

2019 Annual Report



Global Surgery Student Alliance

GSSA MISSION

TO EDUCATE, INSPIRE,
AND UNITE STUDENTS
THROUGH ENGAGEMENT
AND MENTORSHIP IN
GLOBAL SURGERY,
INCLUDING ANESTHESIA
& OB/GYN.

Possibility beckons

The Future of GSSA

Become a member of the national leadership board of GSSA
Applications due December 15th
Apply today: <https://goo.gl/forms/XGHme5A8ntfUDxOss1>

GSSA WEBINAR SERIES PRESENTS

ANESTHESIOLOGY AND GLOBAL SURGERY

Featuring Dr. Faye Evans and Dr. Michael Lipnick
Thursday, January 30, 8PM EST

GSSA webinar
series presents



RESEARCH
*and global
surgery*

Sunday, February 16th

8PM EST

[Zoom Link to Follow](#)

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Foreword from the 2019 Co-Chairs of GSSA

GSSA was founded to educate and inspire medical students and trainees to support and advocate for increased access to surgical care in a world where global health still paid heed to the mostly non-surgical disease burden. Through GSSA we have been able to encourage students to start thinking about how they can be ethically involved in meaningful global surgery work early in their careers, which has demonstrated the great capacity that students have to implement change.

2019 was an incredibly exciting year for GSSA! This year we hosted our 3rd national symposium with Virginia Commonwealth University, launched our GSSA webinar series and biweekly new bulletin, started working on our online curriculum, published a national study on global surgery education, began an international study with our partners at InciSioN, and co-hosted the first-ever student-led global surgery session at the American College of Surgeons. We also further expanded our national and local teams, and gained traction as a professional organization by becoming an official non-profit with a trademarked logo.

In 2020 we will aim to further our commitment to an ethical and equitable global health practice in our own work and to encourage medical students we can impact to be more equitable as well. We aim to be the platform that will help elevate other students and trainees to their full capacity through projects that involve and support our LMIC colleagues, increasing global access to our resources through open source platforms and translation services, focusing our energy on supporting our chapters and their membership, and actively engaging in academic spaces through conferences, journals, and collaborations with other professional organizations



PARISA FALLAH & ANUSHA JAYARAM
2019 Co-Chairs, Global Surgery Student Alliance

GSSA Leadership Board – as of December 2019

Co-Chairs: Parisa Fallah and Anusha Jayaram

Vice Presidents of Development: Isaac Alty, Nicole Beck, Roya Edalatpour

Vice Presidents of Internal Affairs: Monika Pyarali and Blake Hauser

Vice Presidents of Advocacy: Prachi Patel and Hannah Weiss

Newsletter Editor- in- Chief:

Avina Joshi

Vice Presidents of Education:

Natalie Pawlak and Alexandria Hernandez

Vice Presidents of Research:

Taylor Ottesen, Sergio Navarro, and Maziar Nourian

Vice Presidents of Residents and Trainees: Na Eun Kim,

Megan Still and Adriana Ramirez

Vice Presidents of Finance: Alexis Kahanu and Christena Caminita

Regional Representatives: Betty Yibrehu, Michael Flores, Philip Hong, and Sam Simister

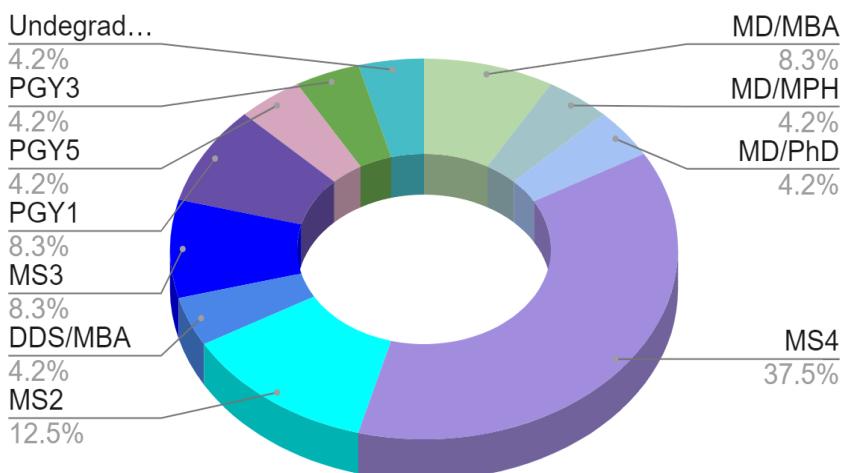
Highlights from 2019 – A Year in Review



About Us: The National Team

As of 2019, the GSSA national team is composed of 25 trainee members from 14 institutions across 8 states. Six members of the national team are also pursuing a dual degree program (MBA or MPH).

National Team 2019



19

Medical students

4

Residents

1

Dental student

1

Undergraduate

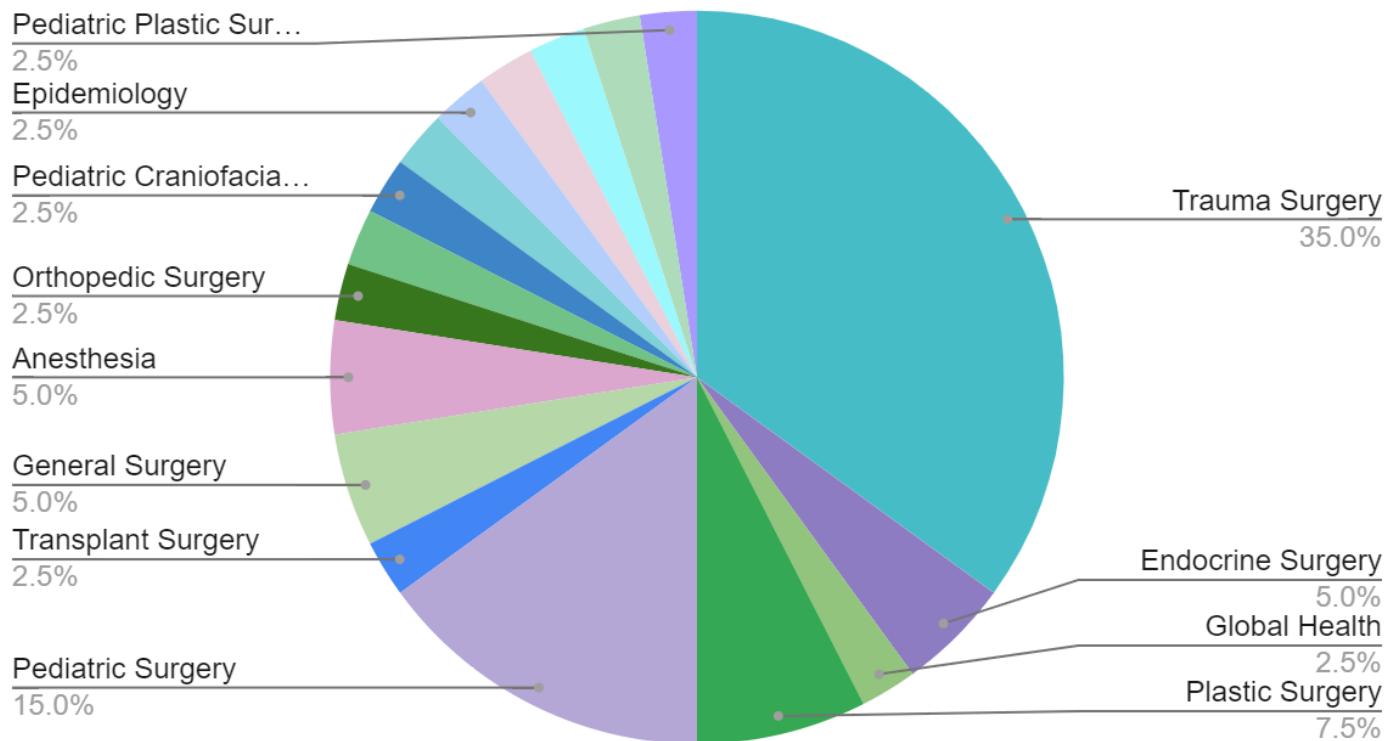


Trainees from any school in the US are eligible to apply for a position on the National Team. Every position on the national team is appointed for 2 years and filled by trainees at different stages of medical training. All members participate in GSSA leadership activities on an entirely voluntary basis. National team members are evaluated at the end of each year to ensure they are fulfilling the responsibilities of their respective positions and, if in their first year of appointment, continue to be committed to their position for the following year.

GSSA Chapter Advisors

In 2019, there were 40 chapter advisors collaborating with GSSA chapters across the nation. These advisors represent a range of specialties within medicine and healthcare.

Specializations of GSSA Chapter Advisors



This year alone, **over 15 fields of surgery** were represented among advisors. The most common specialty among GSSA Chapter Advisors was **Trauma Surgery (35%)**.

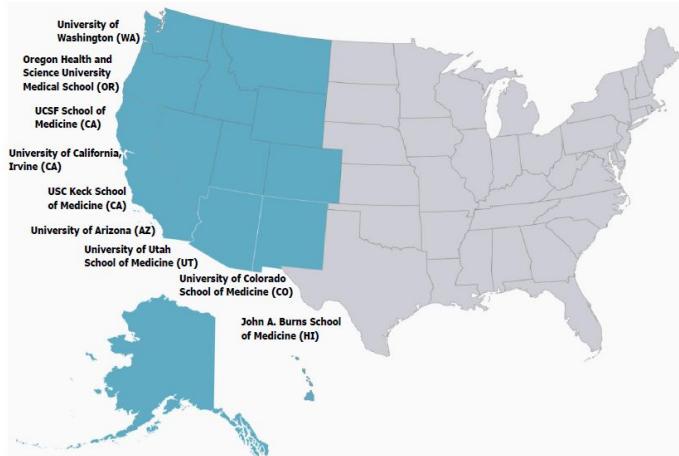
GSSA chapter advisors are invited by GSSA chapter leaders to become a part of the national organization and as such, can act as a resource for trainees at any institution, including institutions that are just working to develop their global surgery presence. Further, GSSA chapter advisors are key contacts for guiding interested students in organizing regional and national global surgery events.

For an updated list of GSSA Chapter advisors, visit www.globalsurgerystudents.org/chapter-advisors.

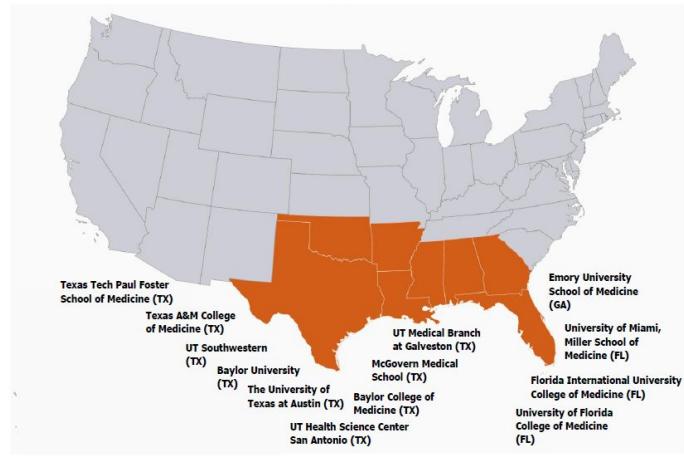
GSSA Membership

Based on an internal survey conducted in December 2019, national GSSA membership is estimated to be **over 2,400 students** in different stages of their medical careers, from undergraduates to graduating residents.

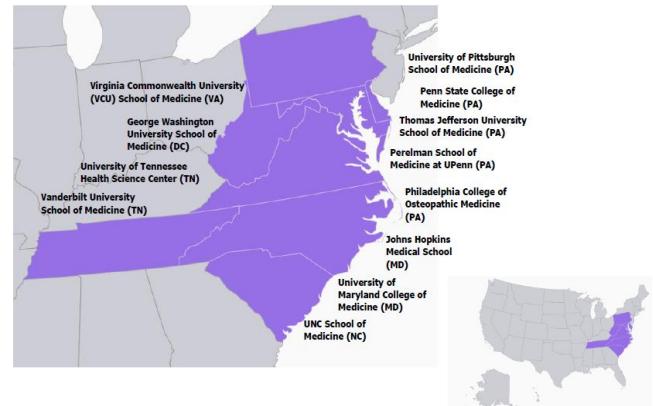
West



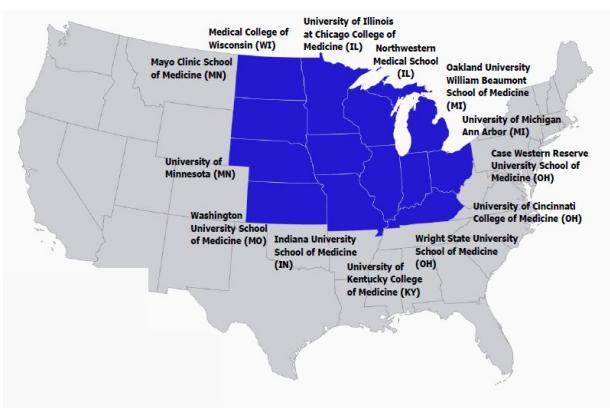
South



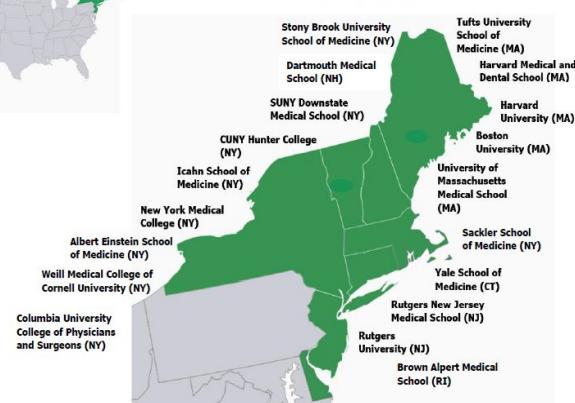
Mid-Atlantic



Central



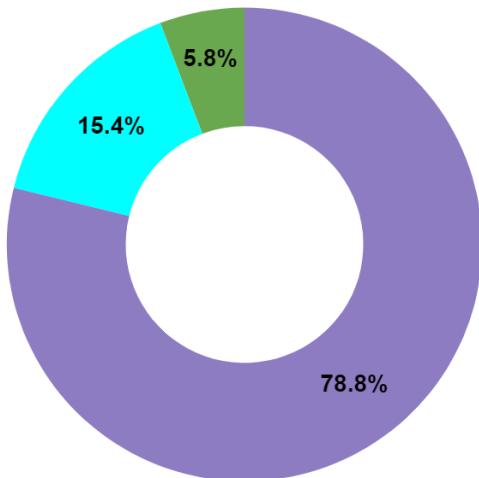
Northeast



GSSA has continually expanded since its creation in 2016. This year, there was not only a significant expansion of GSSA chapters across the nation, but many of these chapters were also able to reach the milestone of becoming officially approved by their institutions. By the end of 2019, **78.8% of GSSA chapters had gained official recognition at their institution**, while 5.8% are currently pending final approval and 15.4% are newly formed chapters.

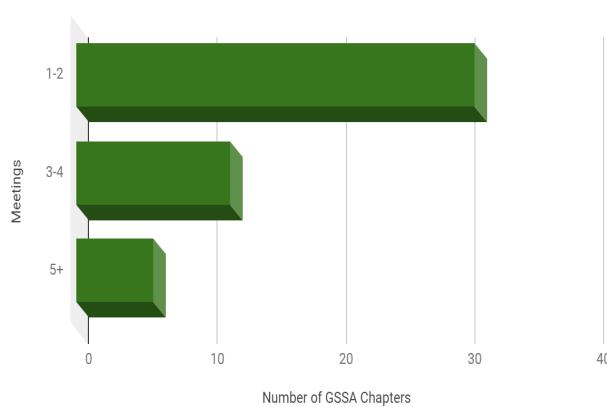
Chapter Recognition Status

● Officially recognized ● New chapter ● Pending approval

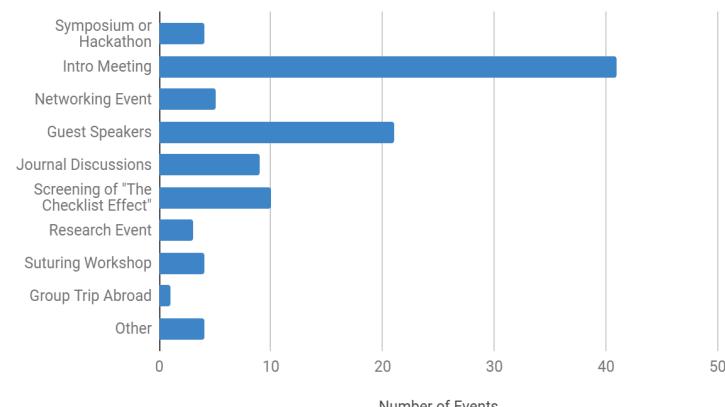


As a national organization, GSSA provides chapters with a framework for nurturing interest in global surgery within students and trainees at their schools. Nonetheless, GSSA chapters are diverse, and range in membership, type of involvement, and frequency of meetings.

Meetings per Semester



GSSA Events Held in 2019



The GSSA National Symposium

Since 2017, GSSA has selected one chapter each year to host the annual GSSA Global Surgery Symposium. This is GSSA's largest recurring annual event, attracting over 200 students from schools around the US and abroad. This symposium provides students the opportunity to hear and learn from leaders in the field of global surgery through plenary presentations, panel discussions, workshops, networking events, and research presentations. The GSSA Global Surgery Symposium is held in the spring of every year and live-streamed worldwide. Recordings of each annual symposium are available at www.globalsurgerystudents.org.

Previously, the GSSA Global Surgery Symposium has been held in:



The symposium is planned in collaboration with the host institution and the GSSA National Team. To host the GSSA Global Surgery Symposium, teams submit a proposal one year before the planned event. Each proposal is evaluated by the National Team and one proposal is selected on the basis of scope, feasibility, creativity, and innovation. The GSSA National Team works with the symposium hosts throughout the year to provide support in event planning and advocacy.

Research

In 2019, the Global Surgery Student Alliance published its first article as an organization in the Journal of Surgical Research. The data for this study was collected through a collaboration between GSSA chapters across the nation, resulting in the publication:

Next Generation of Global Surgeons: Aligning Interest With Early Access to Global Surgery Education. Erin M. Scott MD, Parisa N. Fallah BSA, David N. Blitzer MD, Rachel E. NeMoyer MD, MPH, Ziad Sifri MD, FACS, Global Surgery Student Alliance (GSSA), Joseph S. Hanna MD, PhD, FACS, Gregory L. Peck DO, FACS; Journal of Surgical Research; April 2019

To access this article, visit <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2019.03.009>.

GSSA's goal is to empower students to identify and participate in equitable and meaningful research. To facilitate finding a research project, GSSA provides two research-specific resources to all members:

GSSA Global Surgery Database

GSSA Global Surgery Database



Add Your Research Projects, Expertise, and Interests [Here](#)

Search by country, institution, or topic

Separate search queries by a comma to search for multiple separate phrases.

In October 2018, GSSA launched the first-ever global surgery database, a networking platform with the goal of connecting like-minded individuals. Through the database, students and professionals can share their experiences, post potential opportunities, and work with each other. This free resource is hosted on the GSSA website and allows students, residents, fellows, attendings, and other allied health professionals to create a profile that allows them to illustrate their work and interests in global surgery. This database was first announced at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress in 2018 and presented in detail in 2020.

GSSA Research Toolkit

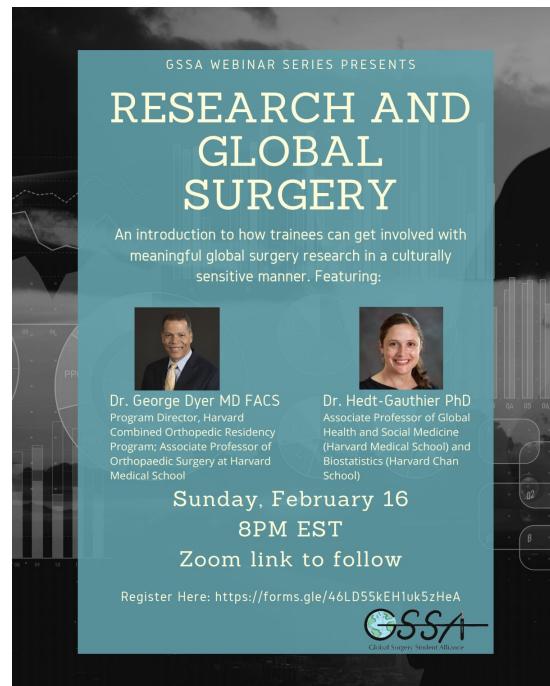
This toolkit can be found online under "[GSSA Research Toolkit](#)" and provides students with a guide on how to get involved with global surgery research at any level.

A key component of being an advocate for global surgery is conducting research in a thoughtful, ethical, and effective manner. The Research Toolkit was developed to help students better understand how to approach global surgery research at any stage in their training. It includes topics such as identifying a mentor, developing a research question, and obtaining funding. Additionally, a study is being conducted by the GSSA Research Team on the toolkit so we can better adapt it to fit students' needs. If you haven't taken this survey and have used the toolkit, please take the 2-minute survey [here](#).

Educational Resources

GSSA Webinar Series

As a part of the Education Team's efforts to increase access to educational resources pertaining to global surgery, GSSA has recently launched the GSSA Webinar Series. These webinars are interactive with the viewers being able to submit questions in advance and during the seminar to dive deeper into each topic. Each of these webinars are recorded and shared openly on the official GSSA website, allowing those interested to continue learning from these amazing global surgery faculty and researchers anytime! Recorded sessions can be found [here](#).



GSSA Education Toolkit

This toolkit can be found online under "[GSSA Education Toolkit](#)" and provides students with a guide on how to participate in global surgery experiences.

GSSA Newsletter

Since 2017, GSSA has been putting together a quarterly newsletter to highlight some of the fantastic global surgery work that is being done around the US and worldwide. Subscribers receive this newsletter via e-mail, and previous issues are available online [here](#).

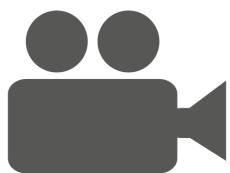


GSSA in the Media

To effectively spread the knowledge, ideas, insights, and stories from global surgery, it is critical to share information online. GSSA has taken full advantage of the best way to reach people in these times- social media. The GSSA Twitter account, Facebook profile, and newly launched Instagram account are all active on a daily basis. We have a large following, with individuals from around the world, ensuring that the global surgery information that GSSA is attempting to share is being spread worldwide.



3,000+ followers of @gsurgstudents
on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram



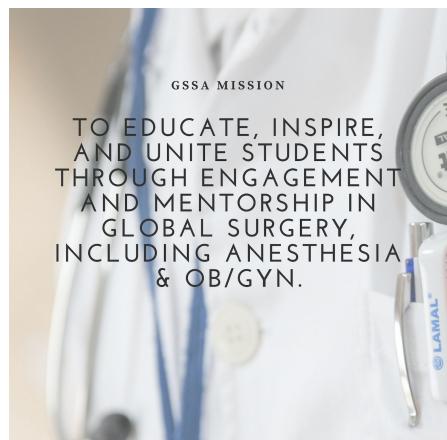
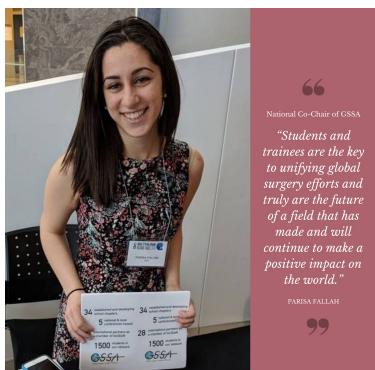
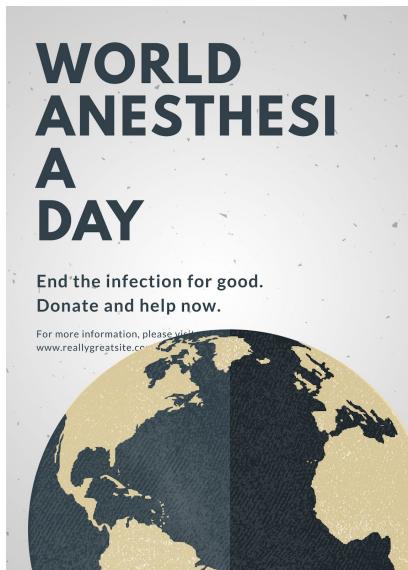
2.6k+ views
2017 Boston Global Surgery Symposium

600+ views
HGHC GLOCAL 2018 Global Surgery Symposium



The first GSSA Instagram was posted on:

May 24th, 2019



and since then **over 61 posts to 200 new followers** have been shared on Instagram. People of GSSA and other campaigns were featured across all social media platforms.

A Final Word from Founder and Chair 2016-2020, Parisa Fallah

When I first founded GSSA in 2016, I had a vision that students and trainees could make a sizable impact on the field of global surgery. I cannot believe that it has been almost 4 years! GSSA has grown immensely in such a short period of time, and I am grateful to have been a part of it. To see so many people work together to make this vision a reality has been more than a dream come true! There have certainly been challenges along the way, but the lessons learned and the outcomes achieved have been invaluable.



Throughout this journey I have learned that being a leader in global surgery means lifting up those around you. It means mentoring the next generation and cheering them on as they achieve successes in the field. Reflecting on the past several years, I have seen first hand that meaningful goals are only set and achieved through equitable partnerships, humility, steadfastness, and a unified vision. It has been the greatest joy to see so many students and trainees join the field and make an impact through their work. I have been especially amazed by those who come from institutions with no global surgery opportunities, who

excitingly jump into the GSSA network and advocate locally, becoming key members in their institutions' academic global surgery environments and bringing their peers along with them!



While I am sad to leave during such an exciting time for GSSA, I am confident that our work will continue to grow! I am grateful to Anusha Jayaram, who has been a fantastic Co-Chair this past year and has truly helped the organization reach new heights. I have learned so much from her, and I have no doubt that GSSA will continue to succeed with her leadership. Our new incoming Co-Chair, Blake Hauser, has already made a significant impact in the development of our chapter structure, and I am excited for her many impressive plans for the year ahead. Over the past few years, I have been beyond lucky to work with such an amazing group of leaders amongst our national team, many of whom have become my closest friends. From the very beginning, they helped shape GSSA's foundation and adapted as our efforts grew. I look forward to working with these amazing people throughout our careers!

I would really like to thank the amazing faculty mentors who have supported GSSA and served as personal mentors the past few years: Dr. Robert Riviello, Dr. Sudha Jayaraman, Dr. Gregory Peck, Dr. Salim Afshar, Dr. Ray Price, Dr. Girma Tefera, Dr. Mamta Swaroop, Dr. John Meara, Dr. Kee Park, Dr. Mark Bernstein, Dr. Rachel Davis, and so many others! I would also like to thank the wonderful InciSioN leaders who I had the privilege of working with, learning from, and becoming friends with: Zineb, Dominique, Xiya, Godfrey, Eminia, Kathy, and the many National Working Group leaders. I am so very excited that GSSA is a part of this network and have loved the opportunity to grow with you and the many amazing, kind, and dedicated student leaders worldwide. You all give me so much hope for the future of global surgery!

GSSA will always be an important part of my life, and I will continue my involvement as a member of the Board of Trustees to help guide the future of the organization. As I begin my Ob/Gyn residency training, I hope to focus my career on bridging the gap between Ob/Gyn and global surgery to ensure that women around the world have access to obstetric and surgical care. I also plan to continue my work to support the next generation of global surgeons through advocacy, education, and research efforts. There are many wonderful opportunities ahead, and I look forward to continuing to work with the many amazing students and trainees around the world as we grow throughout our careers!



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parisa Fallah".

PARISA FALLAH
Founder, Global Surgery Student Alliance

OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR OUTSTANDING

OUTGOING
**GSSA FOUNDER &
CO-CHAIR**

Thank You to Our Donors

We would like to thank all those who supported the Global Surgery Student Alliance during the past financial year. As a nonprofit organization , GSSA relies on donations from not only foundations and corporations, but also from individuals who support our mission and goals. This year, general donations alone have provided sufficient funding to allow our organization to maintain our website, host our webinars, and file appropriate legal paperwork to ensure smooth operation of the organization. Thank you for supporting the future of global surgery!

We'd like to extend **a special thank you** to our generous collaborators for their significant contributions in funding GSSA's large-scale projects:

The Darwin Project, Inc.



Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)

