



# PROGRAM IN GLOBAL SURGERY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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Strategy Framework

September 2018

# VISION

*Chirurgia Pro Omnibus*

Universal access to safe, affordable, and timely surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia care

# MISSION

Strengthening surgical systems as part of universal health coverage through research, policy development, and training leaders in academic global surgery

# CORE VALUES

Health Equity & Social Justice

Collaboration & Accompaniment

Evidence-based Innovation & Sustainable Solutions



# INTRODUCTION

Though only recently quantified, the global surgical burden was identified by Dr. Halfdan Mahler in 1980 as an unresolved challenge to achieving health as a human right. We strive to strengthen surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care systems throughout the world in support of achieving universal health coverage as set forth in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC) was founded in 2008 to connect medical students and residents with faculty dedicated to training future leaders in academic global surgery through the pursuit of research that informs policy development. Although PGSSC fully recognizes the importance of clinical education in support of capacity building and care delivery in low-resource settings, we acknowledge that other organizations are better equipped for these objectives.

PGSSC was one of the leading teams of the 2015 Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, which brought attention to the burden of surgically treatable conditions worldwide by providing a new evidence-base and specific policy recommendations for strengthening surgical systems at the local and national level. Through 2018, it has continued to build on the Lancet Commission by being a leader in translational research that supports evidence-based advocacy and collaborative policy development in support of achieving the sustainable development goals and universal health coverage.



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

## RESEARCH

- I. Conduct collaborative research in support of local partners to establish a baseline understanding of local healthcare patterns in low-resource settings, especially with regard to access to safe, affordable surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia care
- II. Support research that interrogates and enhances the framework set forth by the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery and supports evidence-based policy development, centered on these domains:
  - a. Implementation science
  - b. Quality improvement
  - c. Macro- and microeconomic analysis
    - Cost-effectiveness
    - Economic burden of disease
    - Financial risk protection
- III. Develop research infrastructure and capacity in collaboration with ministries of health, surgical colleges and medical centers in low- and middle-income settings that advances the field of global surgery, obstetrics, and anesthesia, prioritizing projects along the following criteria:
  - a. Support from local collaborators
  - b. Feasibility of project completion
  - c. Mentorship to support the project
  - d. Academic merit of the project
    - Extent to which the project builds on existing work or establishes a foundation for future research
    - Novelty of research question and/or approach
    - Potential impact on policy and future research



## POLICY

- I. Develop sustainable policies to strengthen surgical systems in collaboration with global partners, including ministries of health and WHO, through the implementation of recommendations from Lancet Commission on Global Surgery. Specifically, facilitate:
  - a. Collection of core indicators laid forth by the Commission in collaboration with global data collection efforts (e.g. WHO Global Health Observatory, World Bank World Development Indicators)
  - b. Development of contextually appropriate National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Plans (NSOAPs), strategic plans in collaboration with ministries of health and other stakeholders to strengthen surgical care systems
  - c. Evaluation of NSOAP implementation by ensuring appropriate follow-up
- II. Engage ministries of health and multilateral organizations (WHO, World Bank) in surgical system strengthening by obtaining support from global and public health communities, clinicians, academic surgical programs, philanthropists and global funding agencies. Specific goals include:
  - a. Strengthening academic, financial, and political commitment to improving global surgical care through strategic advocacy by highlighting surgical inequities and demonstrating success in effort to improve surgical access and quality
  - b. Advocating for surgery as a priority within international institutions and global funding bodies to ensure that ministries of health have the necessary financial and technical resources and skills to develop safe, affordable surgical and anesthesia programs
- III. Bridge the gap between global surgery and health policy through research and publications, including joint efforts with public health leaders outside of global surgery
- IV. Strengthen our partnership with WHO as a WHO Collaborating Center through research, policy, and fellow rotations through WHO HQ



## TRAINING ACADEMIC GLOBAL SURGERY LEADERS

- I. Provide trainees with a structured educational curriculum that will focus on:
  - a. Understanding the challenges of global health delivery and implementation
  - b. Learning to effectively communicate with policymakers, funders, local partners, and other relevant stakeholders
  - c. Designing, conducting, and critically analyzing global surgery research
- II. Develop a broad knowledge base and mentorship drawing on expertise from:
  - a. PGSSC faculty
  - b. Affiliated faculty from within the Harvard system
  - c. Partners and leading clinicians from around the world
  - d. Multilateral health organizations
- III. Promote trainees' future development as:
  - a. Clinicians, policy-makers and advocates who understand the complexity of surgical systems in low- and middle-income settings
  - b. Leaders of academic programs and departments, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and businesses who strive for equity in surgical and anesthesia care as it applies to underserved populations
  - c. Professionals that can utilize varied approaches to advance the field of global surgery
  - d. Mentors and mentees who will further inspire those who follow after them to promote equity in global surgery delivery

