
GLOBAL SURGERY STUDENT ALLIANCE

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



Global Surgery Student Alliance

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FOREWORD

DEAR GSSA MEMBERS,

AS WE TRANSITIONED INTO A HYBRID PLATFORM OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE GLOBAL SURGERY STUDENT ALLIANCE HAS EMBRACED THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO CONTINUE ENGAGING WITH HEALTHCARE STUDENTS AND TRAINEES INTERESTED IN PURSUING GLOBAL SURGERY. WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT THE GLOBAL SURGERY STUDENT ALLIANCE CONTINUES TO LEAD EFFORTS TO EDUCATE, ADVOCATE FOR, AND EXPAND RESEARCH TO PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL SURGEONS ACROSS SURGICAL SUBSPECIALTIES.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO HAVE HOSTED OUR FIRST IN-PERSON NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN APRIL 2023 AFTER A FEW YEARS OF VIRTUAL CONFERENCES. THE EVENT WAS HOSTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE GSSA CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, SERVING AS AN INSPIRING WEEKEND OF CONNECTING STUDENTS OF BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICAL BACKGROUNDS AROUND INNOVATION IN GLOBAL SURGERY. WE CONTINUE TO PRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH, AND RESOURCES FOR OUR STUDENTS TO BE CONNECTED TO SURGICAL RESIDENCIES WITH A FOCUS ON EQUITABLE GLOBAL HEALTH APPROACHES. WE ADDITIONALLY HAD OUR THIRD ITERATION OF THE GLOBAL SURGERY BOOTCAMP WITH HIGHER THAN EVER ATTENDANCE, CONNECTING NEW MEDICAL STUDENTS WITH THOSE ALL AROUND THE GLOBE WITH A PASSION FOR GLOBAL SURGERY. FINALLY, WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR MEMBERSHIP BEYOND MEDICAL SCHOOL CHAPTERS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEW DENTAL CHAPTERS, WHICH HAVE HELD SEVERAL EVENTS IN THE PAST YEAR, AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED A GROWING PASSION FOR ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY IN THE GLOBAL SETTING.

OUR EQUITY INITIATIVE HAS GROWN TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE CURRICULUM FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS TO GAIN AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ETHICS, HEALTH EQUITY, AND TOPICS THAT FACE ALL ASPECTS OF SURGERY IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. WE HAD OUR FIRST DEDICATED NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER TO DEVELOP THIS CURRICULUM, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DELIVERING THIS CURRICULUM TO YOU ALL IN THE UPCOMING YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR NATIONAL TEAM TO BETTER SERVE THE ORGANIZATION THROUGH OUR VPS OF COMMUNICATION AND DEDICATED ADVOCACY TEAM. WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE THE GROWTH OF OUR TEAM AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT THEY ACCOMPLISH.

WE START 2024 WITH A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING GLOBAL SURGERY ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH WHILE CENTERING A FOCUS ON EQUITY AND JUSTICE ACROSS ALL OF OUR WORK. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING BOTH OUR IN-PERSON SYMPOSIUM AND VIRTUAL EDUCATION AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS. WE HOPE THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT NOT JUST THE STUDENTS AND TRAINEES WE SERVE, BUT ALSO OUR PATIENTS AND THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHO ARE QUICKLY BECOMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

SHIVANI SUBHEDAR & LYDIA KERSH
2023 CO-CHAIRS, GLOBAL SURGERY STUDENT ALLIANCE

2023 NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

VPS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

LAUREN CARROLL
SHRAVYA KAKULAMARRI

VPS OF EDUCATION

THUY-LINH NGUYEN
CHELLANDRA SAMUELS
RAMYA REDDY

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

CENTRAL-RACHEL WEBER
MID-ATLANTIC-HEATHER GROVES
NORTHEAST-JOSEPH ISKANDER
SOUTH- LINA NGUYEN
WEST-AVNEET BHULLAR
UNDERGRAD-CHAITRALI PATIL
DENTAL-NOAH BRADY & ABRAR SHAMIM

VPS OF RESEARCH

CASSIE ANDERSON
PAUL SERRATO
RAFAT SOLAIMAN
VANITHA RAGUVEER

VPS OF ADVOCACY

KAITLYN COX
YIFAN MAO
NATHAN SCHLOBIN
SUHASINI GUPTA

VPS OF FINANCE

YORDAN PENEV
TAMUIR HASSAN
DAVID POSAWATZ

VP OF EQUITY

DECORIA MCCAULEY

OUR CURRENT STATE

GSSA MEMBERSHIP IN 2023

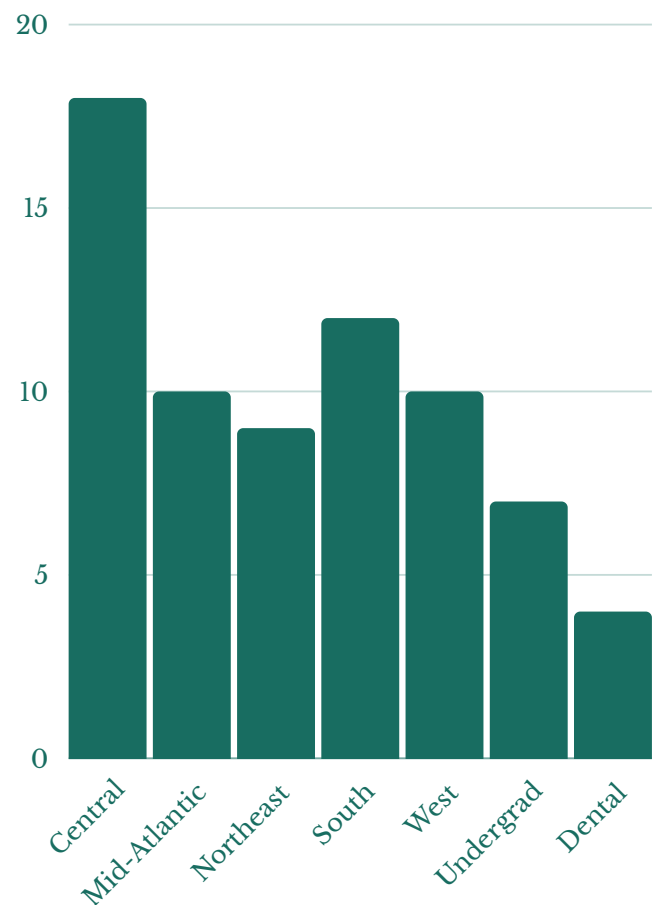
70

TOTAL ACTIVE CHAPTERS

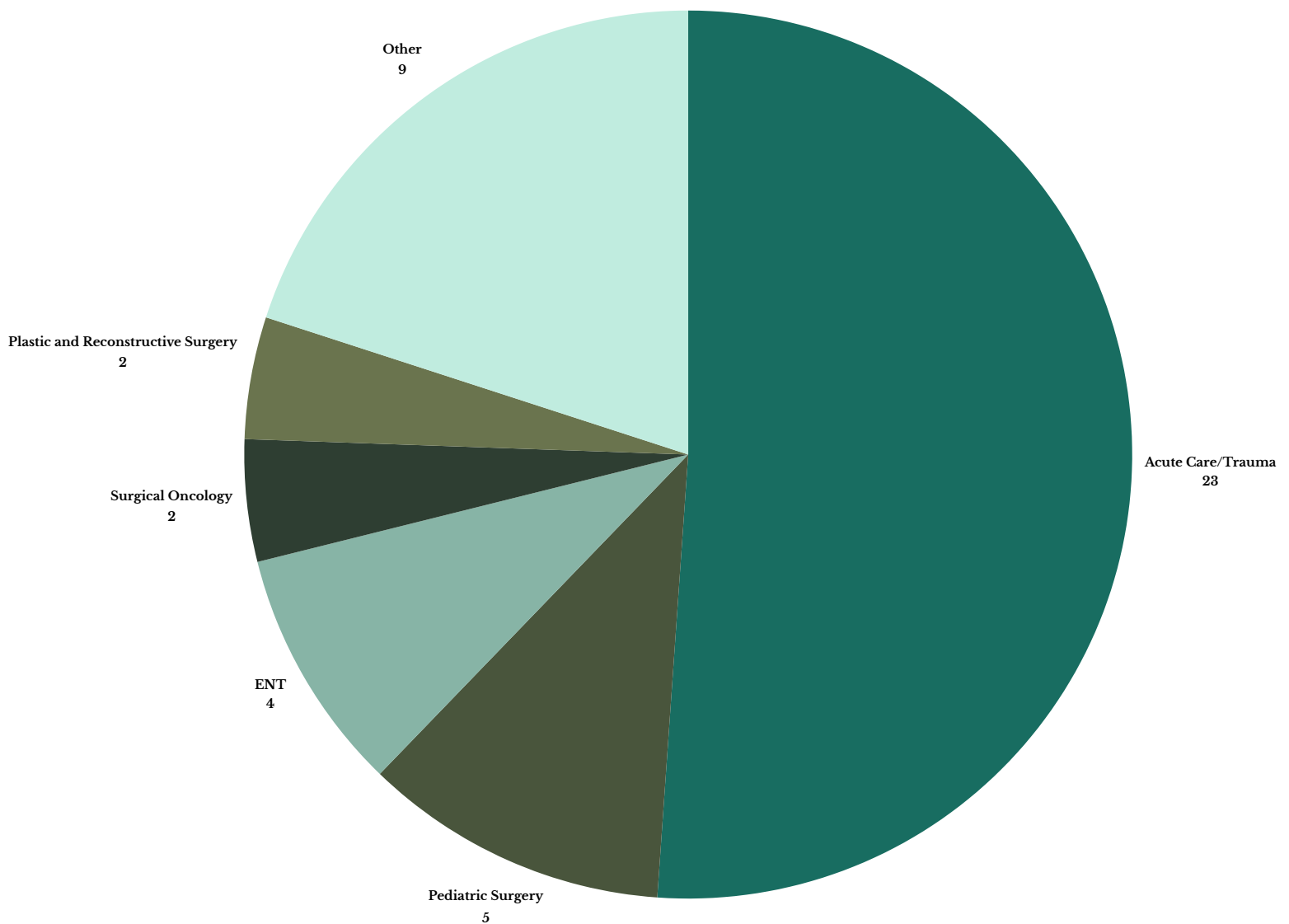
25+

CHAPTERS IN DEVELOPMENT

New chapters are in development
across all of our regions!



GSSA CHAPTER ADVISORS



*Others include: Emergency Medicine, Oral Pathology, OMFS, Cardiac Surgery, AMR, Med-Peds, OB-GYN, Anesthesia, Anatomy

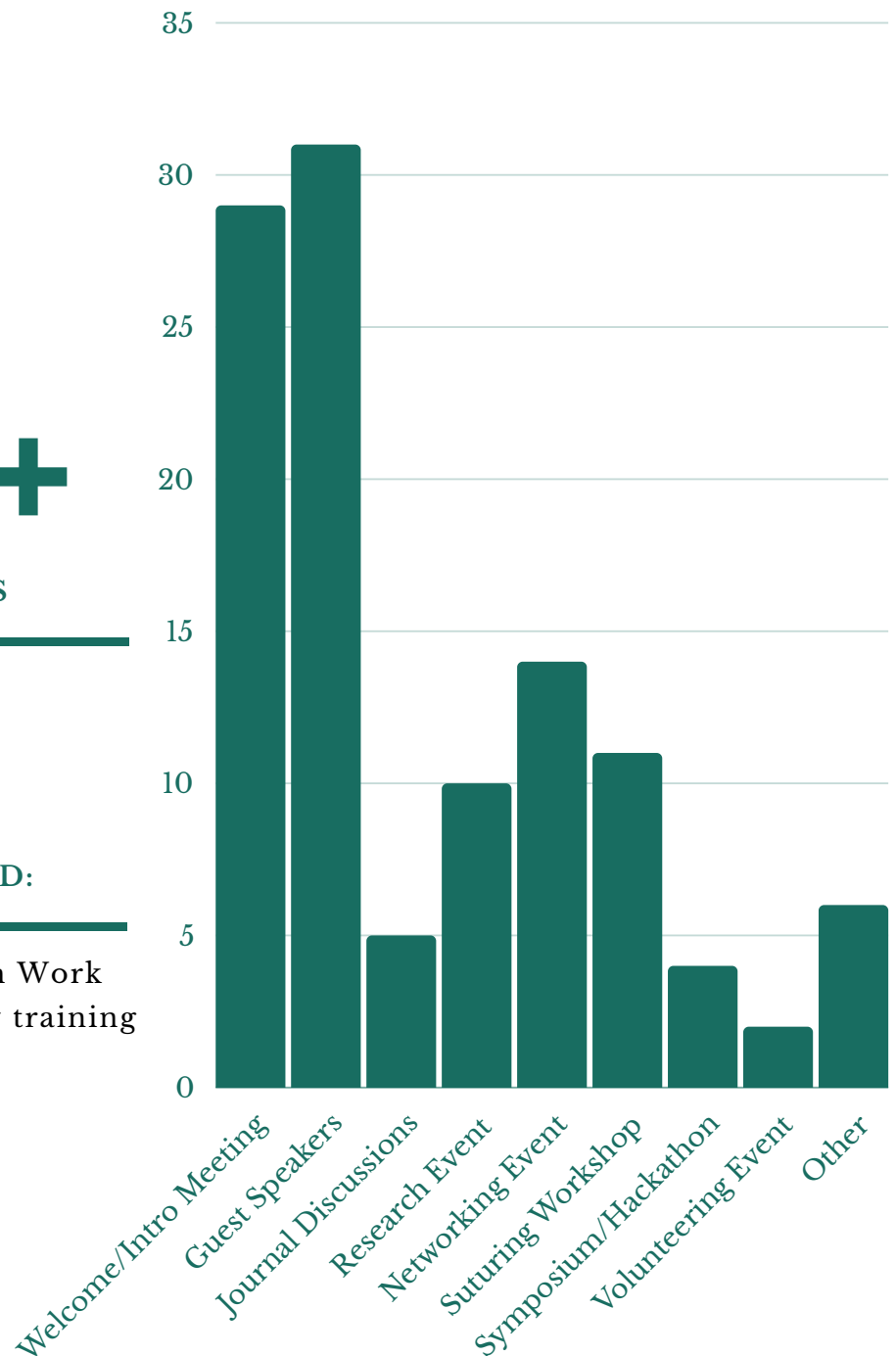
2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

100+

CHAPTER EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDED:

MIS trainings, Mental Health Work in Global Health Laproscopy training events, and many more!



A YEAR IN REVIEW

GSSA HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

**GSSA Undergraduate
Hackathon - FEB**

**Rice University
Journal Club - APR**



**GSSA UNDERGRADUATE
HACKATHON 2023**
FEBRUARY 4TH-5TH, 2023
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/gssahackathon2023>
Registration Fee: \$7

CASH PRIZES!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. John L. Tarpley

John Tarpley, known as 'tarp', is a "general general surgeon", a life member of WACS (West African College of Surgeons), and since September 2021 has served as Academic Dean for PAACS, the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. Tarp attended Vanderbilt for his undergraduate and medical schooling. Residency was at Hopkins with two years at the NCI, Surgery Branch at the NIH. He spent most of his first 15 years post residency in Nigeria at the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomoso and the University College Hospital of the University of Ibadan. He was then at the Nashville VA Medical Center and Vanderbilt for 23 years and served as Program Director for General Surgery for ~20 years. Post retirement, Tarp spent 5 years back in Sub-Saharan Africa - a year at Kijabe Hospital, Kenya, a year at CHUK, University of Rwanda, and 3 years as HOD (Head of Department, Surgery, at the University of Botswana, where with Motswana colleagues they launched the first general surgery residency program in Botswana in 2020. Interests include global health, surgical education, capacity building, and surgical oncology. Tarp is Professor of Surgery, Emeritus at Vanderbilt.

EXPERTS, MENTORS, AND JUDGES

Xiya Ma, MD, MSc Université de Montréal	Joseline Halzel-Cobbina, MD, MPH The Vanderbilt Institute	Hloni Bookholane, MD, MPH Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Matthew Kynes, MD AIC Kijabe Hospital Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Malavika Manoj, MSPH International Working Group for Health Systems Strengthening	Marissa Boeck, MD, MPH UCSF
Saksham Gupta, MD, MPH Harvard School of Public Health	Emmanuel Bua, MBChB Mbare Regional Referral Hospital	Mrs. Margaret Tarpley University of Botswana Vanderbilt University

**IU Speaker Series: Dr. Reinou
Groen - Global Surgery in
ObGyn - APR**

A YEAR IN REVIEW

GSSA HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

IMG Panel - MAY

The poster is for the #Match2023 IMG Panel, presented by the Global Surgery Student Alliance (GSSA). It features five speakers: Vanessa Haizel (OB/GYN), Andrea Amabile (CT Surgery), Abbas M. Hassan (Plastic Surgery), Vianca Insignares (Anesthesiology), and Arkaketan Chatterjee (General Surgery). The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023, from 9:30am to 11:00am EST (13:30 to 15:00 GMT). A QR code is provided for registration.

GSSA Global Surgery Student Alliance Presents:

#Match2023 IMG Panel

Get inspired by success stories of foreign trained physicians who matched into surgical specialties!

Vanessa Haizel
OB/GYN

Andrea Amabile
CT Surgery

Abbas M. Hassan
Plastic Surgery

Vianca Insignares
Anesthesiology

Arkaketan Chatterjee
General Surgery

Scan to register

Sunday May 7, 2023

9:30am - 11:00am EST
13:30 - 15:00 GMT

Post Match Panel - MAY

2023 Hackathon - OCT

Global Perspectives in Medical Education - OCT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

GSSA HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Penn Global Surgery Symposium - OCT

Penn Global Surgery Symposium: Fall 2023
Penn Medicine & The War in Ukraine

October 28th 11 am-2:30 pm
Law Auditorium, Jordan Medical Education Center, 5th Floor
Lunch and refreshments will be served

 Glen Gaulton, PhD Vice Dean, Center for Global Health	 PJ Brennan, MD CMO, UPenn Health System	 Scott Levin, MD, FACS, FAOA Chair, Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery, Penn Medicine
 Stephen Kovach, MD Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, Penn Presbyterian	 Andrew Bauder, MD Staff Naval Surgeon - Naval Medical Center in San Diego	 Lewis Kaplan, MD, FACS, FCCM, FCCP Professor of Surgery, HUP & the VA

Case Studies by Surgeons from Penn & Ukraine

 Oksana Jackson, MD Associate Professor of Surgery, CHOP Division of Plastic Surgery	 Samir Mehta, MD Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Trauma and Fracture Care	 Greg Ginsberg, MD Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology), HUP
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Register:
<https://forms.office.com/r/jbnTBBnj0Q>
Virtual Attendance Option Available

Monthly Journal Club - NOV

Bidirectionality in Global Surgery
Research and Training

Annual GSSA Global Surgery Bootcamp - NOV

	
DR. RACHEL MORESKY MD, MPH ADVOCACY & IMPLEMENTATION	DR. VALERIE PAZ SOLDAN, PHD, MPH RESEARCH & EQUITY

workshop speakers

GSSA GLOBAL SURGERY FALL BOOTCAMP
NOV. 18, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM EDT



REGISTRATION FORM: [BIT.LY/GSSABOOTCAMP](https://bit.ly/gssabootcamp)

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Global Surgical Innovation

Global Surgical Innovation
Annual Conference
March 31, 2023 - April 2, 2023

Hosted by The University of Michigan

...surgery and technology experts, groundbreaking innovations and research, leaders and peers from around the globe, professional and clinical skills training, Global Surgery charity

Global Surgery

Sustainability Technology Mentorship
Public Health Finance Economics Research

Hands-on Suture Skills

Mixed Reality Demonstrations

Mentor Matching

Event Summary

300+ Attendees

70 Universities
40 Speakers
15 Workshops

clinical
training

ground breaking
innovations

global surgery
charity

mentor
matching

A YEAR IN REVIEW

NATIONAL TEAM UPDATES

RESEARCH

LED BY PAUL, RAFAT, BANI, HIBA,
YASMIN, KATHY

- Developed two manuscripts investigating US-based medical student characteristics, experiences, perceptions, and career plans in global surgery
- Created Research Mentor Database survey to update database
- Hosted 3 Journal Clubs

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

LED BY LAUREN CARROLL AND
SHRAVYA KAKULAMARRI

- Organized 2023 National Symposium with University of Michigan
- Organizing 2024 National Symposium with University of Miami

EQUITY

LED BY WENDY MEMISHIAN

- Group was initiated in late 2023
- Equity curriculum videos are currently being developed

RESIDENTS

LED BY ZACHARY ELWELL

- GSSA Residency Database Survey 2023 is launched
- Launched the GSSA Website Forum
 - GOAL: to utilize as a novel communication platform to extend outreach to medical students and trainees.
- Developing database of material for GSSA website regarding funding, research, and industry partner networking opportunities.

EDUCATION

LED BY CHELLANDRA SAMUELS

- Hosted Match Panel in May
- Hosted Annual Bootcamp

A YEAR IN REVIEW

REGIONAL TEAM UPDATES

CENTRAL

LED BY RACHEL WEBER

- UChicago hosted a screening of “The Checklist Effect”
- University of Minnesota hosted a Global Health Ethics workshop series

NORTHEAST

LED BY JOSEPH ISKANDER

- Northeast region hosted a GSSA hackathon for all medical schools
- Yale hosted multiple skills sessions for ultrasound use, IV placement, and suturing

SOUTH

LED BY LINA NGUYEN

- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences hosted a Global Cleft Lip/Palate speaker panel
- Tulane hosted a Trauma Surgery & Disaster Relief Management lecture
- UMiami hosted language workshops for medical Spanish and medical Creole

DENTAL

LED BY NOAH BRADY AND ABRAR SHAMIM

- New chapters established (i.e. NYU)
- Harvard hosted journal clubs
- Columbia hosted a session on Global Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery: Sustainability, Ethics, & Relevant Discussions

MID-ATLANTIC

LED BY HEATHER GROVES

- PCOM hosted a Philadelphia-wide surgical conference with skills sessions and career preparation seminars for medical students
- VTCOM hosted a low-resource workshop with skin grafts, hand suction D&C, spinal anesthesia, and fasciotomies as skills sessions.
- UMD hosted a World Malaria Day Speaker Event
- UPenn hosted a session on Penn surgeons' work in Ukraine
- Vanderbilt developed a guide to planning a global health trip for undergraduate students to help educate them about ethical global health work

WEST

LED BY AVNEET BHULLAR

- Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine has organized three lectures on global surgery in partnership with an elective course that can be taken for credit
- UCSF has organized a Global Surgery and Health Equity Spring Lecture Series with speakers from all of the UC schools

UNDERGRADUATE

LED BY CHAITRALI PATIL

- Baylor University, Michigan State University, and GWU hosted suture workshops
- UMich hosted a case competition
- Wayne State University hosted volunteering events at World Medical Relief, a local nonprofit that sends surgical equipment to LMICs

CONTACT US

How to get involved

SOCIAL MEDIA



INSTAGRAM: @GSURGSTUDENTS

FACEBOOK: GSURGSTUDENTS

TWITTER: @GSURGSTUDENTS

YOUTUBE: GLOBALSURGERYSTUDENTALLIAN2314

WEBSITE: WWW.GLOBALSURGERYSTUDENTS.ORG

EMAIL: GLOBALSURGERYSTUDENTS@GMAIL.COM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW TO START A CHAPTER AT YOUR
INSTITUTION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT
GLOBALSURGERYSTUDENTS@GMAIL.COM