

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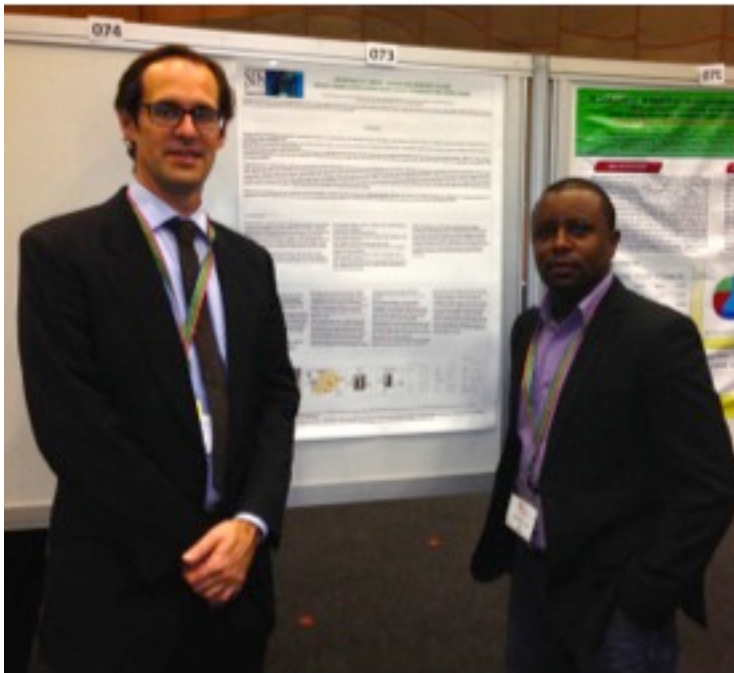
We continue our main efforts in West Africa with our commitment to surgical training in Sierra Leone. In addition to this work, we initiated a colorectal cancer research collaboration between **SOS**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the US, and Obafemi Awolowo University Hospital in Ile-Ife,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



Sierra Leone delegation to the 53rd West African College of Surgeons annual meeting, Lome, Togo.

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.

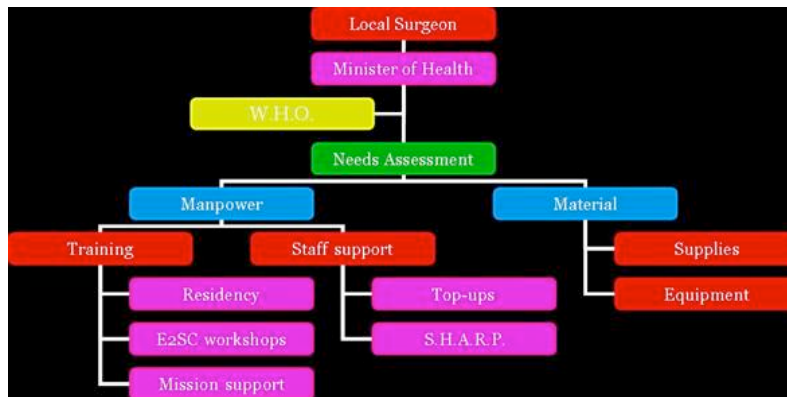
Dr. Kushner completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, has an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins, and a B.A. from Cornell University.

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 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/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.

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:

[Cancer surgery in low-income countries: an unmet need.](#) Gyorki DE, MUYCO A, KUSHNER AL, BRENNAN MF, KINGHAM TP. Arch Surg. 2012 Dec 1;147(12):1135-40.

[Estimating operative disease prevalence in a low-income country: Results of a nationwide population survey in Rwanda.](#) Petroze RT, Groen RS, Niyonkuru F, Mallory M, Ntaganda E, Joharifard S, Guterbock TM, Kushner AL, Kyamanywa P, Calland JF. Surgery. 2012 Dec 17.

[Treatment of cancer in sub-Saharan Africa.](#) Kingham TP, Alatisse OI, Vanderpuye V, Casper C, Abantanga FA, Kamara TB, Olopade OI, Habeebu M, Abdulkareem FB, Denny L. Lancet Oncol. 2013 Apr;14(4):e158-67

[The benefits of international rotations to resource-limited settings for U.S. surgery residents,](#) Henry JA, Groen RS, Price RR, Nwomeh BC, Kingham TP, Hardy MA, Kushner AL. Surgery. 2012 Dec 26.

[Traumatic injuries in developing countries: report from a nationwide cross-sectional survey of Sierra Leone.](#) Stewart KA, Groen RS, Kamara TB, Farahzad MM, Samai M, Cassidy LD, Kushner AL, Wren SM. JAMA Surg. 2013 May 1;148(5):463-9.

[Free health care for under 5 year olds increases access to surgical care in Sierra Leone: an analysis of case load and patient characteristics.](#) Groen RS, Kamara TB, Nwomeh BC, Daoh KS, Kushner AL. World J Surg. 2013 Jun;37(6):1216-9.

[Household survey in Sierra Leone reveals high prevalence of surgical conditions in children.](#) Groen RS, Samai M, Petroze RT, Kamara TB, Cassidy LD, Joharifard S, Yambasu S, Nwomeh BC, Kushner AL. World J Surg. 2013 Jun;37(6):1220-6.

[Nationally Representative Household Survey of Surgery and Mortality in Sierra Leone.](#) Kwon S, Groen RS, Kamara TB, Cassidy LD, Samai M, Yambasu SE, Kushner AL. World J Surg. 2013 Apr 12.

[Waiting for global access to urologic care,](#) Patel HD, Kushner AL, Allaf ME, Eur Urol. 2013 Aug;64(2):344-5.

[A quantitative analysis of surgical capacity in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.](#) Markin A, Barbero R, Leow JJ, Groen RS, Skow EJ, Apelgren KN, Kushner AL, Nwomeh BC, J Surg Res, 2013 Jun 5.

[Female Health and Family Planning in Sierra Leone,](#) Groen RS, Solomon J, Samai M, Kamara TB, Cassidy LD, Blok L, Kushner AL, Dhanaraj M, Stekelenburg J, J of Obstet Gynecol, 2013; 122(3): 525-531.

[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.

[An estimate of hernia prevalence in Sierra Leone from a nationwide community survey,](#) Patel HD, Groen RS, Kamara TB, Samai M, Farahzad MM, Cassidy LD, Kushner AL, Wren SM, Hernia. 2013 Nov 16.



Additional Support

Logo design:
Accounting:
Legal:

Alison Josephs, Josephs Design
GAF Financial Group
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
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Balance 1/1/13: 92,604
Balance 12/31/13: 59,953

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**
