Global Surgery Research: 5W1H

Mamta Swaroop, MD FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Director, Center for Global Surgery
Global Surgery Program Director
Division of Trauma & Critical Care
Northwestern University

Sanjay Krishnaswami MD FACS FAAP
Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
Vice Chair- Surgical Quality & Operations
Program Director, Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Doernbecher Children’s Hospital
Oregon Health and Science University
Disclosures

- We have no relevant financial relationships to disclose as it pertains to the content of my presentation.
Outline

• What is AGS?
• When to start?
• How to find resources?
• With whom to set up collaborations?
• Where to present & publish?
• Why?
What is AGS?
Academic Promotion for Global Surgeons
Surgery: Definition?

- *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of bodily injuries or disorders by incision or manipulation.

The Oxford Dictionary
Academic Surgery

Scientific Impact
- Advance the field
- Impart knowledge and skills
- Inspire and guide others

Clinical Impact
- Improve quality of life

Academic surgery

Patient care

Research

Education

Mentorship

Chen et al. Success in Academic Surgery 2012
Academic Global Surgery

Proposed dictionary definition

n. involves the application of research, education and evidence-based advocacy toward clinical, surgical care in regions of health inequities.
When to start?
THE FUTURE 
DEPENDS 
ON WHAT YOU DO 
TODAY
-Mahatma Gandhi
Can I get promoted in AGS?

YES

What is the key? Where is it hidden?

Virtually identical as other pathways
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria Similar to Usual Promotion Criteria</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Training students, residents, or other trainees from the HIC institution on site in LMIC partner institution.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research publications</td>
<td>Publications in global surgery would be equally valued as other publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Administering/directing the HIC institution’s side of formal exchange programs or other global surgery activities (eg. global surgery track in a residency).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria undervalued in current promotion criteria</td>
<td>Clinical care</td>
<td>Clinical care at LMIC partner institution should be considered; if it is part of partnerships upon which other global surgery activities (eg, training of HIC country trainees, or research) depend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Training of LMIC trainees, if it contributes to partnerships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research-funding</td>
<td>Given currently minimal funding and given how effective even small amounts can be in low-resource settings, small grants are more likely to advance the field and hence should be more highly valued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria that should not be considered</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>If part of building partnerships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical care</td>
<td>Mission trips or other clinical work that are not otherwise linked to funding, training, research, or building partnerships.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIC indicates high-income country. HIC institution would usually be the institutional home of the faculty member being considered for promotion.
Path to Promotion: Telling a Story

• Develop expertise
• Aim for impact
• Leave a trail
Developing Expertise

• Get connected
  – Individual Global Surgeons
  – Societies

• Develop an interest...Find YOUR Why

• Read cardinal literature & consider further education
  – Lancet Commission/DCP3/WHA Resolutions
  – M.P.H./Masters Global Health/M.Ed.
May 24, 2014, the 67th WHA adopted Resolution 67.15: Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children.
Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage

Draft resolution proposed by Australia, Kenya, Monaco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine, United States of America and Zambia
May 27, 2019: the 72\textsuperscript{nd} WHA adopted, Resolution 72.31: Emergency and trauma care: Emergency care systems for universal health coverage: ensuring timely care for the acute ill and injured.
Aiming for Impact

- Broad
- Focused
- Specific

- Descriptive
- Analytic/Comparative
- Interventional
Leaving a Trail

• Leave a Trail: Develop Longitudinal Relationships
  – Clinical: return to same place(s), develop programs
  – Education: facilitate peer-to-peer teaching, exchange faculty
  – Research: Publish COLLABORATIVELY (WJS/JSR/Surgery/Lancet) and promote bilateral exchange
How to find resources?
Training

CAGS NETWORK

Programs exist across the United States offering Global Surgery opportunities for fellows, residents, and medical students. Browse through the map below to find out more about these programs.

www.incisionetwork.org

RASACS
Global Surgery Workgroup

Young surgeons passionate about global surgery

www.facs.org/member-services/ras
Training

CAGS MAP

Click on the button next to menu to view available options for fellows, residents and medical students.

The map will populate as more programs establish themselves and institutions join the CAGS.
Measuring Impact

Funding is an indication
- Traditionally hard to find but expanding
  - (MEPI/Fogarty Center/NCI/intramural/Gates Foundation?)
- Intramural Sources count—especially early on
- Secure funding for trainees
- Society Grants

Make it locally relevant—parallel projects
- Education of foreign/domestic trainees
- Quality Assurance in resource-poor settings
With whom to set up collaborations?
"Surgery clearly has an important role to play in primary health care...these are high priority matters for everybody (yet), the vast majority of the world's population has no access whatsoever to skilled surgical care and little is being done to find a solution."

-Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Director-General, WHO, "Surgery and Health for All", 1980
What burns you? What ignites you?
Defining Yourself

What do you want to do?

Clinical - short/long-term missions, disasters, full-time

Academic Global Surgery

Education  Research  Advocacy  Development
Where to present & publish?
Present, PRESENT, PRESENT!
Why?
What ignites you to be the change...
This is a burgeoning field that perfectly marries philanthropy and academic discovery with surgery!
If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him...We need not wait to see what others do.

-Mahatma Gandhi