

Chairman's Report
International Federation of Surgical Colleges
Annual General Meeting
Kigali, Rwanda 5th December 2018

Introduction

The International Federation of Surgical Colleges (IFSC) has had a productive and busy year.

One of the great advantages that the IFSC has is being in Special Relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which brings people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world.

We continue to focus on surgical training aspects, supporting in-country training events in sub-Saharan Africa in line with capacity building as highlighted by Resolution 68.15.

The IFSC has been involved in a number of events with regard to the countries who are now either implementing or developing their National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plans.

Appropriate Data Collection is of particular interest. Providing a clear baseline is imperative for MoH's to be able to assess scaling up of healthcare services, particularly in the District Hospitals. The IFSC is keen to advise and connect interested parties who can assist in this process.

February

The President attended the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) Annual Conference in Banjul in the Gambia. This was a well organised meeting and provided an opportunity to discuss the potential of holding various courses run by the IFSC in the WACS Region. Plans are on-going and the IFSC hopes to pilot the International Cambridge Anastomosis Workshop in Nigeria in 2019 together with the Management of Surgical Emergencies Course.

During the WACS Conference the President also attended a WHO Regional session which introduced the Regional Actions Framework and approach to Universal Health Coverage in the West African Region and identified ways to implement the WHA resolution on Essential and Emergency Surgery in Africa.

The IFSC participated in a successful Laparoscopic Workshop in Namibia with Paul Gartell on Faculty.

March

March 21-22nd, 2018. Harvard Medical School, Program in Global Surgery and Social Change held a National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Planning (NSOAP) Workshop at their Center for Global Health Delivery in Dubai to which the President was invited.

Recognizing the indispensable role of surgical care and anaesthesia in achieving Universal Health Coverage (SDG 3.8), the technical workshop supported country-led plans for scaling up of surgical and anaesthesia care as part of health system strengthening, explored potential financing mechanisms and drew on case studies of countries that are at different stages of planning and implementation.

On behalf of the G4 Alliance the President chaired a Global Surgery Implementation Showcase during this Workshop entitled “Connection, Collaboration and Networking” which included 10 Interactive lightning round presentations from implementing organizations, NGOs and social enterprise programmes which featured examples of successful collaborations supporting national surgical planning and implementation. The IFSC presentation focused on supporting surgical training & education in sub-Saharan Africa; an essential element for capacity building within NSOAPS. Participants learnt about different strategies for supporting implementation of their Plans.

April

The IFSC sponsored two International Cambridge Anastomosis Workshops which were held Zambia, the first held in Lusaka and the second in Kitwe. A dedicated “Train the Trainers” Course was held in each venue to provide sustainability. This brings the total number of

International Cambridge Anastomosis Workshops delivered in s-SA to **8** since 2015 with **48** trainers and **108** trainees trained. The feedback has been very positive.

May

The President always attends the World Health Assembly to support the WHO's Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC). The IFSC facilitated members and colleagues in obtaining WHA Grounds Passes; 30 in total. There is no cost to us.

The President attended a Technical Meeting organised by Dr. Walt Johnson, Lead, Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Programme at WHO, held on Thursday 24th May to discuss the WHO Emergency and Essential Surgical Care Programme (EESC). The scaling up of the UHC, with Surgery, Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Care as part of strengthening health systems and sustainable development, is a major contribution.

The President currently sits on the Board of the G4 Alliance and as such attended a Board Meeting and Permanent Council meeting in Geneva to discuss positive ways forward in delivering surgical care in LMICs. The IFSC also supported an Advocacy Event hosted by the G4 Alliance, GE Foundation and the Partnership for Maternal, New Born and Child Health entitled "Global Surgery: A Powerful Strategy for Advancing Women's Health" on Monday evening, 21 May 2018. There was a great turnout with high-level officials from leading civil society organizations, country representatives and private sector partners. The event enabled all attendees to explore effective strategies for improving safe surgical care and advancing women's health as part of the sustainable development agenda.

August

The President was pleased to be invited to attend a National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia National Plan Workshop for Zimbabwe on 28 August held in Harare and gave a lecture entitled "Progress in surgical training and dissemination of surgical services in member countries". He also attended a Surgical Society of Zimbabwe meeting held in Triangle, South Zimbabwe.

September

The IFSC was invited by the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka, one of our members, to run an International Cambridge Anastomosis Workshop in Colombo from 12 – 15 September. The Workshop was a great success with a Train Trainers Course up front. We had very positive feedback.

October

The American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Boston, USA.

The President attends this annual meeting each year and is honoured to participate in the Opening Ceremony. He attended the International Surgical Leaders meeting at which a number of mutual aspects were discussed including a separate committee to liaise with Operation Giving Back which is the College's overseas arm.

Historically he is invited to the Presidents and Governors Dinners although this year thanks to British Airways cancelling his flight he was only able to attend the latter.

The President was asked earlier this year to sit on the independent Advisory Board for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery. He was invited to attend the Annual Prioritisation Workshop which took place in Kigali from 30 October to 03 November. This was a very positive meeting with many good ideas to get local surgeons in s-SA involved.

The IFSC Website

This year we have had 1,281 users with 2,274 page views. We have been utilising the News / Blog to upload short reports which is popular. We shall continue to develop the site and utilise Twitter to encourage more users. We shall be updating the site again in detail in early 2019. We wish to encourage more links with other organisations and reciprocal guest blogs.

Skills Courses undertaken since 1999

➤ Basic Surgical Skills.....	38
➤ Colorectal Skills Courses.....	2
➤ Laparoscopic Skills.....	21
➤ Anastomosis Workshops.....	9
➤ Management of Surgical Emergencies.....	7
➤ Theatre & Recovery Nurse Training Courses.....	30
➤ Training the Trainers.....	25
Total.....	132

Participants on Courses 1999 – 2018

➤ Basic Surgical Skills	546
➤ Colorectal Skills.....	26
➤ Laparoscopic Skills.....	200
➤ Anastomosis Workshops.....	108
➤ Management of Surgical Emergencies.....	126
➤ Theatre Nurse Training Courses.....	698
➤ Train the Trainers (for appropriate Courses).....	440
Total.....	2,144