



GLOBAL SURGICAL FRONTIERS CONFERENCE 2025

Achieving global surgical coverage: what progress have we made?

Friday 10 October 2025 | 9am-6pm (GMT) | London & Online | [Book Now](#)

About Global Surgical Frontiers (GSF)

Global Surgical Frontiers (GSF) is the global health conference of the **Royal College of Surgeons of England**. Founded in 2012, GSF was the first conference of its kind to focus specifically on the role and importance of surgery in tackling global health challenges. The conference brings together the wider surgical and dental community, policy makers, non-governmental organisations, development agencies, trainees, students and academics to understand the challenges and share the evidence-based solutions for improving access to timely, safe and affordable surgical, dental, obstetric, anaesthesia and trauma care in resource-limited settings.

GSF 2025: Context and themes

equity in global surgery research | achieving Global Surgery 2030 – 10 years on | humanitarian surgery | emergency, critical & operative care | building resilience | strengthening policy making & advocacy for global surgery | health economics & access to surgery.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of the seminal [Lancet Commission on Global Surgery](#) and the adoption of Resolution [WHA68.15](#) by the World Health Assembly (WHA) on “Strengthening Emergency and Essential Surgical Care and Anaesthesia as a Component of Universal Health Coverage.”

The Lancet Commission provided robust evidence and advocacy for integrating surgery into the global health agenda and emphasising surgical care is an essential, indivisible component of any effective health system. Universal access to safe, high-quality surgical and anaesthesia care with financial protection remains paramount. The Commission articulated five key messages. It also proposed indicators and recommendations to improve access to affordable, safe surgical and anaesthesia care in low- and middle-income countries, providing a framework for developing national surgical plans and targets to be achieved by 2030.

Additionally, two years have passed since the WHA adopted Resolution [WHA76.2](#), which underscored the significance of integrated emergency, critical, and operative care as fundamental to resilient health systems and preparedness for health emergencies. This resolution recognised the widespread gaps in emergency, critical and operative care capacity revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the need to strengthen humanitarian surgical capability in response to the increasing frequency of health crises caused by conflict, climate change, and natural disasters.

This milestone anniversary offers a timely opportunity to assess the advances achieved over the past decade, as well as the ongoing and emerging challenges in promoting equitable access to surgical care globally. The global health context is continually evolving and GSF 2025 serves as a crucial platform for a comprehensive evaluation of the outcomes, impact, policies, and innovations that define progress and challenge prevailing assumptions. The imperative for concerted advocacy at all levels, will inform the dialogue and chart a course for further collaborative action.

Who should attend?

This conference will be of significant interest to professionals engaged in global health, surgical system strengthening, international development, and humanitarian surgery. Attendees can expect a comprehensive programme that is both informative and thought-provoking, offering valuable opportunities for engagement, networking, and knowledge exchange with distinguished international experts, advocates, researchers, and practitioners. Individuals who are studying, working, or volunteering in these fields—including surgeons, anaesthesiologists, nurses, obstetricians, gynaecologists, physicians, registrars, and students—are strongly encouraged to attend.

Accreditation

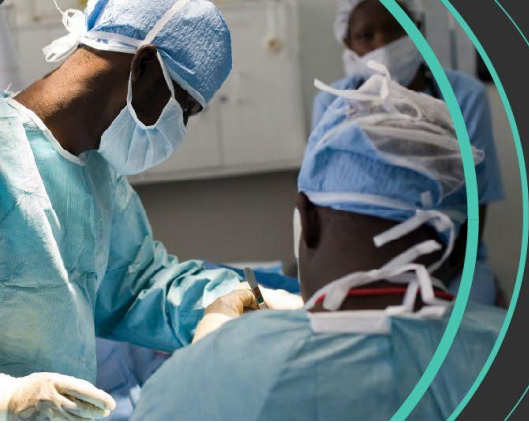
This conference has been accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS England) for **5.5** Continuing Medical Education (CME)/ Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits.

All attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance.



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Programme

9am	Registration & Networking Breakfast (in-person)/ Exploration of the Platform (online)
9.30am	Welcome Miss Dorothy Kufeji, Council Member, Royal College of Surgeons of England & Conference Chair (UK)
9.35am	Opening Remarks Mr Tim Mitchell, President, Royal College of Surgeons of England (UK)
9.40am	KEYNOTE I: ARE WE ON COURSE TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL SURGERY 2030? Chair: Mr Tim Mitchell, President, Royal College of Surgeons of England Professor Emmanuel Makasa Consultant Surgeon & Executive Director - Centre for Surgical Healthcare Research in Zambia (CSHR), University Teaching Hospital Zambia (Zambia)
10.10am	PLENARY I: WHOSE GLOBAL SURGERY IS IT ANYWAY? Chair: Miss Rachel Hargest, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon & Co-Director, Global Surgery Policy Unit (UK) • Dr Meskerem Aleka Kebede, Research Fellow, Global Surgery Policy Unit, London School of Economics & Political Science/RCS England (UK/ Ethiopia) • Dr Justina Seyi-Olajide, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (Nigeria) • Professor Nobhojit Roy, Professor of Surgery and Chair, Center for Leadership in Global Health Equity, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda (India/ Rwanda)
11am	Tea and coffee break
11.30am	KEYNOTE II: EMERGENCY, CRITICAL & OPERATIVE CARE: THE ECO RESOLUTION – IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL SURGERY Chair: Professor Vivien Lees, Senior Vice President, Royal College of Surgeons of England (UK) Dr Vanessa Naidoo Technical Officer, World Health Organisation, Geneva (Switzerland)
12.15pm	Lunch Networking, exhibitor stands & digital posters
ABSTRACT/ POSTER PRESENTATIONS & JUDGING	
EXHIBITION: SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY	
1.30 pm	THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS I
(a)	POLICY & ADVOCACY 101: HOW DO WE INFLUENCE AND ACHIEVE CHANGE IN GLOBAL SURGERY? Chairs: Miss Clara Vella, Specialist Registrar (ST8) - Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery & Council Member, RCS England (UK) • Professor Emmanuel Makasa, Consultant Surgeon & Executive Director - Centre for Surgical Healthcare Research in Zambia (CSHR) (Zambia) • Professor Nobhojit Roy, Professor of Surgery and Chair, Center for Leadership in Global Health Equity, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda (India/ Rwanda)



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- **Fanus Dreyer**, President, International Federation of Surgical Colleges & Societies (UK)
- **Isobel Marks**, Specialty Registrar in ENT & Co-Founder, InciSioN (UK)

(b) COUNTING THE COST: WHY HEALTH ECONOMICS IS CENTRAL TO ACHIEVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SURGERY

Chair: **Miss Rachel Hargest**, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon & Co-Director, Global Surgery Policy Unit (UK)

- **George A Wharton**, Associate Professor (Education), Department of Health Policy, London School of Economics & Political Science (UK)
- **Dr Martilord Ifeanyi**, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, Global Surgery Policy Unit, London School of Economics & Political Science (UK)
- **Dr Phyllis Tenkorang**, Specialist Anaesthesiologist, Mastercard Foundation Scholar, Africa-Oxford Initiative (Ghana/UK)

(c) BUILDING RESILIENCE: DELIVERING SURGICAL CARE IN CONFLICT AND DISASTER ENVIRONMENTS

Chair: **Professor Col. Nigel Tai**, Defence Professor of Military Surgery & Trauma, Royal College of Surgeons of England (UK)

- **Dr Inga Osmer**, Head of Berlin Medical Unit, MSF Médecins Sans Frontières (Germany)
- **Professor Darren Walter**, Professor of International Emergency Medicine, Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), University of Manchester (UK)
- **Professor Nick Maynard**, Consultant Gastrointestinal Surgeon, Oxford University (UK)
- **Professor Shehan Hettiaratchy OBE**, Professor of Practice, Major Trauma Director & Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, UK-Med & Imperial College London (UK)
- **Dr Gina Portella**, Director, Medical Coordination Unit Director, EMERGENCY (UK)

2.30pm THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS II

3:30pm Tea and coffee break

PLENARY II: CASUALTIES OF WAR: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROTECT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & CIVILIANS?

3.50pm

Chairs:

Mr Tim Goodacre, Consultant Plastic Surgeon & former Vice President, Royal College of Surgeons of England (UK)

Mr Bhavin Visavadia, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon & President-Elect, British Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (BOAMS)(UK)

- **Professor Karl Blanchet**, Director, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, University of Geneva (Switzerland)
- **Dr Munzer Alkhalil**, Chair, Syria Public Health Network & Research Fellow, LSE IDEAS, London School of Economics & Political Science (UK)
- **Ahmed El Mokhallalati**, Consultant Plastic Surgeon & former Head of Plastic Surgery, Al-Shifa Medical Complex, Gaza, Palestine (UK)
- **Dr Iryna Rybinkina**, Consultant Anaesthetist & Chief Executive, SMART Medical Aid & Ambulances for Ukraine (UK/ Ukraine)
- **Professor Mohamed Khalife**, Professor of Surgery & Head of Division of General Surgery, American University of Beirut Medical Centre (Lebanon)

5pm PRIZES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Vivien Lees, Senior Vice President, Royal College of Surgeons of England

Dorothy Kufeji, Council Member, Royal College of Surgeons of England & GSF 2025 Conference Chair

5.30pm DRINKS RECEPTION & NETWORKING



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