

Surgeons OverSeas (SOS)

Annual Report for 2010

August 2011

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 evolved into an international organization with a membership of 190 surgeons that spans the globe - all with a common goal: saving lives in developing countries by improving surgical care.

2010 was a great year for SOS in which we were extremely honored to have been recognized and given Special Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Programmatically, we continued our efforts in Sierra Leone where surgical cases at Connaught Hospital increased more than 100% over 2008 when SOS support began. We also endeavored to assist in the creation of surgical post-graduate training and our local partner, Dr. TB Kamara, visited New York to gain insight into post-graduate surgical training in the US.

Our Board of Directors increased to include Mr. Gene Stone and Mr. Anthony Rossabi, both of whom bring extensive insight and enthusiasm to help us grow and are excited about the prospects of expanding SOS to other countries in Africa and into other locations in Asia and South America. An advisory board was designated and includes: Drs. Murray Brennan, Kathleen Casey and Mark Hardy. In addition, we welcomed three international surgical fellows: Jeffrey Leow, Marcos Pozo and Reinou Groen.

SOS members participated in multiple global conferences and published a number of important research papers in peer-reviewed medical 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.

We look forward to expanding our membership and supporters as we continue with our mission to save lives in developing countries by improving surgical care.

SOS Executive Board of Directors

T. Peter Kingham, MD
President

Adam L. Kushner, MD, MPH, FACS
Surgeon/Director

New York, NY
August 2011



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.

Who we are

Bios

T. Peter Kingham, MD is an assistant attending hepato-biliary surgeon 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.

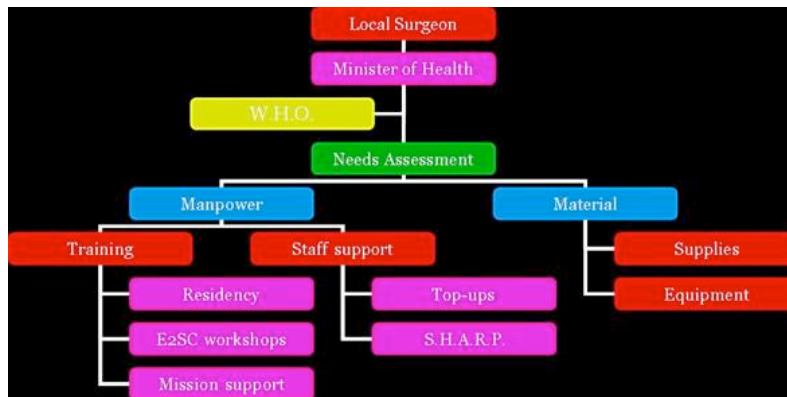
Dr. Kushner completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, has an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins, and a B.A. from Cornell University.

What we do

SOS is an organization with a mission of saving lives in developing countries by improving surgical care. We accomplish this via three programmatic arms: **Direct interventions and missions, Advocacy and Research.**

Direct interventions and missions

The SOS model for interventions (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.



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.

By working closely with local health care providers and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone in 2010 we identified a shift in needs. Due to a national increase in health care worker salaries we ended salary support for surgical health care workers at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone. However, due to the continued improvement in resources, the number of major operative cases increased to 1,049 in 2010 (from a previous 460 in 2008 before SOS began support). Additionally, in 2010 daily morning meetings continued in the Department of Surgery.

SOS undertakes limited direct surgical missions and in 2010 only one mission took place with Dr. TB Kamara, Chief of Surgery at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone. He visited the New York for 2 weeks during which time he observed patient care and academics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Columbia University and New York University. The aim of the mission was to provide examples of post-graduate training some of which might be used in developing a training program in Sierra Leone.

The emphasis of SOS missions continues to be on teaching skills and enhancing local capabilities rather than providing direct patient care.

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.

Advocacy

To raise awareness of the need for surgery in developing countries, SOS serves as a focal point for surgeons and others interested in knowing about surgical work and conditions throughout the world. SOS maintains a website (www.surgeonsoverseas.org), 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.

SOS was recognized by the United Nations and given Special Consultative Status.

SOS initiated the drafting of a World Health Organization World Health Assembly resolution calling for increased resources for Surgical Care and Anesthesia. We actively contacted Ministries of Health around the world to propose and support such an item.

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

Twitter: www.twitter.com/SurgeonsSOS

Facebook causes: <http://www.facebook.com/surgeonsoverseas>

YouTube : www.youtube.com/SurgeonsSOS

Research

SOS looks to support research into the global burden of surgical disease. We believe that before policy makers and donors will allocate additional resources for global surgery there needs to be a better definition of the underlying problem.

To assist with research projects, three international surgical fellows were designated by the Executive Board. The fellows are: Drs. Jeffrey Leow (Singapore), Reinou Groen (Netherlands) and Marcos Pozo (Colombia). Fellows are non-paid positions. Requirements include publishing a paper in support of SOS and global surgery.

In 2010 seven papers were published in medical journals and include:

- ◆ **Addressing the Millennium Development Goals from a Surgical Perspective: Deficiencies in the Capacity to Deliver Safe Surgery and Anesthesia in Eight Low and Middle Income Countries**, Kushner A, Cherian M, Noel L, Spiegel D, Groth S, *Arch Surg* 2010 Feb; 145(2): 154-9.
- ◆ **Comparison of Surgical Care Deficiencies between US Civil War Hospitals and Present Day Hospitals in Sierra Leone** Crompton J, Kingham TP, Kamara TB, Brennan MF, Kushner AL, *World J Surg* 2010, Apr 13.
- ◆ **Percentage of Cesarean Sections to Total Surgical Procedures in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Possible Indicator for Overall Adequacy of Surgical Care**, Kushner AL, Groen RS, Kingham TP, *World J Surg*, 2010; 34(9) 2007-8.
- ◆ **Global Surgery: Thoughts on an emerging surgical sub-specialty for students and residents**, Leow J, Kingham TP, Casey K, Kushner AL, *J Surg Ed*, 2010 May; 67(3): 143-8.
- ◆ **Improving Access to Surgery in a Developing Country: Experience from a surgical collaboration in Sierra Leone**, Kushner AL, Kamara TB, Groen RS, Fadlu-Deen BD, Doah KS, Kingham TP, *J Surg Ed*, 2010; 67 (4): 270-3.

- ◆ **A Collaborative Stent Insertion Project in Malawi**, Fullerton L, Thumbs A, Vigna L, Bates J, Kushner A, *European J Palliative Care*, 2010; vol 17, no. 6.
- ◆ **A letter from...the DRC**, Kushner AL, Groen, MT: *Bulletin of the Netherlands Society for Tropical medicine and International Health*, 48(4): 5.

Additional Support

Website design:	Alison Josephs, Josephs Design
Website hosting:	Rayogram
Graphic design:	Michele Evola
Catering/fundraising:	Patricia Clark, All Five Senses
Accounting:	GAF Financial Group
Legal:	Curtis, Mallet, Prevost, Colt, and Mosely

Finances

Contributions/Total revenue	\$23,213
Compensation to consultants	\$1,600
Professional fees	\$1,000
Mission expenses	\$11,007
Dues, bank fees, registrations	\$205
Website, travel, office expenses	\$452
Net assets 1/1/10	\$74,276
Net assets 12/31/10	\$81,115