-Biliary Surgery in 2013 and a Fellowship ad hominem from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2020. His research focuses on chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. Actively involved in Global Surgery initiatives, Dr Smith works to improve access to quality surgical care in low- and middle-income countries. He holds an MB BCh from the University of the Witwatersrand and an FCS(SA).

Dr Robert Ssekitoleko

Head of Biomedical Engineering
Makerere University



Robert T. Ssekitoleko, PhD is a lecturer, researcher and the head of the Biomedical Engineering Program at Makerere University in Uganda. His main interest is in removing barriers to global health technologies, with knowledge, experience and skills in medical device design, prototyping, devices trials, as well as capacity building. He is keen on developing effective, affordable, and easy-to-use innovative biomedical devices that can advance diagnostics, interventions, and disease monitoring in low- and middle-income countries, especially in the Sub-African region. He is currently a principal investigator on a number of projects aimed at improving access to medical devices and technologies. He is a mentor and judge at the Big Ideas hosted by University of California, Berkley and a former Judge on the Global Surgical Training Challenge.

Dr Ssekitoleko holds an MEng Degree in Medical Engineering from Queen Mary, University of London and an Engineering doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from Strathclyde University, UK.

Dr Dimitrios Stefanidis

Vice Chair of Education & Chief, Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery
Indiana University School of Medicine



Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMB, is the Harris B. Shumacker Professor of Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine, where he serves as Chief of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Surgery, and Director of the IU-RISE (Research in Innovative Surgical Education) group. He received his medical degree from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and his PhD from the University of Bonn, Germany. Dr Stefanidis completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, a surgical simulation fellowship at Tulane University in New Orleans, and a minimally invasive bariatric surgery fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC.

Dr Stefanidis serves as editor in chief for Global Surgical Education and is past president of the Association for Surgical Education. He chairs the robotic committee of SAGES and has served on its board of directors. He is the current President of the Indiana chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). His research is focused on innovative surgical education, simulation, and surgical outcomes research. His group had received one of the global training challenge grants, and he has been one of the leaders of the evidence generation group of SELF.

Dr Shareef Syed

Assistant Professor in Abdominal Transplantation
University of California San Francisco



Shareef Syed, MBChB, MAEd, MRCS, FACS is a general surgeon specialising in abdominal transplantation. He is the Associate Director of the UCSF Surgical Skills Center and Director of the Abdominal Transplant Fellowship Program.

Dr Syed earned his medical degree from the University of Leicester, UK, and completed a three-year medical and surgical residency in the National Health Service. He was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons, UK. Dr Syed completed his general surgery residency at Central Michigan University and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), followed by an abdominal transplant fellowship at UCSF.

His training includes adult and paediatric kidney and liver transplantation, laparoscopic donor nephrectomy, and hepatobiliary and dialysis access procedures. Dr Syed is a member of several professional organisations, including the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, American Society of Transplantation, and The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. He recently completed a Master's in Education at UC Berkeley. Much of his work has focused on using educational pedagogy in surgical education. He has contributed to the establishment of surgical skills labs in Africa.

Dr Tsegazeab Laeke Teklemariam

Neurosurgeon
Addis Ababa University



Tsegazeab Laeke Teklemariam, MD, PhD is a neurosurgeon by profession and a Fellow of the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and South Africa. He works at Addis Ababa University as an Associate Professor of neurosurgery at the College of Health Sciences, Division of Neurosurgery. He is involved in clinical research, mainly in trauma-related research and neuro-oncology. He finished his PhD on Neurotrauma Care in Ethiopia: Building for the Future.

Dr Laeke Teklemariam is the current President of the Society of Ethiopian Neurological Surgery Professionals. He is also a board member of Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa, a nongovernmental organisation engaged in trauma prevention, surveillance, and acute care. He is a board member of the Canadian Network for International Surgery, a nonprofit organisation that promotes the access of essential surgical care to patients in low-income countries. Dr Laeke Teklemariam completed his medical degree and residency at Addis Ababa University School of Health Sciences.

Dr Amelia Latu Afuhaamango Tuipulotu

Chief Nursing Officer
World Health Organization



Amelia Latu Afuhaamango Tuipulotu, PhD, RN, was the first female Minister for Health for the Kingdom of Tonga, from 2019 to December 2021. She led the response for the Measles outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic for the Kingdom of Tonga, up to December 2021. For both emergencies, there were no reported deaths during her leadership tenure. Prior to that role Dr Tuipulotu was the National Chief Nursing Officer. Her PhD work informed the development of the Tonga National Professional Standards for the Registered Nurse and is mandated within the Act 2021.

Dr Tuipulotu received the Professional Achievement Alumni award in 2014 from the University of Sydney and has served as Honorary Adjunct Associate Professor. In 2024, she received an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She was decorated with the Knight Grand Cross: Royal Order of the Crown of the Kingdom of Tonga by His Majesty King Tupou VI in 2021. Dr Tuipulotu was a member of the WHO Executive Board (EB) and WHO EB Rapporteur in 2020. She has been awarded the Prime Minister Excellent Establishment Award, International Women Leadership, Police Medal and Patronage awards.

Dr Tuipulotu is committed to championing and supporting the world's largest health and care workforce — nurses and midwives — to transform health systems to promote and protect health and well-being, keep the world safe, promote gender equity and serve the vulnerable. Dr Tuipulotu joined the World Health Organization as Chief Nursing Officer in January 2023.

Dr Chisom Udeigwe-Okeke

Paediatric Surgeon
National Hospital Abuja Nigeria



Chisom R. Udeigwe-Okeke, MBBS, FWACS, is a Paediatric Surgeon at the Division of Paediatric Surgery, National Hospital Abuja, Nigeria, whose training and practice is driven by a passion to bridge the gap between surgical diseases and access to optimal healthcare delivery for children in low- and middle-income countries. To this end, she is actively involved in implementation of the National Surgical, Obstetric, Anesthesia and Nursing Plan for Nigeria and is an active member of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery. She is working closely with the KidsOR to study the impact of creating dedicated children's surgery infrastructure in Nigeria. Additionally, she is a key member of the Colostomy in Newborns simulation team, a recipient of the Discovery Award of the Global Surgical Training Challenge. She is presently involved in the SELF safe paediatric male circumcision simulation model.

Dr Habila Umaru

Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgeon
National Hospital Abuja Nigeria



Habila Umaru, MD, is an Orthopaedics & Trauma Surgeon at the National Hospital Abuja and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital & Medicare. He is also Team Co-Lead for the Tibial Fracture Fixation (TFF) project, one of the winners of the Global Surgical Training Challenge. Dr Umaru has published research on the inappropriate use of prophylactic antibiotics, highlighting how non-compliance with standard antibiotic prophylaxis protocols (SAPs) can increase surgical site infections, lead to resistant organisms, and escalate healthcare costs. His study focused on the awareness and compliance of Nigerian orthopaedic surgeons with SAPs in implant surgeries.

Mr Emilio Velis

Executive Director
Appropedia Foundation



Emilio Velis is an industrial engineer from San Salvador, El Salvador, who serves as the Appropedia Foundation's Executive Director, promoting access to knowledge on sustainability and poverty reduction. He is also part of the Global Innovation Gathering advisory board, the Appropriate Technology Magazine editorial board, and the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Mr Velis brings over fourteen years of expertise in community development, open hardware, and open licensing to advocate for the responsible use of new technologies to solve global issues ranging from community violence to climate change. He received the MIT Technology Review's Innovators Under 35 Central America award in 2015 and was named one of the 100 Most Innovative People in Latin America by Bloomberg Línea in 2023. Mr Velis received his degree in Industrial Engineering

from the Universidad de El Salvador.

Dr Peter Weinstock

Executive Director, Immersive Design Systems
Harvard Medical School



Dr Peter Weinstock, MD, PhD, a paediatric critical care physician at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, has dedicated over 20 years to enhancing surgical simulation training. He started this initiative to improve surgeons' techniques for rare but high-stakes interventions, such as hydrocephalus. Recognizing the relationship between practice volume and quality outcomes, Dr Weinstock developed simulation models to ensure surgeons were prepared for these critical cases. He established the world-renowned Immersive Design Systems lab at Boston Children's, a human-centred design lab for training and rapid prototyping.

Dr Weinstock is also interested in simulation training for low- and middle-income countries, focusing on making training accessible and relevant for practitioners in remote settings. He emphasises the importance of designing low-cost, high-fidelity simulators tailored to specific procedural needs.

Dr Rex Wong

Director
Bill and Joyce Cummings Institute of Global Health, University of Global Health Equity



Rex Wong, DPT, MPH, MS, is the Director of the Bill and Joyce Cummings Institute of Global Health at the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), leading and teaching the Master of Science in Global Health Delivery programme. With over 28 years of global hospital and healthcare experience, he has worked in countries such as Liberia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Egypt, Australia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, India, Hong Kong, the US, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tanzania.

Previously, Dr Wong directed the Hospital Strengthening Initiative at Yale University, focusing on health management and hospital quality improvement projects. He also served as Country Director in Rwanda and Egypt and Regional Director in Ethiopia, contributing to the Ethiopia Hospital Management Initiative, which became the Ethiopian Hospital Reform Implementation Guidelines (2010). His work included setting up Ethiopia's national KPI reporting database.

Dr Wong has also held roles as CEO and COO of a private hospital in Panama, participated in hospital startups in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and evaluated the Tanzania Coca Cola supply chain programme. He has presented at international conferences, been a guest speaker at various universities, and published over 40 articles.

Dr Sherry M Wren

Professor of Surgery
Stanford University



Sherry Wren, MD, FACS, FCS(ECSA), FISS, is a Professor of Surgery at Stanford School of Medicine, Director of Global Surgery at the Center for Innovation and Global Health, and Director of Surgery at the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System. She serves as Secretary of the American College of Surgeons and has current and past professorships at Stellenbosch University, Queen Mary University of London, and Uniformed Health Services University.

Dr Wren has leadership roles in numerous surgical organisations and editorial boards, including JAMA Surgery and is the current Editor in Chief of the World Journal of Surgery. Her clinical focus is on gastrointestinal malignancy and surgical robotics, with research interests in surgical outcomes, robotics, cancer, and global/humanitarian surgery. She also worked with Doctors Without Borders.

Dr Wren earned her BA from Carleton College, MD from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, and completed her general and Hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) training at Yale, University of Pittsburgh, and Los Angeles County + University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center.

Mr Oliver Wylie

Founder & Chief Operating Officer
Amodisc



Oliver Wylie originally trained as a Pharmacologist, to then transition into the entrepreneurial world. After commercial roles at GlaxoSmithKline, he joined Smiths Group's fast-track management programme, contributing to supply chain re-engineering and developing a new product for Smiths Medical with potential UK sales of £16 million. At Stryker, he helped develop a cloud-based e-healthcare tool for implant sizing and surgeon marketing.

An ex-International President of J&J enlisted Mr Wylie to launch the first generic medical device manufacturer, aiming to disrupt the \$450 billion industry. Oliver played a key role in funding, lobby strategy, and global expansion, earning praise as a major advancement in orthopaedics. He co-founded Amodisc, providing remote training and support tools for medical trainees and trainers, NGOs, and device manufacturers.

Oliver serves on the NHS Academic Health Sciences Networks panel, mentors on the NHS England Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, and sits on boards of companies in AI, workflow, diagnostics, and stroke pathways.

Dr Nasuha Yaacob

Consultant, Reproductive Medicine
Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah



Dr Nasuha Yaacob is an obstetrician and gynaecologist, who is passionate about quality service, accessible healthcare delivery, and humanitarian work.

Dr Yaacob has wide experience working in health clinics, rural districts, as well as tertiary hospitals providing comprehensive care for women. She has wide experience in quality activities, e.g. QA projects, clinical audit, and root cause analysis. She subspecialised in Reproductive Medicine & Infertility. She went 'home' to Ireland where she did her medical degree at Trinity College. This time she trained under Dr Edgar Mocanu, in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. She is the Head of Reproductive Services at Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah Kuala Terengganu since 2016.

She also has a deep passion for humanitarian work. She has been deployed to reproductive health response to various disaster areas, mostly Syria. She assisted local communities in capacity building of healthcare workers, mainly in providing safe childbirth. She has served as a member of the WHO technical working group for maternal child health in emergencies.

She was the recipient of the Sunway Scholarship and successfully completed Harvard Medical School's postgraduate certificate programme in Southeast Asia Leadership in Medicine (SEAL) in 2021.

The team powering the event

Program Fellows

Mr Tomas Amadeo

Design Consultant
Amadeo Design LLC



Tomas Amadeo, MS, is a mechanical engineer, design consultant, STEM educator, and artist based out of Portland, Maine, USA, specialising in product development and machine design. He earned his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, where he conducted research on soft-robotic medical devices and published research on novel origami-based actuators for neurosurgery in collaboration with clinical partners at Boston Medical Center. Mr Amadeo has a diverse background in industry, with previous roles at Boyd Corp. and Molex where he focused on developing innovative thermal management solutions for telecommunications, data centres, and consumer electronics. Mr Amadeo now works as a consultant addressing a wide range of design challenges.

Dr Muse Freneh

Paediatric Surgery Resident
Bethany Kids/Kijabe Hospital



Muse Freneh, MD is a fifth-year paediatric surgery resident at Bethany Kids Kijabe hospital in Kenya. Originally from Ethiopia, Dr Freneh has been training in Kenya for the last 3 years. He contributed as part of the ALL-SAFE development team, the overall winner of the Global Surgical Training Challenge in 2023. He helped develop the first model for a low-cost laparoscopy training box as well as the ectopic pregnancy model. He has continued to be involved with SELF at the 2023 COSECSA conference in Addis Ababa by engaging with conference attendees and bringing them up to speed about the significant role Intuitive Foundation is playing in advancing surgical training in many African countries and beyond. Dr Freneh is passionate about surgical training and advancement of surgical care in the continent of Africa.

Ms McKenzie Kennedy

Undergraduate Student
Michigan State University



McKenzie Kennedy is an undergraduate student in Neuroscience and Business at Michigan State University. She served as a volunteer and ambassador for Give Volunteers, where she assisted in constructing a school and teaching English in Zanzibar, Tanzania. She has experience as a research assistant with the Michigan State College of Nursing and the University of Michigan, focusing on improving financial healthcare and healthy lifestyles in adolescents. Currently, she works professionally as a caretaker for a private family stroke survivor and as a rehabilitation technician at Hope Network Neuro Rehabilitation, focusing on neurologically injured individuals' recovery and daily needs.

Ms Erin Kim

MD/MPH Candidate
University of Michigan School of Medicine



Erin Kim is an MD/MPH candidate at the University of Michigan. Ms Kim is dedicated to overcoming challenges in surgical education in LMICs through innovation. She is the Program Manager for ALL-SAFE, an open-source simulation-based learning tool for laparoscopy in LMICs. Recognized as the grand prize winner of the Global Surgical Training Challenge, ALL-SAFE has successfully introduced six clinical modules that focus on developing psychomotor and cognitive skills for laparoscopy. Previously, Erin served as a research assistant in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and as a Global Health Policy Intern at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Tanzania. Erin has also engaged in health systems research in Ghana. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology, Health, and Society from Cornell University, with minors in Global and

Public Health and Inequality studies.

Ms Rachel O'Reggio

MD Candidate

University of Michigan School of Medicine



Rachel O'Reggio is an experienced healthcare professional with over 10 years of experience working in healthcare settings, consulting, and government, i.e. for the United States Senate. Rachel is a graduate of Andrews University and holds a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida. As a medical student at the University of Michigan, she has worked tirelessly to fight for the rights of the underserved. She is passionate about God, her family, travel and being an advocate for the disability community particularly as an appointee to a US presidential campaign health policy committee. She hopes to one day change the field of healthcare by working as a surgeon or healthcare administrator.

Dr Christopher Reynolds

Surgery Resident

University of Michigan School of Medicine



Christopher Reynolds, MD is a general surgery resident at University of Michigan Medicine. Originally from Delaware, USA, he studied biochemistry and theology at Boston College as an undergraduate. Following graduation, he conducted health services research in Colombia through a Fulbright Grant. He subsequently attended the University of Michigan Medical School, where he received an MD and MS in Health Infrastructures and Learning Systems. He has an interest in global surgery, humanitarian aid delivery, and implementation science, with current projects in Liberia and with asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.

Ms Emily Spessert

Consultant



Emily Spessert is a biomedical engineer and global health professional with a BSE in Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and an MSc in Global Health and Surgery from King's College London. She served as the Head of Research and Engineering Development at Medical Aid International, where she led capacity building initiatives to enhance healthcare technology in low-to-middle income countries. Ms Spessert's work includes a comprehensive study across 12 LMICs, addressing key challenges in medical device access and safety for biomedical engineers and technicians. Her thesis on obstacles faced by biomedical engineers in sub-Saharan Africa informs her current projects. Previously, she worked as a development engineer at Zimmer Biomet, focusing on orthopaedic implant design and development. Dedicated to female

empowerment, Emily has co-led three workshops in Ethiopia for young women with the American NGO: Three Rotos International.

Ms Maria Stefanidou

Post Baccalaureate



Maria Nefeli Stefanidou is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington where she holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology with a focus on Human Health and Disease. She also minored in Studio Art and Chemistry. She has worked as an undergraduate teaching intern for both Biology and Chemistry as well as supported research projects on Bariatric Surgery, Surgical Plane Recognition, Surgical Ergonomics, and Crystallography. She is interested in scientific illustration and plans to pursue an MD/PhD in 2025.

Ms Sindhu Suryanarayana

Engineer
Intuitive Surgical



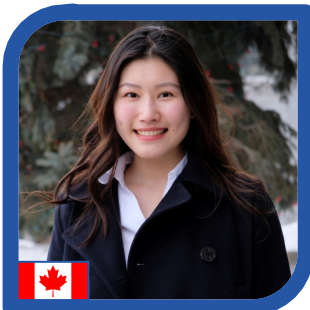
Sindhu Suryanarayana is a Senior Embedded Software Engineer at Intuitive Surgical. Her work focuses on optimising graphics processing units and video streaming technologies for the Ion robotic system.

With a strong commitment to advancing the field of surgical robotics, Ms Suryanarayana is dedicated to leveraging cutting-edge technology to transform surgical practices and improve patient outcomes.

Previously, Sindhu worked as a Senior Software Engineer at NVIDIA, where she specialised in enhancing the power and performance of GPUs. Her work was instrumental in supporting AI/ML applications and improving the efficiency of high-performance computing systems.

Ms Jacqueline Yao

Medical Student
Stanford University School of Medicine



Jacqueline Yao, from Montreal, Canada, is a 3rd-year medical student at Stanford University School of Medicine in the Physician-Scientist Training Program. She holds a B.Sc. from McGill University, where she majored in microbiology and immunology, interned at the American Public Health Association, and developed a deep interest in democratizing health care access as a youth delegate at the United Nations Commission for Social Development. She aspires to be a physician-scientist who advocates for greater surgical access in resource-constrained settings. Her research interests include validating drugs against hearing loss and understanding the mechanisms of inner ear development. At Stanford, she is a lab manager at the Cardinal Free Clinic and a Clinical Skills teaching assistant for first-year medical students. Born in Singapore and a facilitator at the 2023 SELF Symposium, Jacqueline is excited to work with distinguished attendees at this year's symposium.

Staff & Production Team

Ms Dale Bergman

Grant Program Manager and Manager of Research Programs
Intuitive Foundation and Intuitive Surgical



Dale Bergman is Grant Manager of the Intuitive Foundation and has been the manager of Research Programs for Intuitive Surgical since 2012. Ms Bergman has a diverse background, which spans across grant management, preclinical/clinical trials, ultrasound and research activities.

Prior to joining Intuitive, Ms Bergman was the research manager for Hansen Medical, managing preclinical and clinical trials. Ms Bergman has also previously held a variety of roles at Acuson and Siemens Healthcare, focused on cardiac and vascular ultrasound projects.

Ms Bergman holds registry credentials in Adult Echography and Vascular Sonography as well as an AS in cardiopulmonary technology from Santa Fe Community College and AA from Ocala Community College.

Mr David Brown

Head of Content
The Wujec Group



David Brown is a senior editor, writer, and content leader with over 10 years' experience in building strategies, campaigns, and assets for high-profile clients in a variety of industries. As Head of Content for The Wujec Group, he focuses on helping teams and organisations tackle their most challenging problems with the Wicked Problem Solving method. He oversees editorial strategy and execution, defines and coordinates marketing strategy and execution, and manages content production. He is an award-winning writer and editor of multiple New York Times bestsellers.

Mr Mitch Corwin

Learning Advisor, Laurel



Mitch Corwin is a seasoned educator and instructional designer. He works for Laurel, a consultancy that powers the SELF programme. Mitch has led the design and the SELF Symposium programme in 2023 and 2024. He holds a Master of Science in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Prior to joining Laurel, Mitch designed and developed online courses relating to social innovation, impact measurement, and business development. He has also designed and managed novel apprenticeship programmes in New England for engineers and business operations managers.

Mr Patrick Diamond

CEO, Laurel



Patrick Diamond builds strategies aimed at solving problems for people. Laurel is the consultancy that powers the SELF programme and is the culmination of his experience as philanthropic advisor, programme manager, and extensive learning in the areas of health innovation, impact measurement, social entrepreneurship, and public policy.

He is working to democratise surgical training in low- and middle-income countries, scale biomedical engineering training across 30 health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa, and equitably administer grants to experimental career-connected learning organisations in the United States.

Ms Alicia Fougere

Executive Assistant
Intuitive Foundation



Alicia Fougere supports Dr Catherine Mohr as her Executive Assistant. She joined the Intuitive Foundation in 2023, having previously worked at Fortune 100 companies and at educational and industry-based nonprofits as an executive assistant and in relationship management. Ms Fougere has lived and worked in the US, UK, Ecuador and Argentina, speaks Spanish fluently, and currently lives on the East Coast of the US. She is passionate about improving the quality of life for people in low-resource areas and supporting the work of the Intuitive Foundation to innovate and improve access to surgical education. Alicia received her BS in International Development from the University of Chester, and her MS in Latin American Development from the University of London.

Dr Megan Kern

Program Leader and Science Advisor, Laurel



Dr Megan Kern has supported the Intuitive Foundation as part of Laurel since January 2023. Dr Kern has managed the SELF working groups and oversaw the writing of the SELF article suite to communicate the efforts and goals of SELF. A practised scientific communicator, Megan has engaged with leaders at several global educational conferences in Chicago, Montréal, Addis Ababa, and Glasgow. Megan has a PhD from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. In her thesis research, she studied the biomechanical properties of macrophages during phagocytosis using super-resolution and atomic force microscopy. Megan is based in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Mr Ian Mulholland

Data Practice Leader, Laurel



Ian Mulholland is a practiced data scientist, project manager, and social innovator. He supports the SELF programme as a technical advisor. Ian is a specialist in data / cybersecurity, data engineering, visualization, and descriptive and predictive analysis. Ian is most proud of his work building teams and cultures around learning, communication, and humour. Ian holds a Master of Information Management and Systems degree from University of California, Berkley and a BA in International Studies, Economics, and French from The Ohio State University.

Mr Tom Wujec

Founder and CEO
The Wujec Group



Tom Wujec is a technologist, executive consultant and facilitator, multi-TED speaker, award-winning author, and creator of the Wicked Problem Solving® system. For 30 years, Mr Wujec has developed advanced digital tools for designers to make better cars and buildings, more beautiful and sustainable consumer products, and more captivating movies and playable games. Maya, an advanced animation application, won an Academy Award for its contribution to the film industry. Mr Wujec helped develop Sketchbook Pro, which is used by 40 million designers and artists.

Mr Wujec has also delivered over 400 keynotes globally, speaks at TED regularly (with talks that have been viewed over 20 million times), and has written seven books on emerging technologies, design thinking, and creative collaboration.

