



## COSECSA CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SURGERY

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with immense pleasure that I introduce to you, the **COSECSA Centre for Global Surgery (CCGS)**.

As all of you are aware, the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) has been in the forefront of Global Surgery for the last 2 decades. The College has been working “without walls”, in a large part of the African continent. COSECSA has united the surgical communities in 17 African countries, in such a way that, they now pursue a common goal and purpose. The college has not only been training surgeons and examining them within the African continent, but has also been conducting research, independently as well as in conjunction with other regional and international organizations. A lot of work done by the college has been published in reputed medical journals. This institution has strived during the last 20 years as COSECSA, and even before that as the *Association of Surgeons of East Africa (ASEA)*, spear-heading the movement that, today, we know as Global Surgery. In fact, it is now a commonly acknowledged fact that COSECSA fellows, members, trainees, employees and collaborators are the actual *foot-soldiers of Global Surgery!* We are all, of course, painfully aware that even though foot-soldiers are the central and obligatory component of any campaign, their contribution is often unrecognised, and almost always unsung...

COSECSA has worked with considerable success with several non-governmental and governmental organizations, reputed surgical colleges and institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO), the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI), the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the Oxford University, General Electric Foundation, G4 Alliance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, Smile Train, the Lancet Commission, amongst others. In fact, COSECSA owes a lot of her success to the *close partnerships and patronage* of the many organizations with whom she has worked, especially during the difficult early years of her existence as a multi-national college. COSECSA cherishes these partnerships and looks forward to working in collaboration with these agencies far into the future.

It is time for COSECSA to have her own *Global Surgery nucleus*, which shall *enable, abet and promote the Global Surgery activities* of the College. It is with this principal purpose that the CCGS has been established.

The CCGS has the following objectives:

1. *Co-ordinate the activities* of the many different organizations and stake-holders working in the field of Global Surgery in the East, Central and Southern African (ECSA) region. Provide leadership in the field and directing international Global Surgery Fellows to programs that promote bi-directional exchange of knowledge, research endeavours that benefits all institutions involved, and promote substantial contribution to the growing body of literature in Global Surgery.

2. *Procure funds* directly and indirectly, for *research, training and educational activities in Surgery* in the ECSA region.
3. *Perform and encourage academic research*, in all fields of *Surgery, Anaesthesia, Trauma and Gynaecology/Obstetrics*.
4. *Establish*, by means of local, regional, continental and Inter-continental partnerships, a *500-bed, state-of-the-art COSECSA Surgical Hospital* in the ECSA region.
5. *Work*, in collaboration with like-minded agencies, in the eventual *eradication of the disease burden caused by the 6 Neglected Surgical Diseases (NSDs)*, namely fistula, trauma, cleft lip and palate, cataract, hernia and clubfoot in the ECSA region.
6. *Elaborate and implement Regional Surgical Plans*, and tailor existing Surgical Plans, based on the population, manpower and economic characteristics of the individual countries, provinces and districts of the ECSA region.
7. *Advocate* the cause of Global Surgery in national governance and *advise* Ministries of Health, on best practices in the field of Surgery.
8. *Represent COSECSA* in national, regional, or international fora.
9. *Instil* in COSECSA trainees, members and fellows, the principles of Global Surgery and its role in scaling up of surgical services in the region, especially in areas of most need.
10. *Ensure*, through its activities, that the eventual beneficiaries of Global Surgery are the actual *patients* with surgical conditions, in this part of the world.

It with great enthusiasm that all of us at the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa look forward to the future of Global Surgery in Africa, and in the world over.

Maputo, 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018.

With warm regards,

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