Global Initiative for
Children's Surgery

GICS August Newsletter

Welcome to the August edition of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) newsletter.

We are pleased to include in this newsletter:

- An announcement of the new GICS leadership team and Board Members
- Welcome to new Organizational Members and a reminder that annual dues were due August 1st!
- Notice of a special webinar co-hosted by GICS on September 10th on An Approach to Pediatric Laryngotracheal Obstruction
- GICS' Statement on the missile attack on Ukraine's largest children's hospital

Thank you for being a part of GICS.

Global Initiative for
Children's Surgery

New Board Leadership

We are excited to introduce and welcome the new leadership of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS). Each of these remarkable individuals brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to advancing pediatric surgical care around the world.

Meet Our New Leaders:

Tahmina Banu - Chair
Professor Banu recently began her role as Executive Director of the Chittagong Research Institute for Children Surgery (CRICS) in Chittagong, Bangladesh. With an illustrious career spanning over two decades, she previously headed the Department of Pediatric Surgery at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), where she played a pivotal role in founding the department. Recognized with the Rowan Nicks Scholarship and the Stephan L. Gans International Traveling Fellowship, Professor Banu continues to be a driving force in expanding children's surgical care in Bangladesh.

Simone Abib - Chair Elect
Professor Abib is a Full Professor in Pediatric Surgery and the Head of Pediatric Surgical Oncology at the Pediatric Oncology Institute — GRAACC, Federal University of São Paulo, Paulista School of Medicine. She serves as President of the International Society of Paediatric Surgical Oncology and Crianca Segura — Safe Kids Brazil. Additionally, she is a post-graduate mentor and Academic Coordinator at Santa Marcelina Medical School. Her areas of interest include pediatric surgical oncology, pediatric trauma, and trauma prevention.

Doruk Ozgediz, MD - Past Chair
Dr. Ozgediz is an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, where he directs the Center for Global Surgery and Health Equity. His career is marked by a strong focus on global health and surgical capacity building. As a co-founder of Global Partners for Anesthesia and Surgery (GPAS), Dr. Ozgediz has been instrumental in improving peri-operative services in Kampala, Uganda. He is a recipient of the Donald E. Meier Humanitarian Award of the American Pediatric Surgical Association.

Milind Chitnis - Secretary
Dr. Chitnis is an Associate Professor and head of the Department of Pediatric Surgery at Frere and Cecilia Makiwane Hospitals, affiliated with Walter Sisulu University in East London, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. His leadership and expertise are invaluable to our mission.

Marilyn Butler, MD - Treasurer
Dr. Butler is a Professor Emeritus of Pediatric Surgery at Oregon Health Science University, serving another term as Treasurer. With a rich history of clinical work in Vietnam and China, she founded the Global Paediatric Surgery Network (GPSN), which served as a vital resource and collaboration hub for pediatric surgeons worldwide.

We are confident that under their guidance, GICS will continue to make significant strides in enhancing surgical care for children globally. Join us in celebrating and welcoming our new board leadership!

Global Initiative for Children's Surgery
Welcome to our new GICS Board Members

We are thrilled to introduce and welcome our newest board members to the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS). Joining us from 2024-2027, these distinguished professionals bring a wealth of expertise and a shared passion for advancing pediatric surgery worldwide.

Meet Our New Board Members:

Dayang Anita Abdul Aziz - Pediatric Surgeon, Malaysia
Dr. Aziz is a renowned pediatric surgeon with extensive experience in providing exceptional surgical care for children. Her dedication and commitment to improving surgical outcomes for young patients make her a valuable addition to our team.

Mei Diao - Vice Director and Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery, Capital Institute of Pediatrics, Beijing, China
Professor Diao brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership from one of the leading pediatric institutions in China. Her expertise and innovative approach will greatly contribute to our mission of enhancing pediatric surgical care globally.

Katrine Løfberg - Pediatric Surgeon, Copenhagen, Denmark
Formerly on the faculties of Phoenix Children's Hospital and Oregon Health and Science University, Katrine's background and dedication to children's surgery will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to improve surgical care and outcomes for children worldwide.

Vinitha Ravindran - Professor of Nursing, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India
Vinitha's experience and commitment to pediatric surgery will play a crucial role in driving our initiatives forward and ensuring that all children have access

to quality surgical care.

We are excited about the diverse perspectives and expertise these new board members will bring to GICS. Their contributions will be instrumental as we continue to work towards our mission of improving surgical care for children globally.

Please join us in welcoming Dayang Anita Abdul Aziz, Mei Diao, Katrine Løfberg, and Vinitha Ravindran to the GICS family!

GICS
Your Name Here
1234 5678 9012 3456
GICS Membership Drive
Renew Today!

The Global Initiative for Children’s Surgery (GICS) is excited to announce our 2024 Membership Drive! This is an opportunity for current members to renew, and prospective members to join our global network dedicated to improving surgical care for children.

Important Reminder: August 1 was the renewal date for memberships. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible to ensure your continued participation.

Why Join GICS?

Engagement and Collaboration: GICS members gather every other year for our educational conference, but our primary work is accomplished through various committees and working groups between meetings. This structure allows for continuous engagement and meaningful collaboration throughout the year.

Support and Development: Annual membership dues help defray costs and subsidize travel for low- and middle-income members to attend our meetings. This ensures diverse participation and the inclusion of perspectives from all over the world.

Diverse Opportunities: As a member, you can join our working groups and help build a global community while informing policy and creating tools and resources to improve children's surgical care worldwide. Membership dues vary based on your location, making it accessible for professionals from different economic backgrounds to join and contribute.

Current Members: Your continued support and involvement are crucial to our mission. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so!

Lapsed Members: The membership drive is the perfect time to renew your membership without any penalties. We value your past contributions and look forward to having you back with us as we continue to make strides in pediatric surgical care.

Not a Member Yet? Join Us! If you haven’t yet become a member of GICS, we encourage you to join us. Membership at GICS is open to providers of surgical care worldwide, and we welcome your expertise and passion. By becoming a member, you will join a vibrant community of professionals dedicated to advancing pediatric surgery on a global scale.

How to Join: To renew your membership, renew a lapsed membership, or become a new individual or organizational member, please visit our website and fill out the appropriate membership application form. Together, we can make a significant impact on the future of pediatric surgical care.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to be part of a global initiative that is transforming children’s lives through surgical care. Join GICS today and help us continue our vital work.

For more information, please visit our website or contact us via email.

Welcome to the newest GICS Organizational Members

Global Initiative for Children's Surgery

KidsOR
surgery for children

RCSI INSTITUTE of GLOBAL SURGERY

CASIEF
Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation
Fondation d'éducation internationale de la Société canadienne des anesthésiologistes

MONASH CHILDREN'S SIMULATION

APSA
American Pediatric Surgical Association
Saving Lifetimes™

OHANAONE™
INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL AID & EDUCATION

We are excited to welcome our newest Organizational Members to the GICS family! Please welcome: KidsOR, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), Ohana One International Surgical Aid & Education, Monash Children's Simulation Centre, the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) and the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF). Together, we are creating a world where every child has access to safe, quality, timely, and affordable surgical, anesthesia, and nursing care.

If your organization is interested in supporting the GICS mission and becoming part of the GICS community, we invite you to fill out the organizational membership application. Membership dues for organizations are determined by the size of the organization, allowing both small and large entities to participate. In addition, all sponsors of the GICS V conference are eligible for Organizational Membership and will have dues waived through August 2025!

AN APPROACH TO PAEDIATRIC LARYNGOTRACHEAL OBSTRUCTION

SEP 10, 2024
05:00 PM Pretoria Time (GMT+2)

Zoom Meeting
ID: 867 7965 6563
Passcode: 648122

PRESENTED BY....

PROF. SHAZIA PEER
Specialist Paediatric ENT Surgeon
Head of Paediatric Otolaryngology
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

DR. ISAAC BARNOR
Paediatric ENT Fellow
University of Cape Town
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

PENTAFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PAEDIATRIC SURGERY
EAST LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA
FRERE & CECILIA MAKIWANE HOSPITALS

GICS

Join us for a special webinar co-hosted by GICS on September 10th at 5:00pm (GMT+2) on An Approach to Pediatric Laryngotracheal Obstruction with expert speakers Prof. Shazia Peer and Dr. Isaac Barnor from Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. You won't want to miss this informative session! To attend use Zoom ID: 867 7965 6563 and passcode: 648122.

Global Initiative for
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Statement on missile attack on Ukraine's largest children's hospital

There are no winners in any war. One side loses more than the other. The ones on the "weaker" side of the conflict suffer more than the ones on the "stronger" side. And the weakest and the most vulnerable members of society on both sides of the conflict — women and children — suffer the most.

On Monday, 8th July 2024, Okhmatdyt, Ukraine's largest children's hospital, renowned for its cancer treatment and a place many children had called home for months, was targeted by a missile attack that killed twenty-seven civilians, including four children and left 117, including seven children, injured. A hypersonic missile that struck the complex severely damaged the intensive care unit, surgical and oncology wards, and its toxicology department — where children receive dialysis. One of the surgical rooms, where doctors had been operating on a child, was reduced to rubble.

Civilian sites, including schools, hospitals, railway stations, and bomb shelters, have been struck throughout the war, now in its third year. The World Health Organization (WHO) has verified 1,878 attacks affecting healthcare facilities, personnel, transport, supplies, and patients since February 2022. Okhmatdyt has long been a critical lifeline for Ukraine's most severely ill children with complex diseases. Thousands of children, including those with cancer, undergo treatment at the hospital every year. Throughout the war, its doctors have faced the challenging task of saving children injured in shelling while also caring for those with pre-existing conditions. Images from inside the hospital, which treats 20,000 children annually, showed bloodied children, collapsed ceilings, and destroyed operating rooms. This strike will have long-lasting effects; patients will face a shortage of medical care as specialized services with high-tech equipment cannot be restored immediately. The psychological trauma on children from this attack is severe. It will last a long time and could affect them for their whole lives.

It is devastating that a children's hospital, a place of refuge and safety, has been bombed. This shows a total violation of the basic rights of innocent children and is in breach of international humanitarian law. It is horrifying that a place where people seek help has become one of absolute and utter destruction. Where can families and children turn if hospitals are not safe? They must not become battlefields where conflicts rage, and innocent children are the casualties. No child should grow up under the threat of missile fire; no child should die in the rubble of a hospital, which is supposed to be a safe place for healing and recovery.

We must move from the pursuit of domination with force to the logic of diplomacy with a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) decries the ongoing harm to children in the ongoing wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other ongoing conflicts. We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities as the only way to protect children from violence and violations of their fundamental human rights. On behalf of GICS, we hope to see that the welfare and surgical needs of children everywhere in the world are ensured, irrespective of their country, region, race, religion, and ethnicity.

GICS Leadership 2024

Officers

Chair: Tahmina Banu (Bangladesh)
Chair-Elect: Simone Abib (Brazil)
Secretary: Milind Chitnis (South Africa)
Treasurer: Marilyn Butler (US)
Past Chair: Doruk Ozgediz (US)

Advisory Board

- Hafeez Abdelhafeez
- Emmanuel Ameh
- Stephen Bickler
- Diana Farmer
- Sarah Greenberg
- Kokila Lakhoo
- Keith Oldham
- Lawal-Aiyedun Olubunmi
- Dan Poenaru
- Richard Stewart

Board Members

- Hafeez Abdelhafeez (US)
- Simone Abib (Brazil)
- Dayang Anita Abdul Aziz (Malaysia)
- Abdelbasit Ali (Sudan)
- Milind Chitnis (South Africa)
- Mei Diao (China)
- Beda Espineda (Philippines)
- Faye Evans (US)
- Laura Goodman (US)
- Katrine Løfberg (Denmark)
- Vrisha Madhuri (India)
- Liz McLeod (Australia)
- Vinitha Ravindran (India)
- Udo Rolle (Germany)
- Lubna Samad (Pakistan)
- John Sekabira (Uganda)
- Mohamed Shalaby (UK)
- Justina Seyi-Oljide (Nigeria)
- Sabina Siddiqui (US)

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