

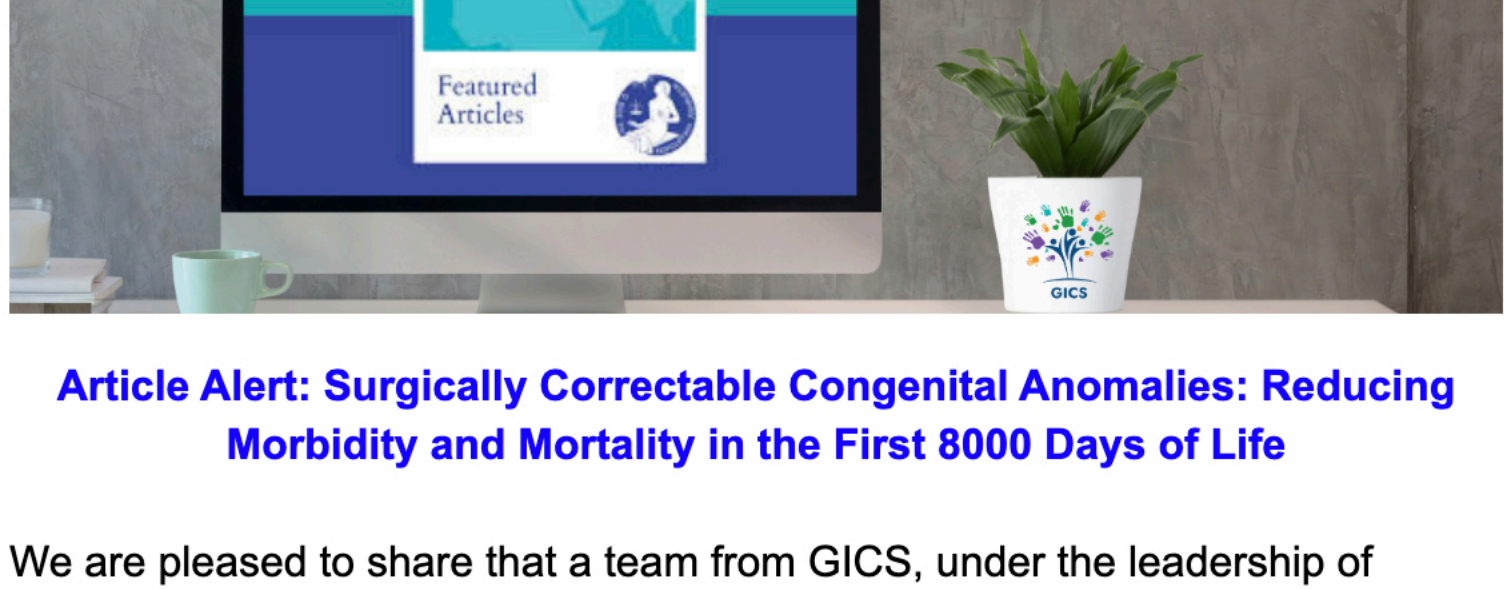


Welcome to the June edition of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) newsletter.

We are pleased to include in this newsletter information about:

- A new articles in the World Journal of Surgery and the Journal of Pediatric Surgery
- Congratulations to Doruk Ozgediz, GICS Board Chair, for receiving the Donald E. Meier Humanitarian Award
- GICS Annual Conference Updates

Thank you for being a part of GICS.



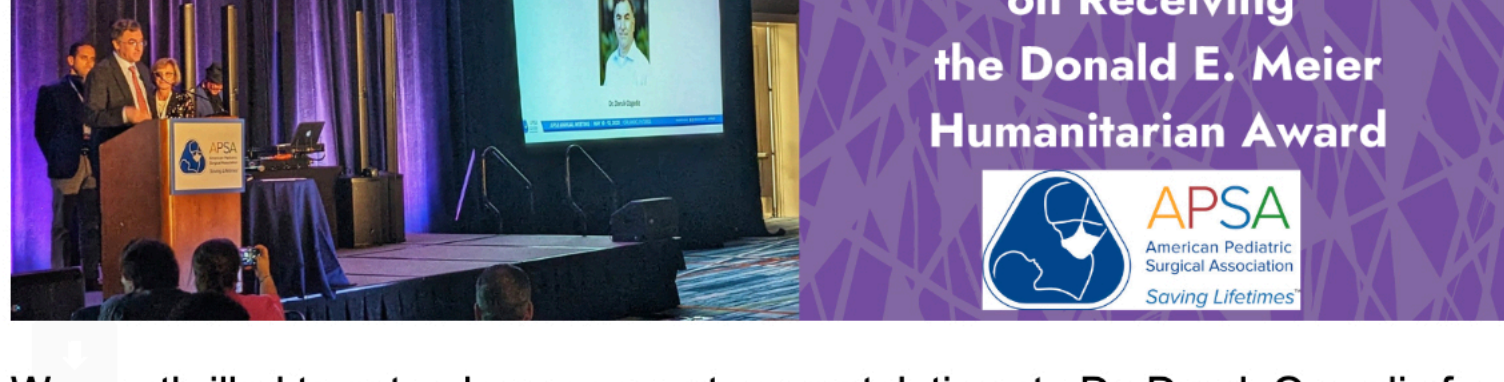
Article Alert: Surgically Correctable Congenital Anomalies: Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in the First 8000 Days of Life

We are pleased to share that a team from GICS, under the leadership of Tahmina Banu, had their article published in The World Journal of Surgery. The article is titled "Surgically Correctable Congenital Anomalies: Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in the First 8000 Days of Life."

Through their literature review, Tahmina Banu and team assessed the burden of surgical congenital anomalies with emphasis on those that present within the first 8000 days of life. The various patterns of diseases were analyzed in both low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and high-income countries (HIC).

The article finds current healthcare systems in most LMICs are still unprepared to tackle the burden of disease caused by congenital anomalies. Increased investment in surgical services is needed. By sharing their findings, the team provides valuable insights and recommendations that can shape healthcare policies and practices around the world.

We encourage you to read the article which can be accessed at the following link: [Surgically Correctable Congenital Anomalies: Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in the First 8000 Days of Life](#).



We are thrilled to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Doruk Ozgediz for receiving the distinguished Donald E. Meier Humanitarian Award at the APSA (American Pediatric Surgical Association) Annual Meeting held from May 10-13, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. This well-deserved recognition honors Doruk's extraordinary dedication to ensuring surgical care for underserved children.

The APSA Surgical Humanitarian Award celebrates surgeons who have dedicated a significant portion of their careers to humanitarian efforts, whether locally or globally, in order to improve surgical care access for underserved populations. This prestigious accolade is a testament to Dr. Ozgediz's unwavering commitment to providing essential surgical services to children in need.

Throughout his distinguished career, Doruk has exemplified the values of humanitarianism, going above and beyond routine surgical practice to address the unique challenges faced by underserved communities. He has been a driving force in promoting global surgical equity and expanding access to surgical interventions for children worldwide.

His leadership and expertise have been instrumental in advancing the mission of GICS. Doruk's exceptional achievements epitomize the core values of compassion, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to improving healthcare outcomes for the most vulnerable members of society. His work sets a remarkable example for others in the medical community, demonstrating the profound impact that can be achieved through humanitarian efforts.



During the ASEAN Society of Pediatric Surgeons Congress held in Jakarta, Indonesia on June 22-23, Beda Espineda delivered an enlightening oral presentation entitled "GICS: Its Relevance to the LMICs." Acknowledging the limited awareness among delegates about GICS (Global Initiative for Children's Surgery).

Beda used the opportunity to invite listeners to become members of this GICS. He emphasized the significance of GICS in addressing the unique challenges faced by Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) in pediatric surgery. Furthermore, he encouraged the delegates to mark their calendars for GICS V, scheduled to take place in Manila on February 25-26, 2024, where they would have the chance to engage with prominent experts in the field. To learn more, he encouraged them to visit the [GICS website](#) for further details on its initiatives and resources.



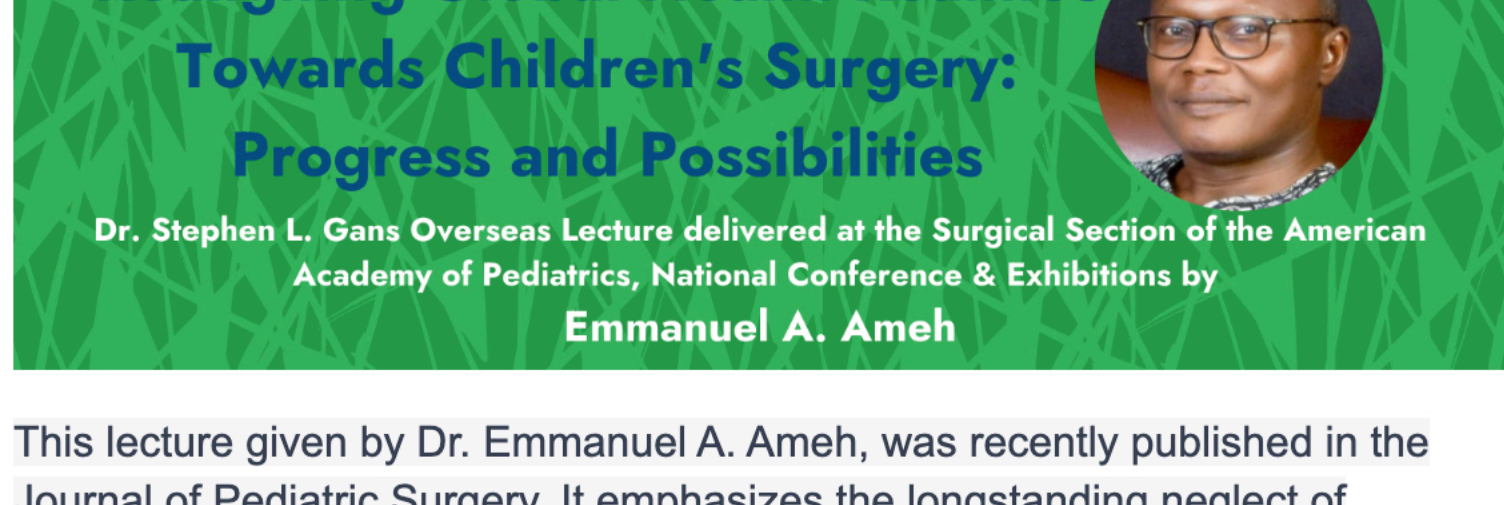
GICS will hold our next in-person meeting in Manila, Philippines, February 25-26, 2024. We are pleased to share that the conference will be held at the Manila Hotel, in collaboration with our colleagues in the Philippines Society of Pediatric Surgery. The theme for this year's conference will be: **Children's Surgery as an Essential Component of Global Health: Eliminating Disparities** In the coming weeks we will be announcing a call for presentations, sponsorship opportunities, the agenda, and travel information. Stay tuned for updates on a GICS V!



We are starting to plan for the upcoming GICS V meeting which will be held in Manila, Philippines on February 25-26, 2024. Would you please take this very brief 1 minute [survey](#) to let us know if you are planning to attend. You can click [here](#) or scan the QR code to access the survey.



Your response will help us determine the number of attendees to plan for. Thank you for helping us start to plan and budget for GICS V.



This lecture given by Dr. Emmanuel A. Ameh, was recently published in the Journal of Pediatric Surgery. It emphasizes the longstanding neglect of children's surgical care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) despite the high prevalence of pediatric surgical diseases and the shortage of specialized surgeons and infrastructure.

The Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) has played a pivotal role in raising awareness and addressing this issue by adopting an inclusive approach that involves LMIC participation and addresses their specific needs, with support from high-income countries (HICs). Efforts have focused on strengthening infrastructure by establishing children's operating rooms and incorporating children's surgery into national surgical plans. In Nigeria, the pediatric surgery workforce has grown, but the density of surgeons remains low.

Financing children's surgery in LMICs remains a significant challenge, as families face the risk of catastrophic healthcare expenses. The lecture underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between the global north and south, with pediatric surgeons contributing their time, expertise, and voices to strengthen children's surgery globally and improve outcomes for more children in need. You may read the abstract [here](#).



We are excited to share the GICS Annual Report. You can read it [here](#)!

GICS has a new [website](#). Please take a few minutes to see all the new content.

If you are not already a GICS member, you can [join today](#)!