

GICS New Year's Greetings

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New year's greetings to all members of GICS

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 Kaseje 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

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.

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.

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

GICS Leadership

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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

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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 ([Eltaouh Ahmed](#))

Committees (Facilitators)

Financing, Advocacy, Policy ([Lubna](#)

[Samad](#))

Cardiac Surgery (Enayed Ahmed , Sanaa)	
Critical Care (Rashmi Kumar)	Infrastructure, Standards, Verification
Dental/Oral Surgery (Sunday Ajike)	(including OReCS) (Emmanuel Ameh)
General Surgery (Basil Leodoro)	Research, Data, Quality Improvement
Neurosurgery (Anthony Figaji , William Harkness)	(Tahmina Banu)
Nursing (Olubunmi Lawal-Aiyedon)	Training, Human Resources,
Ophthalmology (pending)	Education (Neema Kaseje)
Orthopedic Surgery (Vrisha Madhuri)	Website, Networking, and
Otolaryngology (Shazie Peer)	Communications (Marilyn Butler)
Pediatric General Surgery (Soji Ademuyiwa)	Publications (Keith Oldham)
Plastic Surgery (Peter Nthumba)	Research Webinar (Emily Smith , Dan Poenaru)
Radiology (Cicero Silva)	Newsletter (Marilyn Butler , Sarah Cairo)
Trauma Surgery (Charles Carapinha)	Core Operations and Logistics (Naomi Wright)
Urology (Bankole Rouma)	

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](#))

Check out the website for more information!
Website: <http://www.globalchildrenssurgery.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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