Surgeons OverSeas (SOS)

2013 Annual Report

February 2014
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.

2013 was a great year for SOS with an expansion of our advocacy and research efforts. We remain committed to our mission of saving lives in developing countries by improving surgical care. Our focus this year included:

- Advancing surgical training in developing countries so those countries ultimately have internal expertise to address surgical needs.
- Serving as a global surgery research leader with published articles and presentations at worldwide conferences.
- Using SOS as an incubator for medical research projects addressing cancer care in developing countries.

We continue our main efforts in West Africa with our commitment to surgical training in Sierra Leone. In addition to this work, we initiated a colorectal cancer research collaboration between SOS, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the US, and Obafemi Awolowo University Hospital in Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Over the year, SOS was represented at surgical meetings of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the West African College of Surgeons in Lome, Togo; the American College of Surgeons in Washington, DC; the World Congress of Surgery, Obstetrics, Trauma and Anesthesia in Trinidad; and the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer in Durban, South Africa. As part of these meetings, SOS provided funding for Professor Bomi Ogedengbe of Nigeria, Professor Nyengo Mkandawire of Malawi and Dr. Faustin Ntirenganya of Rwanda to attend and present.

Peter developed the colorectal cancer research project with SOS member Dr. Isaac Alatishe as a first of its kind collaboration in which SOS provided a colonoscope and funding for cancer screening and pathology to diagnose patients with early cancer. In addition, the program supports the cancer surgery for patients that are diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The project is helping to provide vital pilot data so that the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health can later be approached for funding.

Adam had a productive year at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he advised numerous students and taught "Surgical Care Needs in Low and Middle-Income Counties." He was also part of a surgical mission to Syria. Reinou was appointed SOS Director of Research and obtained her PhD in surgical epidemiology from the University of Amsterdam. Ben, SOS Director of Education and Training, oversaw the implementation of a pan-African assessment of pediatric surgical capacity, Pedi-PIPES, and initial development of a population based survey of surgical need (SOSAS) in Nepal.
Peter and Faustin Ntirenganya present the SOSAS Rwanda and Sierra Leone breast mass data at the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer in Durban, South Africa.

Prof Nyengo Mkandawire, Prof Bomi Ogedengbe and Reinou in Trinidad.
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  
February 2014
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 an Associate in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 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.

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.
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.

SOSAS, the Surgeons OverSeas Assessment of Surgical need survey was completed in Rwanda and Sierra Leone and the results were published. Addition sub-analysis is ongoing and will be published shortly.

In 2013 thirteen papers were published in peer-reviewed medical journals and included:


**Individual and community perceptions of surgical care in Sierra Leone**, Groen, RS, Sriram, VM, Kamara, TB, Kushner, AL, Blok, L, Tropical Medicine & International Health. 2013, online Nov 8.

Additional Support

Logo design: Alison Josephs, Josephs Design
Accounting: GAF Financial Group
Legal: Curtis, Mallet, Prevost, Colt, and Mosely
Balance Sheet  
31 December 2013

Bank Fees 105  
Membership Communications 100  
Convention Expenses 7603  
Website 854  
Mission Expense 53139  
Government Fees 60  
Insurance 1806  
Professional Services 1155  
Travel 2103  
Total 66,925

Income Statement  
12 months ending 31 December 2013

Contributions 34,274

Balance 1/1/13: 92,604  
Balance 12/31/13: 59,953

SOS  
Surgeons OverSeas
## Budget for 2014

### Conferences:
- WACS Adam: $3,000
- WACS Reinou: $3,000
- COSECSA TZ: $3,000
- ACS SFO: $1,500
- **Conf Total**: $10,500

### Research:
- SOSAS Nepal: $10,000
- Injury in Iraq: $10,000
- CRC Nigeria: $20,000
- **Research total**: $40,000

### Admin:
- Website: $500
- Network for Good: $500
- Constant Contact: $500
- Accountant: $500
- **Admin total**: $2,000

**Total**: $52,500