

# SURGEONS OVERSEAS (SOS)



Photo by Susan Braun

**Society of International Humanitarian Surgeons**  
**Annual Report** June, 2010



Photo by Susan Braun

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# SOS

Surgeons OverSeas

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

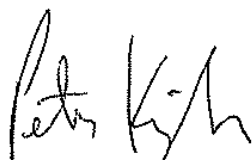
Surgeons OverSeas (SOS) began from the modest idea of creating an organization in New York to link surgeons interested in working in developing countries. What started with a small, local group of passionate and dedicated surgeons has rapidly evolved into an international organization with a membership that spans the globe — all with a common goal: improving surgical care in developing countries.

2009 was a great year for SOS. We continued our programs in Sierra Leone and assisted with a novel training program in Malawi. SOS members participated in global conferences and multiple research papers were published in scientific journals.

We have met an unbelievable array of surgeons, physicians, residents, students, and laypeople who share our passion for addressing basic surgical needs throughout the world.

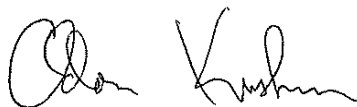
This is an exciting phase for SOS and we look forward to expanding our membership and supporters as we reach further into the developing world to help care for patients in need.

## **SOS Executive Board of Directors**



T. Peter Kingham, MD

President



Adam L. Kushner, MD, MPH, FACS

Surgeon/Director





Photo by Susan Braun

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## VISION

Death and disability from surgically treatable conditions in developing countries will decrease to approach rates seen in developed countries.

SOS will be recognized as a global leader in the improvement of surgical care in developing countries.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Surgeons OverSeas (SOS) saves lives in developing countries by improving surgical care.

SOS achieves this through collaborative training, funding, and research initiatives.



Photo by Susan Braun

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# WHO WE ARE

## BIOS



**T. Peter Kingham, MD** is completing a surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He has participated in missions to Malawi, Mexico, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania, and was a Yale/Johnson & Johnson international health scholar for surgery. As part of his residency training at New York University Hospital, he did two years of cancer research at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and started a certificate degree program in international surgery.

Dr. Kingham has an M.D. from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine and a B.A. from Yale University.



**Adam L. Kushner, MD, MPH, FACS** is a board certified general surgeon who practices exclusively in developing countries. He is a Lecturer in Surgery at Columbia University and has worked as a general surgeon and educator in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Sudan, led landmine assessment missions to Azerbaijan and Kosovo, conducted human rights assessments in Iraq, taught trauma care and landmine injury management in Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua, and worked as a health specialist following the 2005 tsunami in Indonesia. Since 2003 he has participated in US military training exercises as a subject matter expert for human rights and humanitarian assistance issues and is a member of the planning committee of the World Health Organization's Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care.

Dr. Kushner completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, has an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins, and a B.A. from Cornell University.



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# WHAT WE DO

SOS is an organization devoted to improving surgical care in resource poor environments with a tripartite mission of developing novel staffing and training programs, functioning as an information and networking resource for surgeons, and supporting surgical research.

The SOS program model (as illustrated below) entails identifying local surgeons in host nations and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization undertaking a needs assessment of surgical capacity. Subsequently interventions are planned based on manpower and material needs.

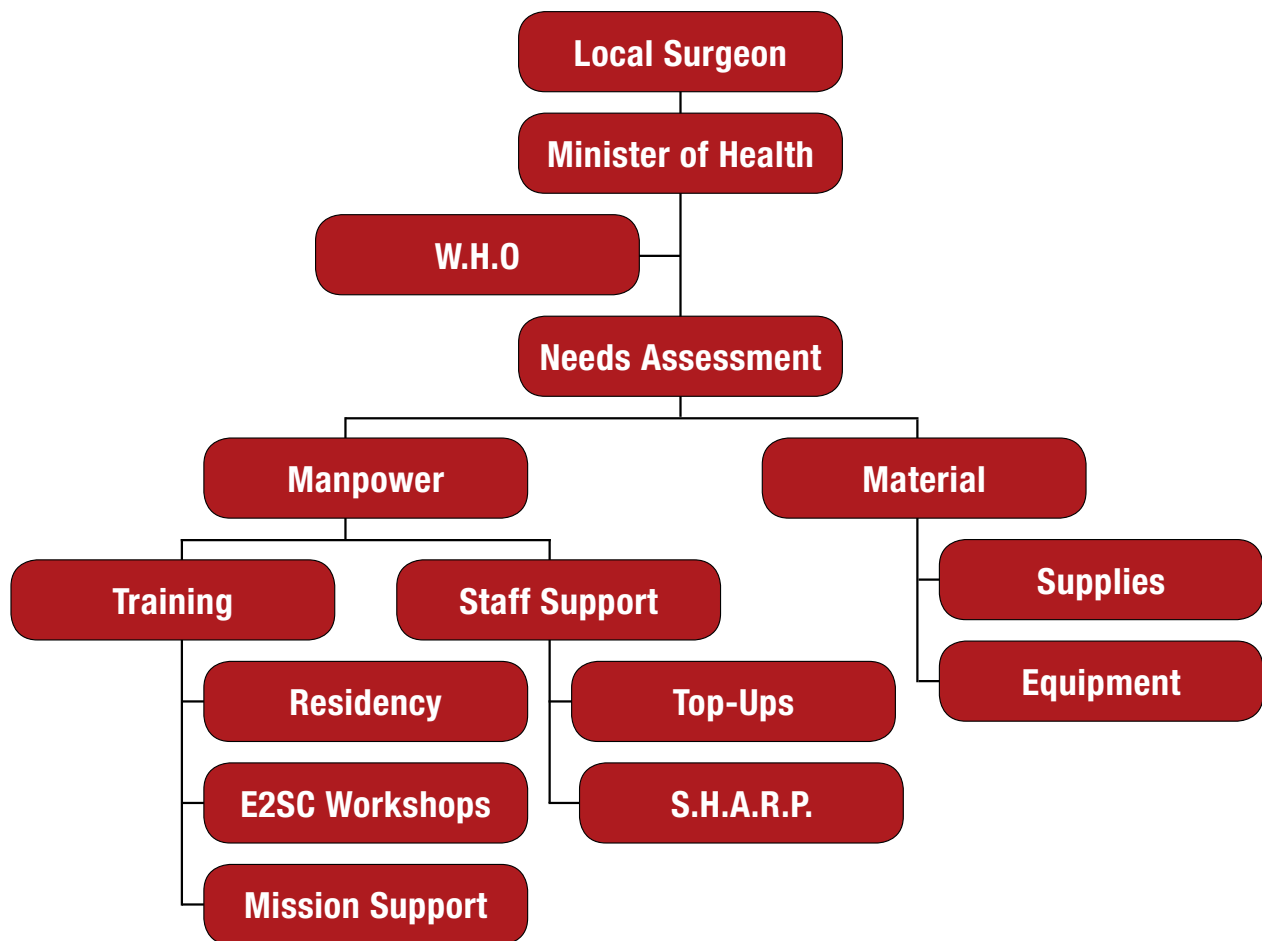






Photo by Susan Braun

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# STAFFING AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE

## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SURGEONS

One of the biggest problems affecting health facilities in resource poor environments is the lack of highly trained health personnel capable of performing safe surgery. SOS endeavors to help with this situation both financially and academically.

### *Financial support*

Local health care workers who agree to abide by ethical and international standards of providing safe surgery to local populations receive financial assistance from SOS. To properly implement this program, a few basic conditions are necessary: a local contact person must be identified who will take responsibility for disbursing the necessary funds; local salary needs and candidates must be identified; and the proper arrangements made so that monies can be disbursed fairly and equitably.

In 2009 we continued to support surgical health care workers at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone. US\$ 800 was disbursed monthly to supplement salaries of approximately 100 operation room staff and surgical ward nurses.

Additionally, a 40' container of medical and surgical supplies and equipment was provided to Connaught Hospital. These materials have enabled an increase in emergency surgical cases and care for patients without financial resources.

### *International standards and best practices support*

In an effort to promote safe and standardized surgical curricula, SOS members work along with international and academic organizations. SOS members are involved with the World Health Organization, Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC), and this cooperation will continue as plans for future dissemination of the Integrated Management of Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) tool kit continues.

### *Training opportunities:*

SOS surgeons assisted with teaching junior doctors and medical students at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone. In 2009 daily morning meetings began in the Department of Surgery and weekly attending rounds were reinstated.

SOS also provided funds for Dr. Russel White, MD, MPH, FACS, a world expert in the insertion of self expanding metal stents for inoperable esophageal cancer, to undertake a training program in hospitals in Malawi. A total of 18 surgeons and 44 nurses were trained in stent insertion and palliative care.

A mass casualty incident training course and simulation was conducted in Freetown, Sierra Leone in July 2009. Over 80 emergency management and health professionals met for the first time and participated in a 2 day workshop which included a live disaster simulation.



Photo by Susan Braun

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### *Ad hoc programs*

Members are encouraged to work with SOS headquarters to identify needs and propose novel projects to help care for patient requiring surgical services in developing countries. The first such ad hoc program assisted patients with esophageal cancer in Malawi.

### SUPPORT FOR SURGICAL MISSIONS

SOS undertakes limited direct surgical missions; however, in 2009 six surgeons participated in training and assistance missions at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone. The emphasis of the missions was on teaching skills and enhancing local capabilities rather than providing direct patient care.

### INFORMATION AND NETWORKING

As a focal point for surgeons desiring to work in developing countries, SOS maintains a website, a member and facility database, and publishes a newsletter. SOS acts as a resource to provide background information and standards on how to work and function in resource poor environments. Information is available through the SOS website and through communication with SOS members.

#### *Website*

The SOS website is divided into four sections: About Us, Opportunities, Events, and Resources. On-line donations are solicited through [groundspring.org](http://groundspring.org).

### SOCIAL MEDIA

SOS is actively involved in social media and spreading information related to SOS programs and international surgery.

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/SurgeonsSOS](http://www.twitter.com/SurgeonsSOS)

Facebook causes:

<http://www.causes.com/causes/239261>

YouTube : [www.youtube.com/SurgeonsSOS](http://www.youtube.com/SurgeonsSOS)

#### *Surgical facility database*

As a resource for linking surgeons and health facilities, through partnerships with academic programs, NGOs, international organizations, and local ministries of health, the SOS database is a source of information on personnel and opportunities.

Interested persons are requested to submit an application. Health facility information is entered when needs and contact information is provided.

#### *Newsletter*

A newsletter is published and distributed by email to members and interested parties. The newsletter serves as a marketing and informational resource. Updates are published, new members and facilities are listed, and facilities are featured. Member mission reports and case studies are also published. Members are encouraged to submit articles which are then edited for length and appropriateness. In June 2009, Mr. Jeffrey Leow assumed the responsibilities of newsletter editor.



Photo by Susan Braun

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# SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

SOS looks to support research into the global burden of surgical disease. It is believed that before additional resources will be allocated for surgical diseases there needs to be a better definition of the underlying problem.

## *Peer reviewed scientific papers published in 2009 include:*

- Quantifying Surgical Capacity in Sierra Leone: A Guide for Improving Surgical Care, Kingham TP, Kamara TB, Cherian MN, Simkins M, Meissner C, Foray-Rahall L, Daoh KS, Kabia S, Kushner AL, Arch Surg. 2009;144(2):122-127
- Surgery and Refugee Populations, Kushner AL, Groen RS, Kingham TP, Scan J Surg, 98: 18-24, 2009 <http://www.fimnet.fi/sjs/articles/SJS12009-18.pdf>
- Universal Precautions and Surgery in Sierra Leone: The unprotected workforce, Kingham TP, Kamara TB, Daoh DS, Kabbia S, Kushner AL, World J Surg 2009 Jun; 33(6): 1194-6
- Surgical Elective in a Developing Country: ethics and utility, Kingham TP, Muyco A, Kushner A, J Surg Educ. 2009 Mar-Apr;66(2): 59-62.

## LOOKING FORWARD

SOS plans to continue to work with the surgeons at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone to help build their surgery residency program. The first surgical resident will start this program in the spring of 2010. In addition, SOS will look to collaborate with other non-profit organizations and governments to spread the SOS model of surgical development.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

WEBSITE DESIGN:

**Alison Josephs, Josephs Design**

WEBSITE HOSTING:

**Rayogram**

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

**Michele Evola**

FUNDRAISING:

**Bunny Lester and Kelly Kushnir, Cirocon Group**

CATERING/FUNDRAISING:

**Patricia Clark, All Five Senses**

ACCOUNTING:

**Mario Saegisse**

LEGAL:

**Curtis, Mallet, Prevost, Colt, and Mosely** 2008

Profits/Losses



Photo by Susan Braun

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# BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2009

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Total Current Liabilities	\$	00.00
Long-Term Liabilities	\$	00.00
Fund Balances	\$	129,682.46
Net Income (Loss)	\$	44,393.25
<b>Fund Balance at End of Year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>74,275.71</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>74,275.71</b>



Photo by Susan Braun

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# INCOME STATEMENT

## 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009

### Revenue

Contributions and Support \$ 160,577.53

**Total Revenue \$ 160,577.53**

Gross Profit \$ 160,577.53

### Operating Expenses

Convention or Meeting Expense \$ 1,545.29

Fundraising \$ 5,305.11

Government NGO Fees \$ 70.00

Grant and Contract Expense \$ 395.40

Membership Communications \$ 294.00

Mission Expenses \$ 82,962.83

Operational Programs \$ 13,165.35

Postage and Delivery \$ 43.00

Professional Service Fees \$ 775.00

Saleries and Related Expenses \$ 3,200.00

Topups \$ 4,800.00

Training Workshops \$ 3,400.00

Website \$ 91.30

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**Total Operating Expenses \$ 116,184.28**

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**Operating Income (Loss) \$ 44,393.25**

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**Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes \$ 44,393.25**

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**Net Income Loss \$ 44,393.25**

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# SURGEONS OVERSEAS



## ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Dec '09</b>	Second container surgical supplies arrived in Sierra Leone	<b>September 2008</b>	Container to Sierra Leone S.H.A.R.P. implemented GIEESC research at WHO, Geneva
<b>Nov '09</b>	Mission to Connaught Hospital	<b>July–August 2008</b>	SIHS Sierra Leone Mission Support-a-Surgeon implemented E2SC Workshops (Freetown, Bo) Bellagio Conference — Kampala, Uganda SIHS name change Launch of Surgeons OverSeas Sierra Leone needs assessment
<b>Oct '09</b>	Fundraiser at Swann Galleries, New York, NY	<b>June 2008</b>	Planning meeting with Liberian Ministry of Health 40' container of supplies shipped to Sierra Leone Collaborative research article with WHO and Sierra Leone MOH
<b>August '09</b>	LIVESTRONG Global Cancer Summit, Dublin, Ireland	<b>April 2008</b>	Larchmont Yacht Club fundraiser Global Burden of Surgical Disease Working Group, Seattle, WA GIEESC workshop in India
<b>July '09</b>	Mass Casualty Incident training, Freetown, Sierra Leone	<b>March 2008</b>	Member mission to Uganda Hospital Assessment in Sierra Leone
<b>June 2009</b>	Esophageal Stent program and workshops, Malawi Presentation at WHO GIEESC, Mongolia	<b>February 2008</b>	Representation at West African Col. Surg, Sierra Leone
<b>May 2009</b>	Burden of Surgical Disease conference, Chicago, IL Presentation at 4th Rural Surgery Symposium, Cooperstown, NY 2nd Annual Larchmont Yacht Club fundraiser SOS mission to Sierra Leone: Dr. Michael Sinclair	<b>December 2007</b>	Surgery Grand Rounds, Bassett Health Care, Cooperstown, NY
<b>April 2009</b>	James Madison University — Post Conflict Recovery presentation Publication of HIV and Surgery in WJS	<b>November 2007</b>	Representation at WHO GIEESC, Switzerland
<b>March 2009</b>	Mount Sinai School of Medicine — Medical Student presentation Publication of Surgery and Refugee Population in Scan J Surg	<b>October 2007</b>	Member receives Interplast fellowship Not for profit 501(c) 3 status granted Representation at International Federation of Rural Surgeons, Tanzania
<b>February 2009</b>	Launch of post-graduate surgical training at Connaught Hospital, Sierra Leone SOS orthopaedic assessment mission Sierra Leone SOS New York fundraiser Presentation at Association of Academic Surgeons Publication of Sierra Leone assessment in Archives of Surgery SIHS participation at West African College of Surgeons, Conakry, Guinea	<b>September 2007</b>	Representation at WHO GIEESC, Tanzania ISS presentation in Montreal, Canada
<b>January 2009</b>	SOS general surgery mission to Sierra Leone MIT Sloan School of Management team in Sierra Leone	<b>August 2007</b>	Website launch
<b>December 2008</b>	Columbia University Surgery Grand Rounds	<b>April 2007</b>	NYSIHS founded Founders' mission to Malawi
<b>October 2008</b>	SOS New York Fundraiser American College of Surgeons presentation MIT Sloan School of Business project acceptance		

