



# Annual Report 2019

# Letter from the Board

## *Our Vision*

Universal access to safe and affordable surgical care when needed is both a moral and a strategic imperative for all human beings

## *Our Mission*

To initiate, facilitate and collaborate to improve global surgical care by research, educational and training projects



Since inception in 2018 we have been working hard to figure out a way to give our work structure and broaden our opportunities to achieve a higher impact. This is slowly taking shape as our experience grows and we are guided by the people we collaborate with.

The year 2019 has taught us important lessons on how to work sustainably and implement more efficient management structures, and opened up fruitful partnerships with several groups.

On behalf of GSA, we would like to thank all our trainees, partners, sponsors, donors, and the communities in which we work.

- Claire, Thom, Louise, Zavira, Jurre & Matthijs

# Research

GSA aims to foster a culture of analysis, innovation and improvement in global surgery, and therefore conducts several sustainable research programs.

In Masanga Hospital Sierra Leone our research team is working hard on assessing the impact of Digital Education and Training Tools in Low- and Middle Income Countries. This project includes the development of training tools and analysis of their effects when implemented into local training systems.

We are further evaluating access to trauma care and outcome of treatment for patients who suffer a fracture in a rural area of Tanzania in collaboration with Haydom Lutheran Hospital. Patient inclusion was started this year.

Our ongoing research programme in Haydom Hospital in Tanzania on burn care has made great progress. The first articles will be published in Q1 2020.

The Global Paediatric Burns Collaboration jointly organised with ICOPLAST and InciSiOn Student Network was placed on hiatus and will be resumed in 2020.



# Education



Cause of death after trauma  
•Multi-center analysis of 625 trauma death  
•Cause of death

Our opportunities to increase awareness and knowledge on global surgery have been exponentially growing. We were included in the organisation and design of the Global Surgery Course of the Utrecht Summer School 2019. Students, residents and doctors from all over the world were working together on different topics concerning essential surgical care and surgical research in low- and middle-income countries. This event is to be organised yearly.

Our team members have given presentations at 4 academic medical universities to medical students, junior doctors as well as senior consultants. The national surgical association invited us to hold a session on global surgery, where 150 dutch surgical trainees were present, and involved in discussions on the global surgical burden of disease and how each one of us can have a lasting impact. Throughout the year we also visited several international conferences such as the European Burns Association Conference to present our research and expand our networks with fellow global surgeons.

Supporting the Resident Global Surgery Collaborative that organise an ongoing monthly forum for low- and middle income countries, discussing patient case based discussions has offered both junior as senior members of our team to exchange knowledge and share clinical experience with residents from all over the world.

# **Training On the Job**



GSA is trying to help shift from parachute missions to sustainable “training on the job” programs. We aim to visit the same centres regularly, with the same core team, focusing on education and training. Instead of solely performing complicated surgeries, we choose to teach one specific skill (for example skin grafting) to the local staff. In 2019, two trainings missions were executed in Haydom Hospital in Tanzania in collaboration with Doctors of the World. The first mission mainly focused on acute burn surgery, contracture release and hand surgery. The second visit focused on the treatment of complex limb fractures. In collaboration with the local team, two new PhD programs have been set up regarding these subjects.

In September 2019, we were invited by Friendship NGO, Bangladesh for an exploratory surgical mission on one of the floating hospital ships in the remote Char area in the north of Bangladesh. As a result of this successful visit, a collaboration for both research and regular trainings missions has been ignited between Friendship and GSA.

Together with several members of GSA and international partners we aim to improve trainings programs in Sierra Leone.

# Training Off the Job

In 2019 the Amsterdam Skills Centre has become a collaborator in global surgery and several projects were initiated on the development of study materials. We were also offered an office in the Amsterdam Skills Centre as our scientific base. We intensified our partnership with the Medical Learning Experience centre (MLX) to develop a Library of Global Surgery; interactive multimedia books on the main subjects of essential surgery. In 2019, the start of the first two books Burn care and Hernia Repair were initiated. In collaboration with Touch Surgery, Global Surgery Amsterdam has designed and created video simulations on hernia repair and split skin grafts recorded in Sierra Leone. These recordings are part of a research project to evaluate the use of video learning within a surgical training program in West Africa.



# Financial Report

The past year saw many successes in fundraising and implementation of projects. In 2019 we started our successful partnership with the Dutch Schumacher Kramer Stichting. We raised project-specific funds, with a contract for up to 3 years. GSA was also able to secure funding for trauma and the burns care research projects by collaborating with the Otto Kranendonkfonds and the Dutch Burns Foundation.

In 2019, GSA spent €5000 of its resources to make sure the first projects were implemented and continued. All in all, we are content with the fact that we kept the operating deficits very limited. Given the amount of grants that have been pledged until the end of 2022, we deem this acceptable.

For the coming year, we hope that this healthy financial trend continues. Our goal is to obtain funding for our activities in 2020 and the upcoming 2 years. Our current fundraising capacities are therefore fully focused on securing income for this period.



# Our Team

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