



Pan-African Surgical Conference: Building Resilient and Sustainable Surgical Services in Africa.

A Surgeon in Every District Hospital

Kigali Serena Hotel, Rwanda

19 - 23 February 2025 - Pre-Conference Training Sessions

24 - 28 February 2025 - Scientific & Clinical Conference

Executive Summary

From 24 to 28 February, the University of Rwanda (UR), Rwanda Surgical Society (RSS), Operation Smile (OS), and the Rwanda Ministry of Health (MoH) will convene the Pan-Africa Surgical and Research Community along with academicians, policy makers, global surgery policy experts and key stakeholders for the inaugural Pan-African Surgical Conference: Building Resilient and Sustainable Surgical Services in Africa: A Surgeon in Every District Hospital. The event will be held at the Kigali Serena Hotel.

The conference, designed by the Pan-African surgical community for its members, will strengthen this network, reinforce local providers, highlight best practices, share research findings, advance surgical innovation and promote surgical equity.

This conference will explore context-specific solutions to identified gaps in local surgical ecosystems and recommend specific clinical practice and policy innovations to increase surgeon density, expand access to essential surgery and improve health equity throughout Africa.

Concept Note

Goals & Objectives

By 2030, over half the global surgical workforce shortage is projected to be in Africa, a gap of 6 million surgical care providers in African countries. No one understands this burden more than the patients who lack surgical care and the health care professionals of Africa. As data describing the challenge grows so does global awareness. Africa has the lowest numbers of surgeons and anesthetist (0.5 and 0.1 per 100,000 residents) in the world. (Lancet Glob Health. 2015;3:S9-11.)



The 76th World Health Assembly in May 2023, citing Sustainable Development Goal 3, (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) called for additional efforts globally to strengthen the planning and provision of emergency, critical and operative care services as part of universal health coverage. The goal of universal health coverage can only be realized by strengthening the operative workforce and increasing political prioritization of operative care.

Planners and participants of the Pan-African Conference are heeding this call to action from the patients and providers of Africa, emboldened by the global health community to convene the Pan-African Surgical Conference for collective action.

Goals & Objectives

- Increase Surgical Equity in Africa by strengthening the local surgical workforce
- Reinforce the Pan-African network of surgical providers and researchers
- Expand training opportunities for the surgical workforce
- Support surgical clinical research and publication by African investigators of African populations
- Share innovations to meet surgical gaps in resource limited settings
- Build support for policy changes that promote workforce capacity and surgical access
- Deepen funding for locally-driven sustainable approaches to workforce strengthening and surgical equity

Activities

Activities will include keynote addresses from global leaders, expert clinical presentations, research presentations, moderated roundtables and panel sessions, poster sessions, multidisciplinary case discussions, exhibition booths by participating sponsors and organizations, and a vendor fairs. Two days of hands-on training for operative team members (surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, intensivists, pediatricians and generalists) in the form of lectures and simulation will precede the conference.

Day	Date	Thematic Activities
Monday	24 February	Advancing Surgical Education Across Africa
Tuesday	25 February	Surgical Innovation to Advance Access & Clinical Skill Development
Wednesday	26 February	Creating Balanced Surgical Ecosystems: Leadership and Specialization
Thursday	27 February	Integration of Research to Advance Academic and Clinical Practice
Friday	28 February	Co-creating Robust Surgical Systems: Policy and Advocacy