



**COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
(COSECSA)**

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

*(Adjusting in a New Normal World - The COVID-19 era)*

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# New Year Message from the Secretary General

Best wishes for the year 2021.

I hope you celebrated the start of 2021 in good spirits with family and friends. Now that we are a few weeks into the new year, it is a good time to look ahead and to think about what this year may bring. But, first, a quick look back! 2020 was quite a year for all of us at COSECSA. We have been through many developments, sometimes in less than favorable circumstances but we have also achieved a huge amount.

We have maintained good progress; we held examinations, conducted trainings, convened leadership and governance meetings and participated in, and represented COSECSA at, multiple international forums. We engaged with new Collaboration Partners, expanded our programme with the addition of more online courses and expanded COSECSA coverage in the region and beyond. There is, of course, still a lot of work ahead.

The College's existing 5-year strategic plan (2016-2020) ended this year we are very satisfied with all the achieved objectives, of which more below.

The COO together with a small team from the Executive and the Programme Director (PD) of the Collaboration Programme (CP) worked hard to encapsulate the new strategic direction of the College and develop our Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

Despite the COVID pandemic, which affected many aspects of our activities, and due mainly to the resilient systems that COSECSA had already embraced, we were able to still achieve a majority of the planned activities. A few COSECSA activities had to be postponed or cancelled. In particular the planned end of year AGM and Scientific conference could not take place. However, adapting to the circumstances and adopting new technologies, the College embraced the following emerging trends.

- Online zoom meetings
- Online Trainings
- Online examinations
- Participation by Council Members Panellists and/or speakers in International Virtual Webinars.
- Cost saving mainly on travel.

The past 12 months have had a very significant impact on all of us! I would like to thank you all for your support, contribution and dedication during these challenging times. Special thanks go to all our Collaboration Partners who have continued to support us despite the global challenges.

The year ahead will bring its own trials but I am convinced that by working together, keeping a clear focus on our priorities and putting our College first we can maintain our standards and realize our ambitions. I know that we can count on you all to uphold the progress of our College.



Professor Eric Borgstein  
**SECRETARY GENERAL, COSECSA**

## 1.0. INTRODUCTION



The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) is a professional not-for-profit making body that fosters postgraduate education in surgery and provides surgical training throughout the region of East, Central and Southern Africa. COSECSA is currently operating in 14 countries in the Sub-Saharan region: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, South Sudan and Sudan.

COSECSA has a five-year (2016-2020) Strategic Plan which sets the following goals and objectives:

**Goal 1:** Graduate 500 Surgeons by 2020

**Goal 2:** Achieve Excellence in Training and Research

**Goal 3:** Maintain Best Practice in Examinations and Assessment

**Goal 4:** Build organizational Excellence and Financial Sustainability

At the end of 2020 COSECSA had achieved the following: -

- 579 graduates (85 Females), including all those whose exams are scheduled for Jan 2021.
- 120 Programme Directors
- 303 registered Trainers
- 58 of the above are accredited Master Trainers.
- 700+ Trainees, (19% female)
- 125 Accredited Hospitals
- New online courses
- Case based discussions.
- Online Examinations
- Increased number of collaborating partners
- Increased number of Member Countries
- Recognition of COSECSA Qualifications in the region and Internationally

These successes are registered under the following key areas of the College.

- Examination and Credentials,
- Education and Research,
- Finance and General Purposes,
- Accreditation,
- Scholarships,
- Collaboration Partners,
- Strategic Management
- COSECSA Leadership and Governance Meetings

## 2.0. COSECSA LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The College Governance Body has administered College business effectively and efficiently in the year 2020. Most of the College Governance activities were undertaken as scheduled throughout the year. The college convened and held nearly all statutory meetings as planned (all except the end of year council meeting which will be held after the examinations are completed in early February) these include; the Monthly Executive Committee meetings, the August Council Meeting and meetings of the 3 main Committees (ECC, FGPC and ESRC). In a bid to ensure the College business continues amidst the unprecedented times of COVID-19 meetings happened online.

NO	MEETING	DATE	MODE	PARTICIPANTS
1	Executive Committee Meeting	Jan 13, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members
2.	Executive Committee Meeting	Feb 13, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members,
3	Executive Committee Meeting	April 20, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members,
4	Executive Committee Meeting	June 4, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members, CP APD, FO & COO
5	Executive Committee Meeting	July 9, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members, CP APD & COO
6	Executive Committee Meeting	Aug 6, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members, CP APD & COO
7	4 <sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting of the ECSA-CHS		Zoom	President & SG
8	Council Meeting	Aug 21, 2020	Zoom	Council Members, CP APD & COO
9	FGPC Meeting	Aug 8, 2020	Zoom	Committee Members, FO & COO
10	ECC Meeting	Aug 9, 2020	Zoom	Committee Members, Exams/IT Officer & COO
11	ESRC Meeting	Aug 13, 2020	Zoom	Committee Members and EAO
12	Executive Committee Meeting	Oct 1, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members, CP APD & COO
13	Executive Committee Meeting	Nov 12, 2020	Zoom	EXCOM Members, CP APD & COO
14	Secretariat Weekly meetings	June-Dec 2020	Zoom/ Physical	Secretariat Staff

## 3.0. COSECSA INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

COSECSA has been represented at several International Forums/webinars. Since the President took up office in December 2019, he together with other members of the College have been speakers, chaired and made presentations at various international events as detailed below; -

NO	DATE	REPRES- ENTED BY	FORUM	PRESENTED ON
1.	Dec 2019	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Association of Surgeons of India, Annual Scientific Conference, Bhubaneswar, India (Physical Conference)	Breast Cancer Trends in Africa
2	April 21, 2020	President	Virtual Grand Rounds: Preparing the Perioperative Ecosystem of Sub-Saharan for COVID-19 (Hosted by LIFE BOX)	Preparing the Perioperative Ecosystem of Sub-Saharan for COVID-19
3	April 30, 2020	President	From the Frontline: A COVID–19 Africa Special Session Focusing on Harnessing Innovation to manage	A COVID–19 Africa Special Session Focusing on Harnessing Innovation to

			resources (Hosted by AO FOUNDATION), Geneva, SWITZERLAND	manage resources
4	May 13, 2020	President	Virtual Town Hall: A Conversation on Surgical Systems and COVID-19 Preparedness in Sub-Saharan Africa (Hosted by SMILE TRAIN)	A Conversation on Surgical Systems and COVID-19 Preparedness in Sub-Saharan Africa
5	Jul 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Surgical Education and Simulation Conference, UK Society of Surgical Simulation, London, UK (virtual)	Surgical Training Programmes in the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa
6	July 2, 2020	President	Surgical Leadership During Crisis Situations (HOST: American College of Surgeons)	Surgical Leadership during Crisis Situations
7	Aug 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Japanese Surgical Society, Annual Scientific Congress, Tokyo, Japan (virtual)	Breast Cancer Trends in Africa
8	Sept 25, 2020	Chair, FGPC	RCSI Webinar on Global Surgery	Surgical Patient Experience Worldwide
9	Oct 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> The Plastic Surgery Foundation and American Society of Plastic Surgeons Conference, California, USA (virtual)	Surgical Training Programmes in the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa
10	Oct 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Pan African Paediatric Surgical Association, Scientific Conference, Cape Town, RSA (virtual)	Impact of COVID -19 Pandemic on Surgical Services and Training in the COSECSA Region
11	Oct 23, 2020	COO	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Global Health Education Ireland Symposium 2020 (virtual)	Partnerships for Education and Training in a changing World
12	Nov 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Surgical Grand Rounds, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK (virtual)	Impact of COVID -19 Pandemic on Surgical Services and Training in Africa
13	Nov 25, 2020	President	<b>Invited Speaker at:</b> Global Surgery and Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland: Sustainable Collaborations and partnership, Dublin, Ireland	The College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa Strategic Plan, 2021 - 2025

#### 4.0. COLLABORATION PARTNERS

The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI), with its new Institute of Global Surgery, continues to be the strongest supporter of all the College activities effected through the Collaboration Project with funding from Irish Aid. In addition to RCSI/Irish Aid, COSECSA has built relationships and received support from other Collaborating Partners; The Beit Trust, the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Smile Train, Kids OR, Life Box, Pan African Association of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), Safe Surgery 2020, SURG Africa, Oxford University, University of Toronto, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACs), Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (RCSEd), 2nd Chance and Gradian Health and others. Their combined immense support has contributed greatly to COSECSA and helped the College achieve its strategic objectives.

#### **4.1. Executive Approval of MoUs**

The College Executive approved the signing of MoUs with various institutions to Collaborate in areas of Training, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, etc

- (a) ReSurge International
- (b) Operation Smile
- (c) KidsOR
- (d) Plastic Surgery Foundation and American Society of Plastic Surgeons
- (e) UNITAR
- (f) University of Zimbabwe

#### **4.2. Collaboration with other CHS Constituent Colleges**

COSECSA is supporting the onboarding and day-to-day management of CANECSA Administration Officer, and helping CANECSA to run exams, ToT and launch the training programme. Further, COSECSA has supported the onboarding of Ms. Lemmy Mabuga the Program Officer of ECSACON who reported in November 2020. Support has been provided to her in the areas of Administration, programme coordination and development of the Monthly Report as well as their Strategic Plan. The COO has had discussions with the Programme Officer of ECSACOG, Ms. Judith Andrew regarding the activities ECSACOG should advance for the College to grow.

#### **5.0. COSECSA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2021-2025**

Driven by the COO the College developed the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and subjected it to stakeholder consultations. I report with much gratitude the strategic and constructive proposals we received from our stakeholders, Collaboration Partners, Country Representatives, Surgical Societies and Executive Committee members. The 2021-2025 set out three (3) Key Strategic Goals:

- Goal 1: Graduate 1000 Surgeons by 2025
- Goal 2: Achieve Excellence in Training and Research
- Goal 3: Build organizational Excellence and Financial Sustainability

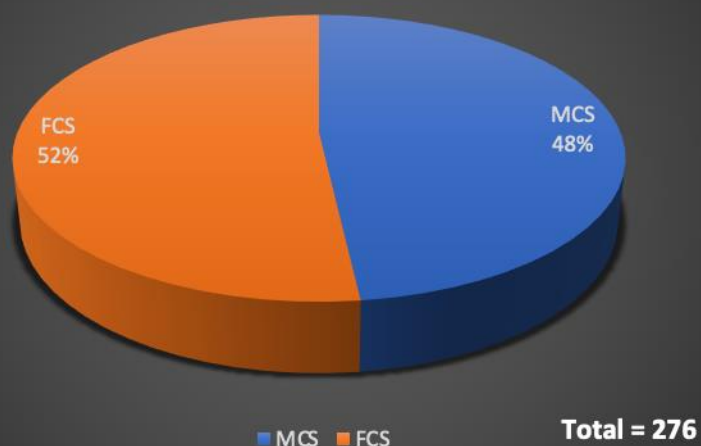
Please view our Strategic Plan through the links: <http://www.cosecsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COSECSA-Strategic-Plan-2021-2025-1.pdf>

Direct link to the COSECSA documents page: <http://www.cosecsa.org/cosecsa-documents/>

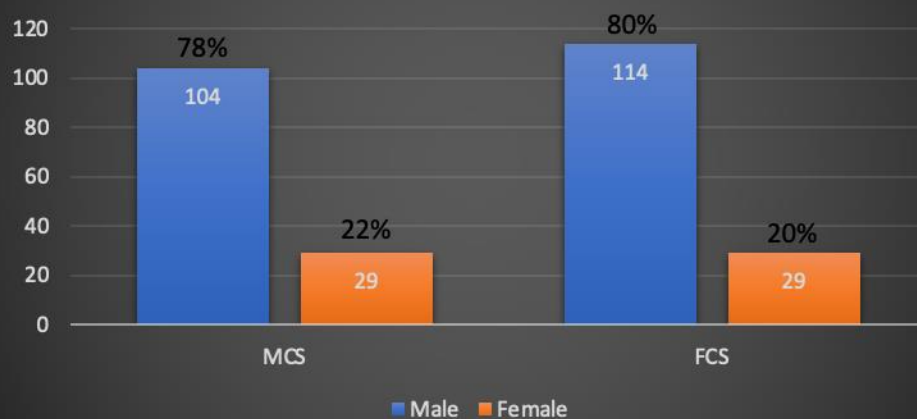
#### **6.0. PROGRAMME ENTRY**

2020 showed an increase in the number of Trainees registering compared to 2019. At the closing of 2020 registration window, we noted an increment of 4.7%: 288 registered trainees compared to 276 in 2019. The number of Female candidates enrolling with the College remained at around 20%.

## 2020 Prospective candidates



## Male Vs Female 2020 Prospective Candidates



## 2020 TRAINEES BY SPECIALTY

SPECIALITY	NUMBER OF TRAINEES	MMED Trainees
MCS	366	-
FCS GENERAL SURGERY	102	35
FCS ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	62	49
FCS NEUROSURGERY	22	7
FCS PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	21	16
FCS PAEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	6	1
FCS PLASTIC SURGERY	14	9
FCS CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY	8	1
FCS OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY	1	3
FCS UROLOGY	10	8
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	612	129
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>741</b>



## **2019 TRAINEES BY SPECIALTY**

MCS	362
GS	115
ORTHO	100
NEURO	19
PAED	29
PAED ORTH	10
PLAST	20
CARDIO	8
ORL	5
URO	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>683</b>

## **7.0. EXAMINATIONS**

A total of 276 candidates were expected to sit for the examination in 2020 (58 females). Compared to 2019, we had an increment of 4.2% (11 candidates)

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>MMED</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Clinical</b>	<b>Written</b>
<b>FCS Cardiothoracic Surgery</b>	1				1
<b>FCS General Surgery</b>	44	19	10	1	43
<b>FCS Neurosurgery</b>	4	2	1		4
<b>FCS Orthopaedic Surgery</b>	54	32	4	6	48
<b>FCS Otorhinolaryngology</b>	1	1	1		1
<b>FCS Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery</b>	6		1	2	4
<b>FCS Paediatric Surgery</b>	19	13	7	1	18
<b>FCS Plastic Surgery</b>	9	7	4		9
<b>FCS Urologic Surgery</b>	5	3	1	2	3
<b>MCS</b>	133		29	10	123
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>254</b>

The year 2020 has been a busy period for the Examination and Credentials Committee, characterized by weekly, and monthly meetings in preparation for the examinations. The Chair, ECC Professor Abebe Bekele kept everyone on their toes to make things happen under the circumstances. Due to the global pandemic, the College changed the mode of examination delivery with a blended approach that consisted of both online and onsite examinations/examiners. We successfully conducted online mock examinations in September 2020 that led to successful final MCS OSCE and clinical and viva examinations in December 2020. This was a heavy exercise that involved over 100 international and local examiners.

It was imperative that the sitting be broken down into various examination sites and in different Countries however, this saw the cost of examination shoot up due to multiple stations and the associated logistical costs (Tickets, accommodation, Covid tests, transport etc)

### Number of candidates that registered to sit MCS Exams

No	Country	Total Number of Candidates
1	Ethiopia	4
2	Gabon	1
3	Niger	2
4	Kenya	48
5	Malawi	8
6	Namibia	2
7	Rwanda	6
8	Burundi	1
9	DRC	2
10	Tanzania	3
11	Uganda	4
12	Zambia	23
13	Zimbabwe	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

### MCS Examination sites

No	Country	No Exam centers	Incorporating	No of Candidates
1	Ethiopia	1	Ethiopia, Gabon, Niger, Uganda	11
2	Kenya	1	Kenya (2 streams on day one and 2 streams on day 2)	48
3	Malawi	1	Malawi, Tanzania	11
4	Rwanda	1	Rwanda, DRC and Burundi	9
5	Zambia	1	Zambia	23
6	Zimbabwe	1	Zimbabwe, Namibia	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>115</b>

#### 7.1. Online Written Examination Platform

In improving examination standards COSECSA aimed at adopting computer-based examination to cope with the annual increase in number of examination candidates and to counteract the new pandemic. In 2019 COSECSA was able to introduce an electronic marking system and in 2020 COSECSA implemented Computer based examination (Online).

## Part I Exams

Candidates by programme	
Programme	TOTAL
FCS Cardiothoracic Surgery	1
FCS General Surgery	54
FCS Neurosurgery	3
FCS Orthopaedic Surgery	48
FCS Otorhinolaryngology	1
FCS Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery	4
FCS Paediatric Surgery	19
FCS Plastic Surgery	7
FCS Urologic Surgery	2
MCS	122
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>261</b>

Candidates by country	
Country	Total
Burundi	4
Cameroon	1
DRC	5
Ethiopia	53
Gabon	2
Kenya	90
Lesotho	1
Malawi	12
Mozambique	1
Namibia	6
Niger	5
Rwanda	8
S.Sudan	2
Tanzania	10
Uganda	12
Zambia	31
Zimbabwe	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>261</b>

### 7.2. Examination processes

- 86 online and 178 onsite examiners
- 5-6 onsite senior examiners selected from existing local fellows who are not currently trainers of the candidates.
- 5-6 online examiners
- 1-2 COSECSA examiners flown in from the court of examiners or panel heads
- One COSECSA chief examiner/external examiner to oversee the process.

### 7.3. 2020 Online MCS “Oral” exam

The MCS Oral Exams were blended OSCE (Online and onsite examiners) and were held on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Exams were conducted in the afternoon to accommodate overseas examiners. Zoom platform was found to be the best option. Pilot exams were successfully conducted three weeks before the exam at all sites and 12-station OSCE stations were set up.

### 7.4. FCS Clinical/Viva Examinations

144 candidates were expected to sit exams at different examination Centres. The candidates were from different Countries as indicated in the table below. Due to COVID-19 the examinations were staggered into two different months, FCS Cardio,

Neuro, Uro, Plast, Paed & Orl Examinations in December 2020 and FCS Gs, Ortho & Paed Ortho in January 2021.

## PART II EXAMS

CANDIDATES BY PROGRAMME				CANDIDATES BY COUNTRY			
Programme	Total	Female	Mmed	Country	Candidates	Female	MMed
Cardiothoracic Surgery	1			Burundi	2		
Neurosurgery	3	1	1	Cameroon	4	1	
Otorhinolaryngology	1			Ethiopia	40	10	34
Paediatric Surgery	19	6	12	Gabon	2		
Plastic Surgery	5	2	4	Kenya	83	16	12
Urologic Surgery	5	1	3	Lesotho	1		1
General Surgery	45	8	18	Malawi	9	1	
MCS	110	25	2	Namibia	3	1	
Orthopaedic surgery	40	4	20	Niger	5	1	
Paediatric orthopaedics	5	1		Rwanda	14	4	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	Tanzania	11	2	4
				Uganda	9	1	4
				Zambia	32	6	1
				Zimbabwe	19	5	
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>

## 8.0. ACCREDITATION OF HOSPITALS AS COSECSA TRAINING SITES

The College currently has 125 Accredited hospitals. In 2020 we received applications from 14 hospitals for accreditation/re-accreditation. COSECSA through the accreditation board and in conjunction with the National Medical Councils in-country accredited hospitals for Training within the region. The table below illustrates the accreditation status of the hospitals that applied.

No	Hospital	Country	Accreditation Request
1	Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital	Kenya	FCS Ortho Surgery. Dr. Mhina to be lead the visit
2	Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital	Kenya	FCS Neurosurgery. Dr. Nkusi to be lead the visit
3	Malamulo Hospital	Malawi	<b>Re-accreditation for MCS and FCS General Surgery approved</b>
4	Monze Mission Hospital	Zambia	<b>Re-accreditation for MCS approved FCS GS approved for only one year, revisit after one year</b>
5	Al Hayat Hospital	Somaliland	<b>MCS not approved. ECC Conditions not fulfilled</b>
6	Muhimbili National Hospital	Tanzania	<b>FCS Paediatric Surgery. Dr. Muhina to lead. PD &amp; Trainer conditions not yet met.</b>
7	Bugando Medical Centre	Tanzania	Re-accreditation for MCS and accreditation for FCS GS, Ortho, Uro, ORL, Cardio, Paed Ortho delayed visit
8	Karen Hospital	Kenya	<b>Accreditation for MCS approved, Reapply for FCS after 2 years.</b>
9	Tenwek Hospital	Kenya	<b>Accreditation for FCS Neurosurgery Approved conditionally</b>

			<b>Needs MDPD Approval. One FT faculty to join in 2021</b>
10	Mutare Provincial Hospital	Zimbabwe	FCS Orthopaedics. Dr Samkange to lead the visit.
11	Bongolo Hospital	Gabon	<b>Re-accreditation for MCS and FCS GS approved</b>
12	Heal Africa	DRC	Re-accreditation for MCS under review
13	Kamenge Military Hospital	Burundi	Re-accreditation MCS, FCS GS, FCS ORL, FCS Uro Prof Abebe to lead the visit
14	Mbingo Baptist Hospital	Cameroon	<b>Re-accreditation for MCS and FCS GS approved</b>

## STATUS OF ALL THE COSECSA ACCREDITED HOSPITALS IN 2020.

Country	Hospitals Accredited	Hospitals Actively Training	Expired Accreditations
Botswana	1	0	0
Burundi	2	2	2
Cameroon	1	1	0
Congo	1	1	0
Ethiopia	13	10	6
Gabon	1	1	0
Kenya	34	25	9
Lesotho	1	1	1
Malawi	5	4	3
Mozambique	3	2	1
Namibia	5	4	0
Niger	1	1	1
Rwanda	6	5	2
Somalia	1	1	1
Sudan	4	1	4
Tanzania	8	5	5
Uganda	15	6	10
Zambia	13	9	0
Zimbabwe	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>54</b>

## 9.0. SCHOLARSHIPS

With support from Collaboration Partners, COSECSA is running scholarship programs in conjunction with American College of Surgeons (a Women Program), KidsOR for Paediatric Surgery and Smile Train for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Operation Smile for Plastic and Paediatric surgery.

In August 2020, the COSECSA Council approved 25 applications which were received for American College of Surgeons Scholarships and all eligible applicants were awarded scholarships. Eight (8) newly joining FCS who will sit exams in 2022/2023 were approved for ACS I and fourteen (14) who are MMED candidates to sit the exams the same year (2020) were awarded for ACS II.

## 10.0. ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE

In August 2020, the Council reviewed and considered thirteen applications from different countries and for different specialties. Nine (9) were approved for FCS by Election and two (2) for Member by Election as illustrated in the table below; -

1	Fabian Anaclet Massaga	Tanzania	General, 2009	FCS by election
2	Sylvian Niyonkuru	Burundi	General, 2009	FCS by election
3	Briony Ackroyd-Parkin	UK/Malawi	General, 1986	FCS by election
4	Nicephorus Boniface Rutabasibwa	Tanzania	Ortho, 2007	FCS by election
5	Antonio Loro	Uganda	Ortho, 1989	FCS by election
6	Ainhoa COSTASCHAVARRI	Rwanda, USA	General 2013	FCS by election
7	Maurice Peter MAVURA	Tanzania	Ortho, 2004	FCS by election
8	Zaitun Mohamed BOKHARY	Tanzania	GS:2011, Peds: 2015	FCS by election
9	Andargachew Workneh BAYE	Ethiopia/Lesotho	Ortho, 2005	FCS by election
10	Eliud Seme ALUVAALA	Kenya	General Surgery, 2005	Member by Election
11	Titus Kiriinya MUTHAA	Kenya	General Surgery 2015	Member by Election

## 11.0. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLLEGE

### 11.1. Annual Workplan and Budget

At the beginning of 2020 the annual workplan and budget were drawn to facilitate the implementation of the College activities that included but not limited to;

- (a) Trainings,
- (b) Facilitating COSECSA registration in the Countries.
- (c) Ensure recognition and accreditation of the COSECSA qualifications.
- (d) follow up on re-accreditation and maintain the records.
- (e) Roll out Basic Surgical Skills and Basic Surgical Science on COSECSA E-learning platform.
- (f) Facilitate and Coordinate Trauma courses in the countries
- (g) Appoint office bearers for the journal.
- (h) Launch of the online journal system.
- (i) Conduct training for the board members.
- (j) Obtain Pub -Med indexing of the Journal.
- (k) Facilitate Safe Surgery 2020 Stakeholders engagement meeting.
- (l) Conduct the Safe Surgery 2020 Training of Trainers in the COSECSA countries
- (m) Organize and Coordinate the NOREC Feasibility Study
- (n) Conduct one examiner training workshop.
- (o) Develop a digital result compilation system for the 2020 clinical exams.
- (p) Facilitate examination process.
- (q) Develop and implement a communication strategy.
- (r) Engage surgeons and other discipline to join fellowship and membership of the College.
- (s) Build administrative capacity of WISA.
- (t) Facilitate and coordinate COSECSA Governance meetings
- (u) Carry out the COSECSA 18 months audit from Jan 2019 - June 2020
- (v) Follow up on Formal Documentation on COSECSA Recognition in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Burundi & Zambia.

- (w) Performance Evaluation of all Country Coordinators
- (x) Replace Country Coordinators for Kenya and Tanzania
- (y) Improving the existing IT systems
- (z) Develop the COSECSA Strategic plan for 2021 - 2025

## 11.2. College Finances

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 the college received **117%** of the expected income, spent only **56%**, the Fund Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 is **\$1,436,275**. This includes balances of Paypal, UK Bank Account, Standard Chartered Bank Account and Country Bank Accounts. The main sources of funding for the year 2020 were Programme Entry Fees, annual subscriptions and Examination Fees and support from donors as below.

NO.	SOURCE OF FUNDS	INCOME 2019 (USD)	INCOME 2020 (USD)
1	Programme Entry	168,172	177,620
2	Annual Subscription	28,384	24,255
3	Examination fees	126,707	159,592
4	Donor support	412,489	418,415
5	Other internal income	100,047	40,496
	<b>Total</b>	<b>835,800</b>	<b>820,378</b>

## 11.3. 2020 Examination Expenditures

Out of the above income the College spent a total of **\$40,390** on examinations as illustrated in the table below on local and other examiners' associated costs (Tickets, accommodation etc). It is anticipated that the remaining examinations to be held in January 2021 will cost **\$27,437**. In 2019 the College spent a total of **\$87,991** on examinations and the College Peak Annual events (AGM, Scientific Conference, Council, Examinations and Graduation)

EXPENDITURE FOR 2020 MCS AND FCS EXAMINATIONS PER COUNTRY					
NO.	COUNTRY	BUDGETED AMOUNT/ USD	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	REASON
1	Kenya	5,850	7,509	1,659	Unforeseen IT and support staff expenses
2	Rwanda	8,510	10,405	1,895	Additional accommodation and per diem costs due to flight changes
3	Zambia	2,050	2,050	0	
4	Malawi	381	381	0	
5	Ethiopia	1,297	1,297	0	
6	Zimbabwe	6,560	7,042	482	Unforeseen ground transport expenses
7	Examiners' tickets	15,742	15,624	118	Increase in ticket costs due to cancellation of flights
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,390</b>	<b>44,308</b>	<b>3,918</b>	

## 11.4. Examination Financial Support from Partners

The College through the efforts of the Secretary General and the Chief Operating Officer received funds from Partners to support the examiners' participation the December examination. This financial support catered for tickets, per diems, accommodation, covid tests, ground transport and meals.

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM PARTNERS TO SUPPORT 2020 EXAMINATIONS			
NO.	PARTNER	USD	AREA OF SUPPORT
1	Oxford University	5,000	Paediatric surgery
2	KidsOR	7,293	Paediatric Surgery
3	Operation Smile	15,000	Plastic surgery
4	Life Box	3,000	Open
5	OSLO University	2,102	Neurosurgery
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,395</b>	

## 11.5. Income Generating Strategies

The College embarked on Income generating strategies that included but not limited to *Revision of the Fee Structure* (this has been implemented), *Re-engagement with Member States*, letters to Ministries of Health were sent seeking the government financial support, *signing of various MoUs and Funding Proposals to Collaboration Partners*. Proposals were written and request for funding sent to potential partners.

No	Prospective Partner	Project Title	Proposal Amount (USD)	Status Report
1.	AO ALLIANCE	Regional Surgical Care Development Support	Open request	To be considered in the next financial year (July 2021). Paid Registration Fee for 4 Malawi Residents and the MD Dr. Claude Martin Junior donated \$1000 for examination support
2.	The World Bank	Regional Surgical Care Development Support	6,423, 200	No funds available
3.	The World Bank (Joint proposal with ECSA-HC)	Capacity Building for the Health Workforce	6,423, 200	Granted 5m to ECSA-HC for Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness
4.	East African Health Research Commission	COSECSA Research Capacity Development	957,600	Scheduled to meet with the Ag. Executive Director and Principal Research Officer
5.	JHPIEGO	Increased accessed to quality surgical care	938,000	Committed to funding this activity once funds are available
6.	GMA Foundation (Contact provided by Mr. Eric O'lynn)	Increased accessed to quality surgical care	38,000	Not Successful
7.	Health Workforce Resilience Prize	Increased accessed to quality surgical care	30,000	Edith and Deidre Submitted this application in April. (Not Successful)



## 11.6. Development of COSECSA Laki Laki Land

The FGPC meeting held on 8.8.2020 directed the Secretariat to obtain various quotations for the development of COSECSA Laki Laki Land fence. The Treasurer, Dr. Samuel Nungu assisted in connecting the COO to the Ministry of Defense contacts in Arusha and another contractor. It was also agreed that we include quotations that were previously obtained. The Secretariat with the help of the Treasurer progressed this development and a team from Ministry of Defense based in Arusha and another contractor were taken to the land to assess and provide quotations.

The second meeting to consider the solicited quotations for fencing Laki Laki land was held in the first week of October 2020 that was attended by the Chair FGPC, Treasurer, COO and Examination/IT Officer (Mr. Christopher Minja) reviewed the quotations and removed GAIMO Construction whose quotations of different types of fences had exorbitant prices. It was therefore, agreed that consideration be given to only two Construction Companies SUMAJKT (Ministry of Defense) and JT Architects who should be requested to provide revised quotations of the following two different options: -

1. **Solid wall of 509m length (Angle side), with full columns and only 4 courses above the ground beam**
2. **Solid wall of 509m length (Angle side), with full columns, full wall**

Treasurer contacted the Ministry of Defense for a good, discounted rate and the Secretariat also contacted JT Architects for a revised quote. The table illustrates the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Options and the prices after negotiations for both contractors.

**TABLE ILLUSTRATING QUOTATION AMOUNTS FOR 2 REVISED OPTIONS**

	CONTRACTOR	OPT-IONS	DESCRIPTION	COST (TZS)	COST (USD)
1	JT ARCHITECTS	1	Block Wall Fence, 4 Courses above the ground beam, without copings and pointing	137,474,543.23	59,513
		2	Block Wall Fence, full wall, with copings and pointing	174,457,775.23	75,523
2	Suma JKT Construction (Ministry of Defense)	1	Insitu Casted Columns and a half block wall fence for Phase 1 Laki Laki Land	272,755,820	118,076
		2	Block Wall Fence, full wall, with copings and pointing	301,075,820	130,336
<b>QUOTATIONS AFTER NEGOTIATIONS</b>					
1	JT ARCHITECTS	1	Block Wall Fence, 4 Courses above the ground beam, without copings and pointing	137,474,543.23	59,513
		2	Block Wall Fence, full wall, with copings and pointing	174,457,775.23	75,523
2	SUMAJKT Construction (Ministry of Defense)	1	Insitu Casted Columns and a 4-course block wall fence for Phase 1 Laki Laki Land	228,228,520	98,800
		2	Block Wall Fence, full wall, with copings and pointing	294,863,120	127,646

**The above status awaits final approval of the FGPC under the guidance of the Chair on one of the above contractors so that construction starts early 2021.**

## **12.0. EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH**

The Chair ESRC, Professor Russ White implemented various activities in the year 2020 under his docket. These are Train the Trainers, Modular Training of MCS, Decker WC, SFS Case Studies and ESRC new business (Proposed Syllabi Research Coordinator, and regular CRs and PDs virtual meetings). Below is the status of implementation of the various activities under the Education, Scientific and Research.

<b>#</b>	<b>2020 Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks/Notes</b>
1.	Graduate Survey conducted by RSCI and COSECSA	<b>130 Responded</b>	<b>Findings were;-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% are working in country of FCS training.</li> <li>• 1.5% working outside Africa.</li> <li>• They are supervising on average 5 trainees each.</li> <li>• 91.5% want to do further professional training/certification.</li> </ul>
2	Conduct a follow up curriculum conference under SS 2020 to finalize the online course	<b>COMPLETED.</b>	In February 2020. Course was Hosted on the E-learning Platform for Participants
3	Facilitate SS 2020 stakeholder's engagement meeting	<b>Not Implemented</b>	2020 Pandemic restricted the meeting. However, Contacts were made with the Stakeholders and was informed that the SS2020 Grant has come to an end with no renewal.
4	Conduct the SS 2020 Training of Trainers in the COSECSA countries	<b>Partially Completed</b>	Out of 12 participating countries, 6 managed to hold at least 1 workshop. (No Cost Extension was given due to pandemic)
5	Roll out Basic Surgical Skills and Basic Science Skills on COSECSA E-learning platform and generate reports on the courses as well as monitoring progress	<b>COMPLETED</b>	All 11 basic Science modules for MCS year 1 were published on the E-learning platform with quarterly monitoring and reporting to the Chair. Standardized basic surgical skills guide videos and material published on the e-learning platform for countries to follow. Assistance from CP Deirdre Mangaoang.
6	Host and coordinate the MCS quarterly quizzes	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Through the ECC Chair, 3 MCS MCQ Quizzes were held on the e-learning platform. Education Assistant developed the E-version of the quiz and coordinated it
7	Facilitate and Coordinate Trauma courses in the countries	<b>Not Completed</b>	Pandemic restricted trauma course from being held
8	Add cases for two new	<b>Partially</b>	Cardiothoracic, Paediatric Orthopaedic,

	specialties for e-learning platform	<b>Completed</b>	Otorhinolaryngology didn't have cases in the year 2020. To be Done in 2021
9	Renew the IRB License and develop IRB Protocols	<b>COMPLETED</b>	IRB renewed in 2020. Expires in 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023. Protocols Done by IRB Chair Prof Laston Chikoya.
10	Organize and Coordinate the NOREC Feasibility Study	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Feasibility Study Held in January 2020
11	Submit Project Proposal to NOREC on trainee exchange and upon approval, Initiate rotations	<b>Not Completed</b>	ECSA Audit Report Delayed the proposal submission. Expected to be submitted Early 2021
12	To conduct training for COSECSA Program Directors	<b>Not Completed</b>	In-Country Restrictions and availability of Program Directors didn't allow this to take place as well as some countries having a small number of PDs.
13	Pilot the Decker Med E-Learning Resources for FCS General Surgery	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Pilot began in January 2020 and went well throughout the year. Mock Exam was held in July for decker med pilot hospitals.
14	Host and Pilot the Research Methodology Course on the COSECSA E-Learning Platform	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Course Material was provided by Prof Dreyer. Education Assistant published the material on the E-Learning platform and Pilot has begun for FCS year 2&3 trainees. Assistance from CP Deirdre Mangaoang
15	Facilitate a Cleft Surgery Virtual Lectures workshop in partnership with Operation Smile to all Plastic Surgery Trainees	<b>COMPLETED</b>	In Partnership with Operation Smile, Plastic Surgery trainees went through an Intensive virtual lecture series on cleft lip started in November and ended on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
16	Facilitate in partnership with Life Box a workshop on WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.	<b>COMPLETED</b>	In Partnership with Life Box, 20 individuals went through a 2-day virtual workshop to obtain knowledge on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. This included the new COVID-19 WHO Safety Checklist
17	Reporting on the accreditation statuses of the COSECSA Accredited Hospitals	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Detailed report on the accreditation status of hospitals was developed and shared with the ECC Chair, Registrar and Respective countries and reminded to renew their accreditations
18	Coordinate and report on the deployment of the Online Examiners Course to all examiners for the 2020 Examinations	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Education Assistant, with support from CP Deirdre Mangaoang, published the course on the E-Learning platform. Access was given to potential examiners with automatic certificate generation along with reporting to ECC Chair on Completions.
19	Conduct a needs assessment for trainers in COSECSA accredited training facilities	<b>Not Completed</b>	Delayed due to the SS2020 workshops being postponed hence the assessment was not fully initiated. (likely to be done in 2021)
20	Conduct an Impact study on the basic surgery training workshops for non-surgeons	<b>Not Completed</b>	ReST & Zest need more clarifications. Decide on the type of study to conduct. Design a survey to send to the participants. Through CCs. (Likely to be done in 2021)

## 13.0. ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES

### (a) Website

In improving publicity of the College, we were able to come up with a New user-friendly Website which was launched in September 2020.

### (b) Institutional Review Board (IRB) License

Institutional Review Board (IRB) license renewed.

### (c) Introduction of the Research Methodology Course

Research Methodology Course was introduced, developed and published and the same is being undertaken by some trainees.

### (d) Development of QR Codes

Development of a QR CODE Examiner Verification system for COSECSA Exams.

### (e) COSECSA Receipt System

Development of an offline (No Internet) swift receipt system for utilization during COSECSA Events

### (f) Basic Surgical Skills Guide

Development and standardization of Basic Surgical Skills guide for the COSECSA Region

ACHIEVEMENTS	SPECIFIC CHALLENGES
Year 1 MCS modules published online with simplified monitoring, reporting and user support.	Gathering of Specialty Cases for E-learning. It has been a challenge to get case studies to assist in e-learning training.
3 MCS Quarterly quizzes to access trainee's participation in Modules.	Delays in the Audit report to support the NOREC Proposal report.
6 Countries held SS2020 training workshops in light of the Pandemic	In-Country regulations made SS2020 workshop a challenge to be held
COSECSA Training went on without any glitches during the peak of pandemic.	Clear information/ instructions sent were not fully followed
Examiners course monitoring, reporting and support was flawless.	Monitoring and tracking of Basic Surgical Skills and Trauma Course Completions is challenging to know which trainees have completed.
WHO Safety Checklist resulted in COSECSA/Life Box Safety Checklist Trainers for future workshops	Working on an automated hospital expiration/re-accreditation reminder system. Challenge in the coding and programming aspect.
Operation Smile Virtual Lecture series was engaging and fundamental in plastic surgery development	
Successful pilot of the Decker Med E-Learning Resources	

## 14.0. GENERAL CHALLENGES

The year 2020 began with hope but was struck by the unprecedented effects of the COVID 19 Pandemic. However, most of COSECSA's activities did take place thanks to the resilient systems that are already in place. A few College activities could not happen due to COVID-19. Key among them:

- Executive Council Meeting that was scheduled for March 2020 in Kenya
- Council meeting scheduled for August 2020 in Maputo (held on zoom)
- Council meeting scheduled for December 2020 in Lusaka (postponed)
- Annual General Meeting that was to take place in Zambia
- Graduation Ceremony
- The Japanese Surgical Society (JSS) Fellowships which were awarded,
- The Presentation of Papers to the JSS Annual Congress by 3 selected trainees: 1 Kenyan, 1 Tanzanian and 1 Zimbabwean (this did not happen).

## 15.0. GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS

COSECSA whole heartedly appreciates all partners for their financial and/ or in-kind support to the College. Through the RCSI/COSECSA collaboration program, the Irish Aid has supported and continued to support the College activities and building an efficient secretariat for COSECSA.

The General Electric Foundation through Safe Surgery 2020 supporting leadership training within the COSECSA countries and ACS, Smile Train, KidsOR, BEIT, PAACS through their Scholarship Programs and or in-kind support.

Other partners we would like to appreciate for monetary and or in-kind support are: G4, PAAS, ReSurge, Life Box, WACs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, CMSA, RC Edinburg, American College of Surgeons, Oxford University and Operation Smile among others.

We also thank all the Fellows and Members of the college for their monetary and in-kind support.

## 16.0. OUR CONTACTS

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