

Surgeons OverSeas (SOS)

Annual Report for 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 over 200 surgeons that spans the globe - all with a common goal: saving lives in developing countries by improving surgical care.

2011 was a year where SOS continued its work in Sierra Leone and continued to support research and advocacy efforts.

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

SOS continues to focus its efforts on surgical training and research to save lives in developing countries.

SOS Executive Board of Directors

T. Peter Kingham, MD
President

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

New York, NY
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.

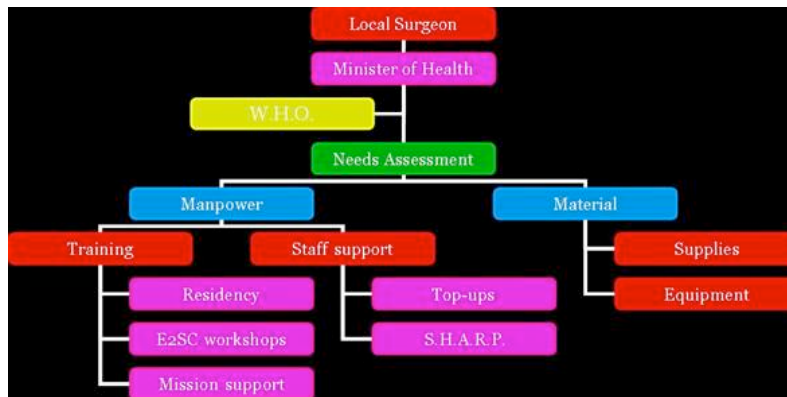
Dr. Kushner completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, has an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins, and a B.A. from Cornell University.

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.

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

In 2011, Dr. Kingham travelled to Sierra Leone with Dr. Isaac Alatise, an SOS member from Nigeria. They coordinated a post graduate surgical seminar and announced SOS' intention to support post graduate surgical care with a stipend administered through Dr. TB Kamara. Dr. Kushner travelled to Sierra Leone to reassess Connaught Hospital, meet with the Minister of Health, and the US Ambassador to Sierra Leone. He found that in the operation theatre, for 2010, there were a total of 1,048 major cases. This was despite a strike by hospital employees for a few weeks in April 2010 and intermittent stoppages of operations due to malfunctioning of the autoclave for sterilization. As a reference point, before SOS started assisting at Connaught in 2007 there were only 460 operations. Dr. Kushner also travelled to Liberia with Dr. TB Kamara to link our Sierra Leonean and Liberian colleagues, who have similar needs for post graduate training.

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 give 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/surgeonoverseas>

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.

Additional Support

Website design:

Alison Josephs, Josephs Design

Website hosting:

Rayogram

Accounting:

GAF Financial Group

Legal:

Curtis, Mallet, Prevost, Colt, and Mosely



2011 Balance Sheet

Contributions	\$119,875
Compensation to consultants	\$833
Professional fees	\$1,050
Printing, publication, shipping	\$101
Fundraising	\$4,916
Mission expenses	\$78,045
Research study	\$9,000
Medical conferences	\$9,167
Communications	\$1,539
Bank, registration, grant, office expenses	\$1012
Total expenses	\$105,663
Net balance 1/1/11	\$81,115
Net balance 12/31/11	\$95,327