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Developing Research Potential and Building Partnerships: A Report of the Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course at the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa



Kristin L. Long, MD, MPH,^{a,*}

Moses Galukande, MBChB, MMed, MSc, PhD,^b

Patrick Kyamanywa, MPH, MMed,^c Margaret J. Tarpley, MLS,^{d,e}

and Christopher Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA,^f on behalf of the Global Affairs Committee of the Association for Academic Surgery

^a Division of Endocrine Surgery, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

^b Department of Surgery, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

^c Department of Surgery, Kampala International University Western Campus, Kampala, Uganda

^d Department of Surgery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

^e Department of Medical Education, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana

^f Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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ABSTRACT

Background: Approximately a decade after the inaugural Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course (FSRC) at the West African College of Surgeons meeting (2008), the Association for Academic Surgery expanded the course offering to the annual meeting of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). After the second annual offering of the course in 2019, participants were surveyed to assess the impact of the course.

Methods: A survey was distributed to the attendees of the 2019 second COSECSA FSRC course, held in December 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. Approximately 80 people attended at least a portion of the full-day course. Forty-nine participants completed the voluntary survey questionnaire distributed to assess each session of the course at course completion.

Results: Ten different countries were represented among the attendees. Of the 49 evaluations, 35 respondents were male and six were female. Eight respondents did not identify a gender. Surgical residents comprised 19 of the 49 attendees, and one of the 49 attendees was a medical student. Thirty-five respondents indicated that their views of surgical research had changed after attending the course.

Conclusions: The second annual FSRC at COSECSA confirmed significant interest in building research skills and partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa. A wide variety of learners attended the course, and a majority of the sessions received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

* Corresponding author. School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin, 600 Highland Avenue K4/744, Madison, WI 53792. Tel.: +1 214 725 6522; fax: 608-263-7652.

E-mail address: longk@surgery.wisc.edu (K.L. Long).

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