

# GICS Quarterly Meeting



**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

**Attendees:** 48 (to main meeting), 15 (to summary following meeting).

**Kokila Lakhoo – opening remarks.** Everyone to remain safe globally in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **GICS IV summary**

Presenter: Marilyn Butler

See the summary that was linked within the recent newsletter for the full report. Thank you Guy Jensen for kindly producing this.

225 attendees (almost double GICS III).

Represented 44 countries, 75% from LMICs.

85 travel fund scholarships awarded.

Links to posters, presentations, program, and summary now on website.

A lot has been learned in the process. Fund raising occurs in conjunction with awarding travel funds. Apologies for anyone who thought they were getting a travel fund when it had not been awarded.

Major themes:

- Including children in the establishment of NSOAPs.
- Inclusion of children in WHO guidelines.
- Incorporation of children's surgical care into broader paediatrics initiatives in global organisations such as UNICEF and March of Dimes.

Feedback – going forward a 3-day meeting would be preferential. More time for networking/ absorbing information in talks. More breakout groups. Research session was deemed excellent – great feedback.

Challenge is maintaining the momentum in the months ahead. Hope to do this by engaging the Leads of the Working Groups and Committees.

Dan Poenaru – newsletter is a good way to keep everyone within GICS linked together and up-to-date on projects.

## **NSOAPS – including children**

Presenters: Keith Oldham, Sarah Greenberg

Emmanuel Makasa – challenged all GICS members to not wait for an invitation to the table – we should take the lead and ask to be at the table and be actively involved in NSOAP development.

Important action point – involvement of GICS within the NSOAP development led by Dr John Meara’s group at Harvard PGSSC. Sarah Greenberg to take the lead on this on behalf GICS. They are currently working with 19 countries. Plan to ensure there is a children’s surgeon on every group going forward.

Sarah now involved in all discussions going forward to ensure children are adequately represented.

OReCS – Optimal Resources for Children’s Surgery document is now on their website.

Dubai, Mexico and Nepal NSOAP meetings for this year – currently on hold due to covid-19. Discussion re the potential for virtual meetings going forward.

Dan Poenaru – there is an ongoing project (systematic review and meta-analysis) re how children have been involved in NSOAPs to date. A constructive piece to see what we can learn about how to improve children’s input in NSOAPs going forward.

## **Covid-Surg Global Study**

Presenters: Naomi Wright, Henry Rice

Sign up to participate here: <https://globalsurg.org/covidsurgcohortstudy/>

Prospective, observational study of all children undergoing surgery with Covid-19 – either a laboratory or clinical diagnosis. Everyone encouraged to participate globally. Local study approval is required. Then you will be given access to an online data collection form on REDCap – simple tick box form. Should not be time consuming. Should result in global data that can be used to see how we can optimise outcomes for children in this situation. All collaborators will be co-authors.

GICS Lead: Prof Henry Rice.

## **GICS Covid-19 Resources Page**

Presenter: Marilyn Butler

Covid-19 resources page is now live on the GICS website and updated on a daily basis:

<https://www.globalchildrenssurgery.org/gics-network/covid-19-resources/>

Much practical information regarding Diagnosis/Epidemiology, Treatment (including converting anaesthesia machines to ICU ventilators, using 1 ventilator for multiple patients, training for providers who might need to provide critical care), Infrastructure (including ethical issues and triage of ventilators), Surgery (including risks of laparoscopy), Care of the provider (including PPE, re-use of N-95 masks, and practical advice on protecting yourself

and your family), Research (including CovidSurg), links to recommendations of many organizations, and more.

Please check it every day or two for more information as it is frequently updated. Also please email [GICSurgery@gmail.com](mailto:GICSurgery@gmail.com) if you wish to contribute or have a need, particularly those in LMICs.

### **Congenital Anomalies Global Meeting**

Feedback from Prof Tahmina Banu (presented by Marilyn Butler):

Prof Banu one of only 5 surgeons at the meeting with 400 delegates. Even 12 local surgeons were not aware to attend the meeting despite the local neonatologists being present at the meeting.

Part of the aim of the meeting was to focus on the care of neonates/ children with congenital anomalies; however, surgery was not adequately represented in discussions. Prof Banu gave a 15-minute presentation on the role of surgery for the care of neonates with congenital anomalies.

Going forward GICS will be involved in future meetings – ongoing discussions re the possibility of a plenary session lead by GICS.

It was tremendously fortunate that Prof Banu was able to attend this conference.

See Prof Banu's summary is on the GICS website and recent newsletter.

### **Congenital anomalies working group:**

- Discussion re developing this over the coming months with various projects being established.

- Felicity Mehendale, Plastic/Cleft Surgeon and lead on Global Cleft Lip & Palate Research in Edinburgh, is keen to be involved. She has offered to kindly lead on developing guidelines for antenatal diagnosis and signposting for care/ information leaflets for parents when an antenatal diagnosis is made.

Others keen to be involved in the group: Stephanie Goley (has offered to help with the administration for the group if this role is not already taken), Nilesh Tank (Paediatric Surgeon, India), Ashrarur Mitul (Paediatric Surgeon, Bangladesh), Dawn Ireland (CDH International Charity).

### **WHO Surgical Care for Children Textbook**

Presenter: Stephen Bickler

McMillan Book – Surgical Care for Children textbook – aimed at care at first level hospital. Plan to update and be endorsed by the WHO.

Guy Jensen and Stephen Bickler to liaise with Dr Neema Kaseje, Surgical Lead at WHO. GICS Working Groups to be involved in the revisions of the textbook for each specialty. Awaiting timeline and budget from WHO.

Felicity Mehendale – was planning to revise global cleft lip and palate guidelines with the WHO. No point in duplicating work. Their group can collaborate in the above project.

Bistra Zheleva – happy to help with congenital heart disease.

Scott Reichenbach with club foot.

Alaric Aroojis is keen to be involved in the orthopaedic group re this.

Dr Patankar (Mumbai) – biliary atresia.

Prof Lakhoo – suggested anyone who wants to be involved should look on the GICS website for the Working Group leads and contact them to sign up.

Prof Bickler has the PDF of the current book to share with those who get involved.

**Prof Kokila Lakhoo – closing remarks.** Please contact GICS if you need any help, advice or support during this difficult time with Covid-19.

Marilyn Butler – provided a summary of the meeting to those who joined in the second hour due to miscommunication regarding start time of the meeting.

A further 15 attended the summary.