

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our December IGS mailing.

We would like to wish all of our subscribers, colleagues and partners a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a happy and peaceful New Year!

The RCSI Institute of Global Surgery supports the training, retention, upskilling and career development of surgery, anaesthesia, nursing and obstetric caregivers, from health workers to specialists, and we work to improve access to high-quality, essential surgical care for underserved populations.

As always you can contact us directly on globalsurgery@rcsi.com, follow us on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#), and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.



In Recognition of Prof Sean Tierney:

Prof Sean Tierney, a dedicated humanitarian, gifted surgeon, educator, mentor and a great friend of surgical training in low-resource settings, passed away last July. Prof Sean Tierney was one of the main drivers behind the establishment of the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery. We want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to this great man as we move into the new year.

As a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Tallaght University Hospital, Sean was deeply committed to his patients, ensuring access for all to high quality care, and a doctor of the highest integrity. Sean was RCSI Dean of Professional Development and Practice since 2011, and was formerly President of the Irish Medical Organisation.

Surgery in low-resource settings was always close to Sean's heart. A lynchpin of the Irish-Aid funded RCSI/COSECSA collaboration since its inception in 2007, Sean described his work on the collaboration programme as the highlight of his career. Never one for the limelight, Sean worked tirelessly behind the scenes on many projects that have become essential components of COSECSA surgical training, including COSECSA's e-learning platform, electric logbook, research, workforce mapping, examinations development and much more. He also advocated for and supported the expansion of cooperation to include training in anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology and peri-operative nursing. Sean was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by COSECSA in 2023 to mark his contribution to COSECSA through the collaboration programme.

Sean was an inspiration to all of us in RCSI and he gave so much to so many. His legacy and memory will continue to drive us forward.



Akazi Exhibition - Breast Cancer in Malawi

The, “Akazi Exhibition – Breast Cancer in Malawi,” officially launched on Oct 23rd in RCSI, showcasing the photography of **Antonio Jaén Osuna**, communication specialist, who has been documenting the lived realities of women battling with breast cancer in rural Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world.



Honorary Membership of the Colombian Surgical Association

Congratulations to our Chair of Global Surgery Prof Juan Carlos Puyana on being bestowed Honorary Membership of the Colombian Surgical Association at the 19th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery, 25th Latin American Congress of Surgery FELAC and 49th National Colombia Surgical Week Congress in Cartagena city, Colombia.



Historic first ever CANECSA Annual Scientific Conference 2023

We were proud and privileged to attend the historic, first ever CANECSA Scientific Conference in Harare. Our own Prof Juan Carlos Puyana, Eric O'Flynn, Emanuela Parotto, Godfrey Sama Philippo also presented.

Dr Mpoki Ulisubisya, President of CANECSA, was presented with the Chain of Office and RCSI were honoured to gift the medal!



23rd COSECSA Scientific Conference

RCSI President Prof Laura Viani with many RCSI examiners and members of the IGS, were delighted to attend the 23rd COSECSA Scientific Conference in Addis Ababa.

Congratulations also to **Dr Peter Mushenya** on being awarded the Gerard O'Sullivan Medal. The **Gerald O'Sullivan medal** is awarded every year to the Fellow who graduates top of the class at the annual COSECSA exams. We look forward to welcoming Dr Mushenya to RCSI for Charter 2024!

Conferences:

8th Horasis Global Meeting (Türkiye) - Oct 22-23: Dr Kuba Gajewski participated in a panel on Global Surgery during the 8th Horasis Global Meeting 'Creating Impact with Innovation, Sustainability and Reconstruction' in Gaziantep, Türkiye. Kuba also raised awareness with business leaders and government officials to increase support for global surgery.

IGHNx: Humanity and Health (Dublin) - Oct 24th: Our Programme Director for Education & Training Eric O'Flynn spoke on "Global health training and Pedagogy - Building a stage for others."

Millin Meeting 2023 (Dublin) - Nov 10th: The Millin Meeting was back in-person this year in RCSI. Dr Jakub (Kuba) Gajewski presented a poster on the **KidSURG** project.

16th European Public Health Conference (Dublin) - Nov 8-11: Dr Kuba Gajewski and Dr Chiara Pittalis participated in poster & oral presentations during the EPH 2023, on "Tackling breast cancer where almost no care is available. A Europe-Africa partnership," & "An EU-Africa partnership to co-design a training intervention to scale-up access to surgery in Africa." Dr Gajewski also chaired a session on health determinants.

Philippine College of Surgeons 79th Annual Clinical Congress (Manila) - December 3-6: Our Education Project Manager Dr Ines Peric presented on the United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub (**SURGhub**).



Congratulations on your Graduation!!

Congratulations to Dr Kuba Gajewski, our Director for Research, on receiving his MSc in Leadership and Innovation in Healthcare.

MSc in Leadership and Innovation in Healthcare

Dates for your diary

February 2024: The Akazi Exhibition - Breast Cancer in Malawi - We are delighted to announce that the Akazi Exhibition - Breast Cancer in Malawi will be on display in the **Dun Laoghaire Lexlcon** from February to mid-March 2024. We'll see you there!

Finally

WiSA (Women in Surgery Africa): Congratulations to the five WiSA-J&J-RCSI Research grant winners. Each grant is worth \$5k, + research methodology training + mentorship and given to female surgeons and surgical trainees. Funded by the J&J Foundation.

Congratulations also to Dr Takondwa Malamba and Dr Mukamitari Victoire on being awarded the **WiSA RCSI Travel Grant** in Addis Ababa!