# **Quality Surgical and Anaesthetic care for everybody**

Biographies speakers



#### Thomas Weiser (US)

Associate Professor of Surgery, **Stanford University Medical Centre**, Faculty, Stanford Surgery Policy Improvement Research and Education Centre.

Thomas' research is focused on evaluating the role of surgical care in the delivery of health services in resource poor settings, particularly low- and middle income countries. His interests cover barriers to access and provision of surgical care, the quality of surgical services, and outcomes research. His current projects focus on quality and cost effectiveness of care, and strategies for improving the safety and reliability of surgical delivery in resource poor settings. From 2006-2009, Mr Weiser was part of the World Health Organization's Safe Surgery Saves Lives program where he quantified the global volume of surgery and created, implemented, evaluated, and promoted the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. He is also a board member of Lifebox, a charity devoted to improving surgical safety worldwide, and is the clinical lead for its Clean Cut program, a multinational effort to improve surgical safety and prevent surgical infections.



## Lars Hagander (Sweden)

MD, MPH, PhD, Associate professor at the **Faculty of Medicine**, **Lund University, consultant paediatric surgeon at Skåne University Hospital**, Sweden

Lars has a PhD in international child health and is director of global paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University, Sweden. He has an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health and was a Paul Farmer Global Surgery Research Fellow in the Program in **Global Surgery and Social Change at Harvard Medical School**. Lars is a member of the WHO GIEESC and was cochair for the **Lancet Commission on Global Surgery**.



## Andreas Wladis (ICRC/Switzerland)

MD, PhD, Emergency general surgeon, and Associate Professor of Surgery at the **Karolinska Institute** and Professor of Disaster Medicine and Traumatology at **Linkoping University**.

Andreas is the Chief Surgeon of the **International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC)** in Geneva and has a vast experience from surgical capacity building in low income countries, research on surgical systems and surgery within humanitarian emergencies



#### Walt Johnson (WHO, Switzerland/US)

MD, MPH, MBA, Lead for the Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Programme, World Health Organization, Geneva.

Walt's primary responsibility is fulfilling the mandates of **WHA Resolution 68.15** on strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of **universal health coverage**. This can only be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders, with the ultimate goal to bring safe, timely and affordable surgical care to low- and middle-income countries through high-performing surgical healthcare systems and workforce. Dr. Johnson is MD from Loma Linda University, California, had Neurosurgery residency at SUNY-Brooklyn, and was Vice-chairman of Neurosurgery at Loma Linda University before joining WHO fulltime. His involvement with Global Surgery include teaching as visiting professor in Hangzhou, China for several years, being directly involved in developing general surgery residency training programs throughout Africa, and training of African physicians to become surgeons.



Nobhojit Roy (India)

MBBS, MS, MPH, PhD, Professor at the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences** (Deemed University), Mumbai

Nobhojit is a visiting Professor for Public Health at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Deemed University) in Mumbai, India. Dr. Roy trained as a Trauma Surgeon in India and the UK and holds an MPH from John Hopkins University. He served as a rural surgeon in rural and tribal areas of India before he became **Chief of Surgery at the BARC Hospital in Mumbai**. His areas of research interest are affordable surgery, preventable trauma deaths, trauma scoring systems and prehospital care in resource-poor settings. He has worked closely with the **World Health Organisation** as PI of the **Trauma Patient Safety Checklist** and as senior expert on competence for mass casualty events, in limited-resource settings.



## Anna Dare (Canada)

MD, PhD, general surgery resident and global health researcher, University of Toronto

Anna has a long-standing interest in improving access and equity in surgical care, particularly among indigenous populations and in low-resource settings. Her current research focuses on developing robust epidemiological evidence on mortality from surgical conditions in low- and middle-income countries and relating this to factors which affect access to surgical care. Anna was a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, and lead the cancer surgery chapter for **the Disease Control Priorities Network**. Her clinical and research work has taken her throughout the Western Pacific, South Asia, and West Africa.



Johan von Schreeb (Sweden)

MD, PhD, general surgeon, associate professor Karolinska Institute.

Johan leads the centre for research on health care in disasters at Karolinska Institute. His research aims at providing scientific evidence to support improvements in assisting people and populations affected by disasters worldwide. The research explores how health needs and risks vary depending on type of disaster and context. The studies also include optimal use of trauma care with limited resources and predictions models for early trauma mortality. Johan was cofounder of **Médecins Sans Frontières** in Sweden.



Ibrahim Bundu (Sierra Leone)

Senior specialist orthopaedic surgeon MOHS, Department of Surgery, Connaught Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Senior Lecturer, **University of Sierra Leone**.

Ibrahim is former regional surgeon for eastern and northern Sierra Leone, former head of surgery Connaught Hospital and associate lecturer department of surgery college of medicine and allied health sciences, University of Sierra Leone. Ibrahim has first-hand experiences with the challenges of building surgical capacity in Sierra Leone, and has been a regular trainer in the CapaCare's surgical training programme since 2014.



Ben Liu (UK)

MD, consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon at Glan Clwyd Hospital in **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board**, Wales

Ben is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) in General and Colorectal Surgery and the European Board of Surgery in Coloproctology. Ben completed a Master's Degree in Surgical Science and Practice at **Oxford University** with the Dissertation "A single-blinded experimental study on task-shifting: Assessing the acquisition of new surgical skills between medically qualified and non-medically qualified surgical trainees in a low resource area".



Seibatu Sia Kemoh (Sierra Leone)

#### **Surgical Assistant Community Health Officer**

Seibatu qualified as a **Community Health Officer** (CHO), from the School of Community Health and Clinical Sciences, **Njala University, Bo** Campus in 2010. She worked at the Ngalu Community Health Centre until she started in CapaCare's surgical training programme (STP) in May 2015. She graduated in October 2017. Seibatu was awarded best STP student and was for this invited to visit Norway for the surgical symposium.



Pär Nordin (Sweden)

MD, PhD, Associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine, **Umeå University**, consultant specialist surgeon at **Östersund Hospital**, Sweden.

Pär is the chairman of the Register Committee of the **Swedish Hernia Register**. Besides being a practising abdominal surgeon in central Sweden, he has extensive clinical and research experience related to groin hernias both in high and low-income countries.



Theo Wiggers (Holland)

MD, PhD, FRCS, University Medical Centre Groningen, Chief Medical Officer of INCISION

Theo has been a surgeon and trainer in surgical oncology for almost 30 years and holds several advisory and supervisory board positions for healthcare organizations, with special attention to quality control. He is one of three **founding fathers of INCISION**. INCISION as part of the SurgAssist consortium are with funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 developing a state-of the-art step-by-step E-learning surgical teaching platform with high quality 2D and 3D films of 250 common surgical procedures. Together with courses, interactive 3D anatomical models, extra medical content these features form one structured and integrated source for surgical skills knowledge, useful to surgical care providers all across the globe.



David Jayne (UK)

Professor of Surgery, St. James's **University Hospital Leeds** and Hon. Consultant Surgeon **Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust**.

David's clinical interests include minimally invasive surgery for colorectal cancer and pelvic floor dysfunction. In 2012, he was awarded a prestigious NIHR Research Professorship to accelerate research and implementation of new surgical technologies into clinical practice. He is Chief Investigator for several NIHR portfolio clinical trials, including MRC/NIHR ROLARR (robotic versus laparoscopic surgery for rectal cancer), HTA/NIHR FIAT (fistula plug versus surgeon's preference for fistula-in-ano), MRC/NIHR GLiSten (next generation fluorescent lymph node staging in colon cancer), HTA/NIHR SaFaRI (sacral nerve stimulation versus Fenix magnetic anal sphincter for adult faecal incontinence), and MRC/NIHR IntAct (intraoperative fluorescence angiography to prevent anastomotic leak). He is Clinical Director of the Leeds NIHR Healthcare Technology Co-operative (HTC) in Colorectal Therapies, which aims to create a national network of clinicians, academics, patient and public representatives, and commercial partners to develop novel solutions to unmet clinical need in colorectal disease. In 2017, he led a successful application to establish an NIHR Global Health Research Group, which builds on his surgical technologies and clinical trials research, for application in low resources countries.



#### Jessica Beard (US)

MD, MPH, trauma surgeon Assistant Professor of Surgery at **Temple University Hospital**, **Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania

Jessica completed medical school at Yale School of Medicine, general surgery residency at University of California-San Francisco, and trauma and surgical critical care fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. She also completed a Masters in Public Health at the **University of California-Berkeley**. Her research interests include global surgery and firearm injury epidemiology and prevention. She has extensive research and clinical experience in East and West Africa and has been involved in teaching laparoscopic skills and studying task-sharing in Tanzania and studying hernia epidemiology in Ghana. Currently, she heads a research project on outcomes after training in low-cost mesh inquinal hernia repair for surgeons and non-surgeons in Ghana.



# Torben Wisborg (Norway)

MD, PhD, Professor of anaesthesia at the **University of Tromsø**, Norway, consultant anaesthetist at Hammerfest Hospital, and **Director of the Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Trauma**, Oslo.

Torben graduated from University of Copenhagen. He has a PhD on **trauma team training** based on ten years of experience on with strengthening trauma teams in Norway and northern Iraq. Main research interests are trauma systems, trauma epidemiology, trauma teams and trauma team training. He is associate editor of Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandiavica.



## Tina Gaarder (Norway)

MD, PhD, Consultant General and Trauma surgeon, **Director of Trauma at Oslo University Hospital** (OUHU), Ullevål, Oslo, Norway

Christine founded the OUHU formal Trauma Service in 2005 and later the national advisory board for trauma. Responsibilities include clinical, administrative, educational and quality improvement in trauma. Head of the Norwegian Surgical Society Committee on Trauma. Involved in the development and revision of the national trauma system. Running national trauma educational programmes and involved in international trauma surgical training. President elect in IATSIC (International association for trauma surgery and intensive care).



# Jannicke Mellin-Olsen (Norway)

MD, DPH, Consultant Anaesthesiologist at the Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine, **Baerum Hospital**, Oslo, Norway, but did her medical studies and postgraduate training at NTNU.

Jannicke is the President Elect of the **World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists** as well as Secretary, European Society of Anaesthesiology and past President of the European Board of Anaesthesiology. Being **involved in national and global health through** education, patient safety and health politics, she was the driving force for the **Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology** which has gained global support. She is also previous Director Global Medical Support, dealing with remote medical assistance and air ambulance services and was also medical director for MedAire, Europe (responsible for Europe Middle East and Africa). Jannicke was the first Norwegian female doctor to complete voluntary military services, serving in UNIFIL in Lebanon, and she has later made civilian missions via Red Cross organisations in several parts of the world.



## Staffan Bergstrøm (Sweden)

MD, PhD, Specialist obstetrician, Professor Emeritus of International Health at **Karolinska Institute**.

Staffan has extensive experience from working in Africa both as a clinician and a teacher. He was based in Tanzania for several years where the focus of his research and lecturing was in enhancing Human Resources and use of appropriate technologies for maternal and perinatal survival in Sub-Saharan Africa. His research includes studies of **non-physician clinicians** (NPCs) and physicians doing caesarean sections, assessing diagnostic accuracy, and intra- and postoperative skills in Mozambique and Tanzania. Staffan has for the last 20 years organized a course in emergency obstetric care hosting more than 500 associate clinicians, doctors, nurses and politicians from all over the world.



## David Southall (UK and Liberia)

MBBS, MD, FRCPCH, OBE Professor of Paediatrics and Honorary Medical Director MCAI David founded the charity **Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International** (MCAI) in 1995 and currently is directing a task-sharing programme in Liberia aimed at the training of midwives in advanced obstetrics (including abdominal surgery) and the training of nurses and midwives in advanced neonatal care. David's main interests include: medical education, approaches to healthcare based on human rights, sustained improvements in the emergency hospital care of pregnant women and adolescent girls, babies and children in disadvantaged countries, preventing the life-threatening abuse of children, and advocacy against armed conflict and the arms trade and its effects on mothers and children.



#### Hampus Holmer (Sweden)

MD, PhD candidate in surgery and public health at **Lund University**, Sweden. Co-director of WHO Collaborating Centre on Surgery and Public Health at Lund University.

Hampus is a medical doctor with interests spanning global and national health policy, health systems strengthening and clinical service delivery. A previous research associate in global surgery at Harvard Medical School and intern of the WHO Emergency and Essential Surgical Care Programme, where he developed the WHO Global Surgical Workforce Database, Hampus most recently served as seconded technical officer from King's Sierra Leone Partnership to the World Health Organization in Sierra Leone. In that role, he led a team supporting the development of a national surgical plan for Sierra Leone.