



Kigali Declaration 2030

The Future of the OR United for a Better Future

Five billion people worldwide lack access to safe, timely, and affordable surgery, anesthesia, and obstetric (SAO) care when needed, responsible for over 18 million deaths each year. Surgical care, including anesthesia and obstetrics, has proven to be **cost-effective, save lives, prevent disability, and promote economic growth**. As the future surgeons, obstetricians, anesthesiologists, nurses, public health specialists, policymakers, researchers, and funders, **InciSioN -the Future of the OR-** came together in **Kigali, Rwanda** on **20-21 April 2019** for the **InciSioN Global Surgery Symposium 2019 (IGSS2019)**.

The IGSS2019 convened 310 medical students and residents from 18 African countries and 8 non-African countries to discuss the current state of access to global surgical care with an emphasis on **fostering international partnerships**.

1. Recognizing the Indispensable Role of Surgery, Anesthesia, and Obstetrics as Part of Universal Health Coverage

Aligned with the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution WHA68.15 “*Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage*”, InciSioN recognizes the need for inclusion of SAO services in health systems strengthening to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). It is unthinkable to attain the Sustainable Development Goals if millions of patients with surgical conditions remain marginalized and left behind.

Key ask 1: Including surgery, anesthesia, and obstetric care within national health and universal health coverage plans

Key ask 2: Developing National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Plans (NSOAPs)

2. Embracing Gender Equity

Globally, less than 10% of the surgical specialist workforce is female, despite female students making up at least half of medical students in most countries around the world. Ensuring the highest standard of patient care will rely on our joint efforts towards unleashing the full potential of the world’s medical future.



Key ask 3: Increasing the number of female surgery, anesthesia, and obstetrics residents

Key ask 4: Creating a female-friendly clinical and academic environment, including the elimination of a gender pay gap, the creation of maternity leave policies, and equal career development opportunities

3. Integrating Surgical and Medical Subspecialties

Equitable and holistic health systems encompass a continuum of surgical and medical subspecialties with integrated care pathways and complementary resource mobilization. Faced with a general scarcity of resources, the sustainment of old and creation of new siloes within healthcare further impede efforts towards building efficient health systems.

Key ask 5: Include all surgical and medical stakeholders in health systems strengthening discussions, with a focus on National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Planning

Key ask 6: Develop equitable, evidence-based financing mechanisms with prioritization of horizontal health systems interventions

4. Fostering International, Interdisciplinary, and Intersectoral Partnerships

In order to develop fair and equitable systems, alignment and inclusion of all stakeholders is warranted. All parties involved, notably including the youth and future health professionals, ought to have equal representation and voice in the global public health discourse. Similarly, inter- and intraregional support can support countries in elevating health systems and economies in a mutual manner.

Key ask 7: Fostering bidirectional North-South and, ideally, South-South partnerships with a focus on surgical capacity-building

Key ask 8: Standardizing and regulating the surgical supply chain, including the regulation of medical and surgical procurement



5. Training the future surgical workforce of 2030

Building infrastructural and workforce capacity requires time, making it paramount to address these issues early on. Training programs have to be scaled in low- and middle-income countries today to ensure an increasing and steady stream of surgical specialists, non-surgical specialists, and other health care providers and supporting personnel.

Key ask 9: Developing high-quality and inclusive residency programs in low- and middle-income countries. Concurrently, awaiting local training programs, allocating funded training spots for highly specialized fields in high-income countries to medical graduates from low- and middle-income countries whilst promoting return to home countries and regions to increase care.

Key ask 10: Increasing online and in-person educational opportunities for medical students and trainees to engage in global surgical policy and research work, as well as further build clinical knowledge and surgical skills in high- and low-resource settings.

As the leading surgical voice for students and residents in global health, InciSioN calls upon policymakers and governments to take action for their domestic and regional disparities existing in accessing surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia care. If we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage by 2030, we can no longer neglect the availability of safe, timely, and affordable surgical care.

InciSioN – International Student Surgical Network is the largest student-run Global Surgery network in the world, with over 5,000 medical and public health students, residents, and young doctors in over 80 countries. Accordingly, InciSioN provides a platform to contribute to the development of future generations of global surgeons, anesthesiologists, and obstetricians around the world.