GICS New Year's Greetings

GICS has accomplished much in 2018, thanks to you all!

Looking back at the year...

First and foremost, GICS held a third successful meeting in Vellore, India in January, hosted by GICS member Vrisha Madhuri at the Christian Medical College. Attended by 109 people (two-thirds from LMICs) from 31 countries, the two days were packed with presentations by GICS members, along with plenty of time for networking and enjoying the company of friends and colleagues.
This year also saw **new leadership for GICS**, with Kokila Lakhoo becoming the new Chair, Emmanuel Ameh the Chair Elect, Neema Kaseje the Secretary, and Doruk Ozgediz the Treasurer.

A **Grants and Funding Advisory Group**, led by Dan Poenaru and Emily Smith, was formed to assist GICS members with applications.

GICS also introduced a **Nurses Working Group**, led by Bunmu Lawal-Aiye, who gave a nice summary in the November 2018 newsletter.

GICS Chair Kokila Lakhoo led a successful **Global Surgery Course** at Oxford University in September 2018, featuring GICS Board Member Tahmina Banu and others.

Professor Lakhoo also continued a partnership between the Royal College of Surgeons and GICS Board Member Vrisha Madhuri, leading **courses on surgical care at secondary hospitals in the southern India**.

GICS Secretary Neema Kasege continued to lead a **program to improve surgical care in Nicaragua**, including hospital work and data collection.
KidsOR had a tremendous year, opening several fully equipped operating theatres in Ecuador, as well as various African countries, with plans to expand to Southeast Asia and Nepal. A Biomedical Engineer in the UK provides support to existing ORs, and data collection ensures ongoing evaluation of the impact of the projects.

GICS member Naomi Wright began data collection for her ambitious Global PaedSurg project, collecting invaluable information on congenital anomalies in countries throughout the world.

In November 2018, GICS Board Member Keith Oldham and others accompanied the KidsOR team to Ecuador and established connections with leaders in children’s surgery there.

And finally, GICS published 2 landmark papers in the World Journal of Surgery, one an article on GICS itself, and the other a comprehensive summary of the Optimal Resources in Children’s Surgery (OReCS). These publications will further increase the credibility and reach of GICS.
awareness of GICS as a leader on the global surgery stage and hopefully serve to
guide inclusion of children in national surgical, obstetrics, and anesthesia plans
(NSOAPS) in the years to come.

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Many things are planned for 2019...

Work will continue on developing subspecialty-specific training modules for the
District Hospital, using OReCS as a guide.

The GICS Research Webinar will continue its monthly meetings, encouraging all
interested GICS members to attend.

Membership dues will be introduced, to help defray operational costs of the
organization. Dues will be waived if they are an excess financial burden.

GICS Board Member Stephen Bickler will serve as the GICS representative at the
annual meeting of the International Surgical Society in Krakow, Poland in August
2019.

In November 2019, GICS will help organize a session on global surgery at the World
Congress of Pediatric Surgery held by the World Federation of Associations of
Pediatric Surgeons (WOFAPS) in Doha, Qatar. The program will include
presentations on NSOAPS, KidsOR, OReCS, the Nicaragua project, and the St
Judes/WHO cancer project.

And finally, plans will be underway for the next meeting of GICS in Johannesburg,
South Africa 6-8 February 2020.

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We thank everyone who contributes to GICS, and we
look forward to another productive year together!

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GICS Leadership
July 1 marked the beginning of new leadership within GICS. We thank Diana Farmer as she ends her highly productive term as Inaugural Chair. Kokila Lakhoo will serve in that position for the next two years.

The remaining Officer and Directors are as follows:

**Officers**

Diana Farmer (Past Chair): USA
Kokila Kakhoo (Chair): UK
Emmanuel Ameh (Chair Elect): Nigeria
Neema Kaseje (Secretary): USA
Doruk Ozgediz (Treasurer): USA

**At Large Directors**

Tahmina Banu (2017-2019): Bangladesh
Dan Poenaru (2017-2019): Canada
Stephen Bickler (2017-2019): USA
Sabina Siddiqui (2017-2019): USA
Michael Cooper (2017-2019): Australia
Zipporah Gathuya (2017-2020): Kenya
Lily Saldana (2017-2020): Peru
Patrick Kamalo (2017-2020): Malawi
Rashmi Kumar (2017-2020): Kenya
Bertille Ki (2017-2020): Burkina Faso
Marilyn Butler (2017-2021): USA
Vrishna Madhuri (2017-2021): India
John Sekabira (2017-2021): Uganda
Benjamin Yapo (2017-2021): Papua New Guinea
Keith Oldham (2017-2021): USA
Associate Members (Core Operations and Logistics)

Sarah Greenberg
Laura Goodman
Guy Jensen
Etienne St. Louis
Jamie Anderson
Naomi Wright

GICS IV Announcement:
Mark your calendars and join us in South Africa for GICS IV!

Johannesburg, South Africa
6-8 February 2020

Stay tuned for more information including registration, themes, volunteer opportunities, and more!

Member resources

We encourage all GICS members to contact the facilitators of the following Working Groups and Committees for information on their activities and to learn how you can participate.

Working Groups (Facilitators)
Anesthesia (Zipporah Gathuya)
Cardiac Surgery (Eltayeb Ahmed)

Committees (Facilitators)
Financing, Advocacy, Policy (Lubna Samad)
Cardiac Surgery  (Eltayeb Ahmed)
Critical Care  (Rashmi Kumar)
Dental/Oral Surgery  (Sunday Ajike)
General Surgery  (Basil Leodoro)
Neurosurgery  (Anthony Figaji, William Harkness)
Nursing  (Olubunmi Lawal-Aiyedon)
Ophthalmology  (pending)
Orthopedic Surgery  (Vrisha Madhuri)
Otolaryngology  (Shazie Peer)
Pediatric General Surgery  (Soji Ademuyiwa)
Plastic Surgery  (Peter Nthumba)
Radiology  (Cicero Silva)
Trauma Surgery  (Charles Carapinha)
Urology  (Bankole Rouma)

Infrastructure, Standards, Verification (including OReCS)  (Emmanuel Ameh)
Research, Data, Quality Improvement  (Tahmina Banu)
Training, Human Resources, Education  (Neema Kaseje)
Website, Networking, and Communications  (Marilyn Butler)
Publications  (Keith Oldham)
Research Webinar  (Emily Smith, Dan Poenaru)
Newsletter  (Marilyn Butler, Sarah Cairo)
Core Operations and Logistics  (Naomi Wright)

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Powerpoint slides available for use

We would like to provide our members with 2 slide decks that can be incorporated into talks as you spread the word about GICS:

- **GICS Overview** ([widescreen/standard](#))
- **GICS III summary** ([widescreen/standard](#))

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Check out the website for more information!
Website:  [http://www.globalchildreensurgery.org](http://www.globalchildreensurgery.org)

Feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, comments, etc!
Email:  GICSurgery@gmail.com
Follow us on social media and stay connected

**Facebook**: GICSurgery

**Twitter**: @GICSurgery

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