

WOMEN IN SURGERY RESEARCH GRANT (WISURG)

Background

The proposed WISA, J&J & RCSI grant is a collaborative effort aimed at fostering increased participation of female surgeons in high quality clinical research in the East Central and Southern African (ECSA) region. While female enrolment to the college has increased over the years, it has been noted that there remains a need for increased participation of female surgeons in research activities. There is also a great need for translation of clinical data into sound research that will subsequently inform local and regional policy with regards to safe and sustainable surgery in the ECSA region. The long-term goal is to provide a framework for emerging and mid-career female surgical researchers to produce high-quality research, supported by grant funding, research methodology training, supervision and mentorship. Ultimately the research produced will benefit the surgical patient in ECSA region.

The overall objective is to foster the development of the next generation of female leaders in surgical research and practice in the COSECSA region.

Grant Description

The grant Consists of 3 pillars of support:

- **FINANCIAL:** Successful candidates will receive *US\$5,000 in grant funding each*
- **TRAINING:** Successful candidates will be enrolled a bespoke research methodology training programme
- **MENTORSHIP:** Successful candidates will be Assigned a mentor(s) and/or research supervisor(s) as needed

Eligibility

Successful candidates for the grant will be individuals who show promise to lead research initiatives and activities related to patient-centered surgical research on the continent.

In order to be eligible candidates must:

- Be a WiSA member or join WiSA during application

AND

- Be a female surgical trainee, in training in COSECSA MCS or FCS programmes

OR

- Be a female Fellow (by Examination) of COSECSA, having graduated a maximum of FIVE (5) years before the award.

Applications from early career researchers (with 0-2 papers as a first author or senior author) will be reviewed preferentially, with applications from mid-career researchers (2-4 papers as a first author or senior author) also reviewed favorably. Applications from more established researchers may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application Process

1. Applicants must complete the application form, and upload two references from COSECSA / WISA Fellows in good standing.
 - a. Submission documents:
 - i. Cover letter – expressing your interest to participate into the program
 - ii. An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV). If the research team is having more than one applicant, please include CVs of each member of the team
 - iii. A research concept note of your proposed topic and mentorship plan.
 - iv. A budget with justification
 - v. Two (2) recommendation letters, one must be from the COSECSA Program Director in your respective training institution a
 - vi. Motivation letter: Explaining why you need this program and what impact are you foreseeing
2. Applications will be accepted from 1st October until November 15th each year.
3. Applications will be reviewed and award winners announced at the Annual WiSA event in December.

4. The grant period will be 12 months, beginning on January 1st and covering the calendar year.
5. Mentors and/or research supervisors will be assigned to awardees as needed for the period of the grant. Mentors and supervisors will be drawn from a panel of volunteer experienced researchers from both the ECSA region and beyond.
6. Mandatory research methodology training will be conducted in February and March
7. All research projects must be presented at the WISA annual conference of the same year.
8. A final report must be submitted by December 31st of the grant year.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be selected by the WiSA Grant Selection Committee.

Selection will be made based both on the research proposed, and on the applicant's potential to develop as a global leader in surgical research.

Only original research will be considered. Reviews and case studies will not be considered. In the first year of the grant programme, no specific topic areas are specified.

NB: MMed dissertations shall not be considered for this award.

Applications will be reviewed against criteria in the following areas:

1. **Impact** – The potential impact of the proposed research project on surgical care provision in East, Central and Southern Africa
2. **Feasibility** – Proposed research projects should be realistic, and possible to undertake in the limited time period.
3. **Profile** – Potential for publication in high impact factor journal
4. **Participation** - Active demonstrated participation in WiSA activities at a country and / or regional level.
5. **Personal Statement** - Candidates must provide a rationale for how they will contribute to the development of high-quality surgical research projects that will ultimately impact surgical care provision in the COSECSA region. Candidates should also demonstrate their interest and ability to commit to COSECSA-WISA activities over the long term.

APPLY HERE: <https://forms.gle/fL4ZXgUvpVxhuDP3A>