



SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC GLOBAL SURGERY

Newsletter

Updates, reflections, and opportunities from across our community of academic global surgery

www.academicglobalsurgery.org



Advancing safe, timely and affordable surgical care through equitable bidirectional partnerships

September 2026

In This Issue

Updates, reflections, and opportunities from the Association of Academic Global Surgery

03 From the President

A letter from AAGS President Dr. Christopher Dodgion

04 In Memoriam

Condolence messages and remembrance

05 AAGS Community Updates

Awards, honours, and news from across the Association

07 ISW 2026: Event Recap

Reflections, key moments, and AAGS updates from ISW 2026

09 From Reflection to Action

Executive Retreat highlights and committee priorities for the year ahead

11 JoGS Update

News and developments from the Journal of Global Surgery

12 Looking Ahead

Upcoming AAGS events, meetings, and opportunities

13 AAGS Cross Section

Test your global surgery knowledge

14 Global Surgery Calendar

Conferences, meetings, and abstract-submission deadlines worldwide

15 Join an AAGS Committee

Calls for committee members and ways to get involved

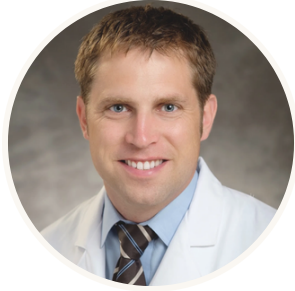
AAGS Newsletter Team

Development, writing & design: Dr Udit Choubey

Editorial direction & editing: Dr. Katayoun Madani, Dr. Christopher Dodgion

With contributions from AAGS leadership, committees & members

From Representation to Participation and Impact



**Christopher Dodgion,
MD, MSPH, MBA, FCS
(ECSA), FACS**

President, Association of
Academic Global Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Division
of Trauma and Critical Care,
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dear Colleagues,

This has been an important year for AAGS, one marked by growth, reflection, and a clearer understanding of how we can best serve the people and institutions advancing academic global surgery around the world. AAGS exists to help advance global surgery as a recognized and valued academic field. That means strengthening the programs, standards, scholarship, and institutional structures that support the field, while also creating meaningful opportunities for the professionals and trainees who are building it.

Across the Association, this work is taking many forms: advancing conversations around accreditation and academic standards, promoting more equitable approaches to global surgery partnerships and conferences, supporting accessible scientific publishing through the Journal of Global Surgery, and strengthening opportunities for collaboration, professional development, and leadership.

Just as importantly, we are continuing to strengthen the AAGS community itself. Conversations with members at International Surgical Week in Mexico City and during our Executive Retreat reinforced a central message: membership should be more than affiliation. Members should be able to see clear pathways to contribute, collaborate, develop professionally, and participate in shaping the Association's future.

Those conversations are now informing the next phase of our work. Committee leaders are considering how shared organizational priorities can translate into meaningful goals and deliverables for the year ahead, while AAGS continues to improve how opportunities, activities, and pathways for engagement are communicated across our community.

Our goal is simple: when someone joins AAGS, they should understand not only what the Association stands for, but also how they can participate, where they can contribute, and what opportunities that participation can create.

There are several ways to engage now. Members are encouraged to ensure their information is current in our membership system, consider committee participation, contribute to the Journal of Global Surgery, and take part in upcoming Association activities and meetings.

The progress reflected in these pages belongs to the broader AAGS community. I hope this newsletter gives you a clearer view of what we are building together, and where you can be part of what comes next.

With gratitude for your continued engagement,

Chris Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA, FCS (ECSA), FACS
President, Association of Academic Global Surgery

OUR REACH AT A GLANCE

45

Countries represented
across the membership

62%

LMIC Membership

45

Represented
Academic Programs

REMEMBRANCE

In Memoriam

The Association of Academic Global Surgery honours two colleagues whose commitment to equity in surgical care left a lasting mark on our field



Dr. Thomas L. Sims Jr.

May 4, 1976 – August 16, 2025

Paediatric surgeon,
educator, and founding
Chair of the AAGS
Accreditation Committee.

AAGS mourns the loss of Dr. Thomas L. Sims Jr., a paediatric surgeon, educator, and global surgery advocate dedicated to service, mentorship, and improving surgical care for children worldwide.

His work included global surgical efforts in Bangladesh, Honduras, and partnerships across Africa and Asia, reflecting his commitment to equitable, high-quality paediatric surgical care.

Within AAGS, Dr. Sims served as the first Chair of the Accreditation Committee, playing an instrumental role in establishing the foundations of the organisation's accreditation process. He will be remembered for his leadership, dedication to surgical education, and lasting contributions to academic global surgery. AAGS extends its heartfelt condolences to all those touched by his life and work.



Dr. Dominique Vervoort

**September 23, 1991 –
February 16, 2026**

Cardiothoracic surgeon,
scholar, and advocate for
equity in global surgery.

AAGS mourns the passing of Dr. Dominique Vervoort, a cardiothoracic surgeon, scholar, and global surgery advocate whose impact extended far beyond his years. His work reflected a deep commitment to health equity, global cardiac surgery, and systems-level improvement in surgical care. Through his research, advocacy, and international engagement, he advanced the vision that access to safe, timely surgical care should not be limited by geography or resources.

Widely recognised for his academic contributions and leadership in global surgery networks, he contributed actively to AAGS in various capacities. His legacy lives on through the ideas he advanced, the collaborations he strengthened, and the many trainees he inspired. AAGS extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Three Members Honoured with 2026 ACS/Pfizer Awards

AAGS celebrates three members of our community recognised through the 2026 ACS/Pfizer Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awards for their contributions to global surgical care, education, and capacity building



Juan Carlos Puyana, MD, FACS

Academic Global Surgeon Award

A long-standing AAGS member and Chair of the Institutional Representatives Council, Dr. Puyana has spent more than three decades strengthening trauma care and surgical education across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through sustained partnerships, research, mentorship, and systems development, his work has supported trauma programmes, registries, blood-transfusion services, and generations of surgeon-leaders working to improve care in resource-limited settings.



Steven M. Roser, DMD, MD, FACS

International Surgical Volunteerism Award

Former Chair of the AAGS Finance Committee, Dr. Roser has devoted more than five decades to expanding access to cleft lip and palate care worldwide. His work has helped provide reconstructive surgery to thousands of children while placing education and local capacity building at the centre of long-term partnerships. Through mentorship and sustained collaboration, he has helped strengthen cleft-care programmes across multiple regions.



Phillip J. Hsu, MD, PhD

Resident Surgical Volunteerism Award

A former AAGS committee member, Dr. Hsu represents an emerging generation of global surgery leaders. His work has combined community service, research, and surgical education across the United States and several international settings. Notably, his work with ADEPT Rwanda has supported locally led paediatric surgical education through a train-the-trainer model designed to strengthen sustainable clinical capacity.

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL

Interested in bringing your home or partner institution into AAGS? The Institutional Representatives Council helps set the Association's priorities and shapes the standards, consensus statements, and curricula that guide academic global surgery programmes. Learn more at academicglobalsurgery.org/institution or register your interest at bit.ly/IRCinterest.



AAGS Founding President Honored by the West African College of Surgeons (WACS)



Dr. Sanjay Krishnaswami receives an Honorary Fellowship from the West African College of Surgeons at the 66th Annual General Meeting & Scientific Conference, Accra, Ghana.

AAGS congratulates our Founding President, Dr. Sanjay Krishnaswami, on receiving an Honorary Fellowship from the West African College of Surgeons at its 66th Annual Meeting. This recognition honours more than two decades of Dr. Krishnaswami's contributions to advancing surgical training, research, and clinical innovation through sustained collaborations across the West African region.

His work reflects the core values of academic global surgery: equitable bidirectional partnerships, capacity building, mentorship, and the shared pursuit of equitable surgical care.

AAGS celebrates this distinguished recognition and Dr. Krishnaswami's continued leadership in strengthening global surgical education and collaboration.

Accreditation. Careers. Community.

Three interconnected conversations shaping the next chapter of academic global surgery



Fireside Chats: Career Development in Academic Global Surgery- Dr. Katayoun Madani, Dr. Barnabas Alayande, and Dr. Patricia Numann, Accreditation in Academic Global Surgery- Dr. Sanjay Krishnaswami, Dr. Moses Isiagi, and Dr. Elijah Riddle at ISW 2026.

AAGS had a strong presence at International Surgical Week 2026 in Mexico City. Across panels, research presentations, networking, and member engagement, the meeting provided an opportunity to share the Association's work and reflect on where the field is heading.

At the centre was the ISS/SIC-AAGS main session, **"Shaping the Future of Academic Global Surgery: Accreditation, Careers, and Community"** chaired by Dr. Kristin Long and Dr. Christopher Dodgion, President- Elect and President of AAGS. Following an introduction to AAGS and its mission, the session featured two fireside chats.

Accreditation in Global Surgery, moderated by Dr. Krishnaswami, explored how quality standards can strengthen programmes without creating new barriers. Dr. Riddle from the AAGS Accreditation Committee was joined by Dr. Isiagi of the University of Cape Town.

Career Development in Academic Global Surgery, moderated by Dr. Katayoun Madani, examined how to sustain an academic career across clinical, research, and policy work.

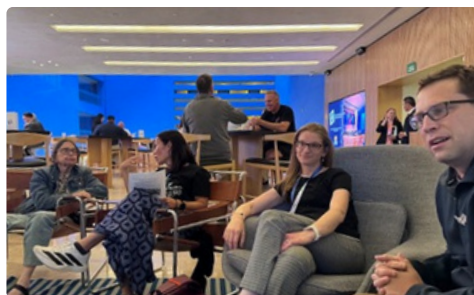


Dr. Alayande and Dr. Numann contributed perspectives across different career stages, career paths, and LMIC and HIC settings.

Poster Presentation

Dr. Madani also presented AAGS's equity and impact work through the poster **"Advancing Academic Global Surgery: Equity Metrics and Organizational Impact of the Association of Academic Global Surgery,"** highlighting ongoing efforts to understand the Association's reach, representation, and organizational impact.

Beyond the Formal Program



Some of the most valuable conversations happened between sessions. The AAGS Networking and Catch-Up gave members space to reconnect, meet new colleagues, and build relationships across institutions and regions.

The meeting also sparked a forward-looking discussion on the future of global surgery conferences: how to make them more equitable, accessible, resource-efficient, and less siloed. The message was clear. Gatherings should be designed so people can participate meaningfully regardless of geography, career stage, or resource setting.

The next International Surgical Week will be held in Cape Town from 26–30 March 2028, and AAGS intends to carry this conversation into it.



We also heard directly from members, guided by two questions: **How can AAGS better serve its members?** and **How can we meaningfully engage colleagues across the globe?** That input from ISW shaped the Executive Retreat in July and the committee priorities set out on the pages that follow.

WHAT WE TOOK AWAY

From the sessions to the side conversations, ISW 2026 captured what AAGS stands for: rigorous academic exchange, equitable collaboration, professional development, and a connected global surgery community.

From Reflection to Action

On July 12–13, 2026, AAGS leadership met for a hybrid Executive Retreat centred on one question: how can the Association better serve its members?

Leadership reviewed the needs and expectations of members across membership categories, with particular attention to colleagues in low- and middle-income settings, and identified opportunities to strengthen communication, engagement, and member value.

Several priorities emerged, including clearer pathways to mentorship, fellowships, committees, and leadership roles, along with more consistent communication about when these opportunities become available. Making the benefits of membership easier to understand and access was also a key focus.

A central discussion explored how to strengthen trust, ownership, and meaningful participation among LMIC members, including clearer opportunities to influence AAGS's direction, receive recognition, and translate participation into tangible outcomes.

The retreat also addressed committee engagement, self-nomination, and alignment with member priorities. Feedback was mapped across committees and translated into specific goals, responsibilities, and timelines. Members will see these priorities reflected in the work and deliverables of AAGS committees over the coming year.

AAGS JOINS THE WHO ACUTE CARE ACTION NETWORK

AAGS has joined the World Health Organization's Acute Care Action Network (ACAN), a global alliance of stakeholders working to save lives by advancing acute care through coordinated action. Membership gives AAGS a formal seat in the WHO-convened work on emergency and essential care, and connects our accreditation, education, and quality agendas to the global framework our members already work within.

A Different Model for Publishing Global Surgery



The Journal of Global Surgery (ONE) is the official journal of AAGS and InciSioN, the International Student Surgical Network. It continues to build a publishing model designed around accessibility, equity, and community participation — a reminder that high-quality scientific publishing does not necessarily have to begin with a substantial bill for the author. Authors pay no article processing charge, helping reduce financial barriers to publishing. Instead, JoGS uses a community-funded model: readers contribute from as little as \$0.10 toward an article's publication cost, which is capped at

\$100 per article. Once covered, the article becomes openly accessible. Peer reviewers are recognised with a \$10 stipend for their time and expertise.

With three issues published since its inception, including Volume 2, Issue 1 in March 2026, the journal continues to expand its place within the global surgery community.

AAGS members are encouraged to read, submit, and join the reviewer pool at jogs.one.



Volumes of the Journal of Global Surgery (ONE)

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE — IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. SAQIB NOOR

AAGS will speak with Dr. Saqib Noor, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Global Surgery (ONE), about the journal's scope, its unique publication pathway, and its no-APC model. A British paediatric orthopaedic surgeon and founder of ONE.SURGERY, Dr. Noor brings extensive global surgery experience across multiple settings.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dates, Deadlines, and Ways to Engage

Global Surgery Mixer at ACS Clinical Congress

AAGS is pleased to co-host the 2026 Global Surgery Mixer during the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Washington, DC. The evening brings together colleagues from across institutions and career stages for informal networking, idea exchange, and conversation about the future of global surgery.

The mixer is co-hosted by AAGS, Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Global Surgery, Harvard Medical School's Program for Global Surgery and Social Change, the Medical University of South Carolina Global Surgery Program, Stanford University Global Engagement, UCSF's Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia, and the University of Utah Center for Global Surgery.

September 26, 2026 • 7:30–9:30 PM ET • Busboys and Poets, 450 K Street NW, Washington, DC. Free; [Registration required](#).



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – DECEMBER 2026

The AAGS Annual Business Meeting will be held in December 2026. The agenda includes elections to Association leadership and a package of constitutional updates covering the fiscal year, committee structure, and the pathway for future amendments. This is the meeting at which members set the Association's direction, and all members in good standing are encouraged to attend. Full date, format, and agenda will be circulated in advance, and the election calendar will be published ahead of the meeting.

ACADEMIC GLOBAL SURGERY SEMINAR SERIES

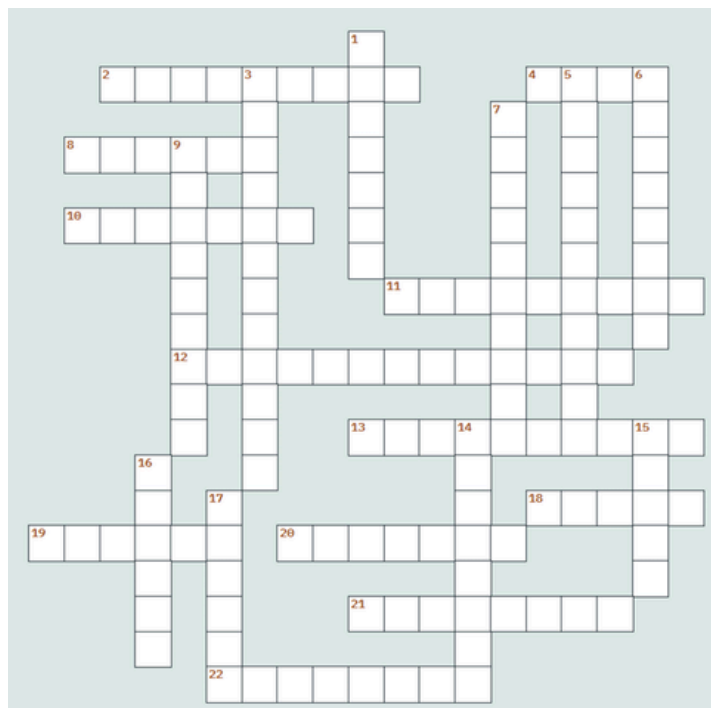
The Congress Committee will be hosting the Academic Global Surgery Seminar Series, alongside two AAGS networking events over the coming year. Sessions are being scheduled to accommodate members across time zones, and dates will be announced by email and on our social channels. Members who would like to propose a topic or a speaker are invited to write to academicglobalsurgery@gmail.com.

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD

AAGS has moved to a new membership system. Members who have not yet registered there will not appear on the roster used for committee appointments, elections, and member communications. Take two minutes to confirm your details at <https://www.academicglobalsurgery.org/membership>

AAGS CROSS SECTION

AAGS sits at the cross-section of academia and global surgery. Here are 22 clues from landmark reports and health-system concepts to institutions, indicators, and a few terms buried somewhere in your memory. Some are straightforward. Others will need the crossings. Good luck!



ACROSS

- 2 Farmer and Kim, 2008: surgery, the neglected ___ of global health (9)
- 4 Global-health shorthand for countries bearing the greatest surgical-access gaps (abbr.) (4)
- 8 Small blade; also the journal that in 2015 handed the field its founding arithmetic (6)
- 10 Regional college that examines surgeons from Addis to Lusaka (7)
- 11 ___ surgery: the DCP3 package whose procedures rank among health care's most cost-effective interventions (9)
- 12 The quieter twin of 3 Down: spending that does not ruin a household outright, only pushes it under the line (13)
- 13 The most catch-all of 7 Down's three: whatever is wrong, it begins by opening the abdomen (10)
- 18 Costed national plan folding surgery, obstetrics and anesthesia into a single policy (5)
- 19 Injury — outkills HIV, TB and malaria combined, and does it mostly in poorer countries (6)
- 20 It started by counting the operating rooms with nothing to clip on a finger (7)
- 21 The anesthetic prized where oxygen, power and ventilatory support may be unreliable (8)
- 22 Trauma ___: the database most systems say they will start next year (8)

DOWN

- 1 The 1978 declaration that made primary health care the route to Health for All (7)
- 3 ___ expenditure: the indicator counting families the bill ruined, not the disease (12)
- 5 Sterilized and cut to size, it became a sub-dollar mesh alternative studied for hernia repair (11)
- 6 Another of 7 Down's three — the delivery a stalled labor needs and too often cannot get (8)
- 7 Sheep with the bell — and the collective name for the three operations that reveal whether a hospital is truly surgical (10)
- 9 Nineteen items and three pauses; the cheapest thing the WHO ever shipped (9)
- 14 What carried a Commission report into a World Health Assembly resolution (8)
- 15 Boston plastic surgeon who co-chaired the 2015 Commission (5)
- 16 Not identical care for all, but care in proportion to need (6)
- 17 In 1980, this WHO Director-General challenged the surgeons to make essential surgery part of Health for All (6)

Down 1 ALMAVITA • 3 CATASTROPHIC • 5 MOSQUITONET • 6 CESAREAN • 7 BELLWETHER • 9 CHECKLIST • 14 ADVOCACY • 15 MEARA • 16 EQUITY • 17 MAHLER
Across 2 STEPCCHILD • 4 LMIC • 8 LANCET • 10 COSECSA • 11 ESSENTIAL • 12 IMPOVERISHING • 13 LAPAROTOMY • 18 NSOAP • 19 TRAUMA • 20 LIFEBOX • 21 KETAMINE
Down 22 REGISTRY

GLOBAL SURGERY CALENDAR

Conferences & Deadlines

Events relevant to academic global surgery, surgical education, research, and international collaboration, opportunities to present, learn, network, and engage with colleagues across regions.

ABSTRACT & SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sep 30, 2026	International Congress for Innovation in Global Surgery, abstract deadline https://jogs.one/icigs/	March 23– 25, 2027. Kampala, Uganda
Oct 30, 2026	Association for Surgical Education 2027 — abstract deadline https://www.surgicaleducation.com/call-for-abstracts/	Mar 30–Apr 3, 2027 · San Antonio

SPECIAL GLOBAL SURGERY ISSUE

Nov 30, 2026	East and Central African Journal of Surgery https://lnkd.in/e8XrB-ed	March 1 2027
Nov 30, 2026	Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal https://lnkd.in/dp4TTviy	April 2027

MEETINGS

Sep 25, 2026	UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness & Response https://www.un.org/en/civil-society/2026-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-response/	New York , USA
Sep 26–29, 2026	ACS Clinical Congress 2026 https://www.facs.org/for-medical-professionals/conferences-and-meetings/clinical-congress-2026	Barcelona, Spain
Oct 7–10, 2026	EACTS Annual Meeting 2026 https://www.eacts.org/40th-eacts-annual-meeting/	Barcelona, Spain
Oct 11–13, 2026	World Health Summit 2026 https://66thwacs2026agsm.org	Berlin, Germany
Oct 14–18, 2026	Bethune Round Table 2026 https://www.academicsurgicalcongress.org/	Georgetown, Guyana
Nov 5–11, 2026	G4 Alliance Meeting 2026 https://ghana.theg4alliance.org/	Accra, Ghana
Nov 19 – 23, 2026	Pan African Surgical Health Care Forum IV www.facs.org/for-medical-professionals/conferences-and-meetings/innovation-summit/	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Dec 3–4, 2026	COSECSA Scientific Conference 2026 www.cosecsa.org/conference-graduation-and-agm/	Lilongwe, Malawi

Meeting dates and submission deadlines are based on information available at the time of publication and may be subject to change. Members are encouraged to confirm

GET INVOLVED

Join an AAGS Committee

Open positions are available now. AAGS is looking for members ready to help shape the future of academic global surgery. Self-nominations are open across all committees. Rank up to three you'd like to join on the Committee Self-Nomination form.

FIND YOUR COMMITTEE

Accreditation & Program Administrators

Advocacy

Congress

Education

Ethics

Global & Interprofessional Engagement

Membership & Finance

Public Relations

Research & Quality

Student & Associate

Pick your passion; full committee descriptions are on the nomination form. There's a place for everyone at AAGS. Institutions can also join through the Institutional Representatives Council at bit.ly/IRCinterest.

Ready to Get Involved?



SCAN TO SELF-NOMINATE

SELF-NOMINATE

BEFORE YOU NOMINATE

Dues must be current at the time of appointment. **If dues are a barrier, write to academicglobalsurgery@gmail.com — a waiver pathway is available, and requesting one does not affect your nomination.** Not a member yet? Join us at bit.ly/AAGSJoin. Membership categories — Active, Associate, Student, and Emeritus — are detailed on the form.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT ISSUE

Have something to share with the AAGS community? We welcome committee updates, upcoming initiatives and events, member achievements, research and education highlights, and news from your global surgery work. Send submissions to internalaffairs.aags@gmail.com and CC druditchoubey@gmail.com