



## **COSECSA RESEARCH STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

COSECSA aims to be a leading surgical research body and a hub for surgical information in the East, Central and Southern Africa region.

This stems from the belief that high-quality academic research can deliver real impacts on surgical training, practice and policy, leading to better care and health outcomes for patients. COSECSA is also motivated by the shortage of existing data and gaps in knowledge about surgery in the region, and the emergence of Global Surgery as an academic discipline.

Since its founding in 1999, COSECSA has grown to become the largest surgical training provider in the region. During this time, the College has engaged in many research activities from partnering with international consortia to providing competitive grants for trainees to undertake hospital-based audits. The College also maintains extensive databases on surgical training data and the surgical workforce in the region.

COSECSA now wishes to increase the quality, quantity and impact of its research output.

### **Principles of Collaborative Research**

COSECSA welcomes proposals to collaborate in academic studies that

- are relevant to patients and populations in the COSECSA countries and region
- can inform policy development in COSECSA countries and region
- have partnerships with local researchers or institutions (when initiated outside of the region)
- comply with ethical standards of the local hospitals, sites and national ethics boards where they will be carried out
- have a clear plan for disseminating the research findings within COSECSA countries and region

### **Research Areas of Interest**

COSECSA's areas of expertise and interest are in Global Surgery, as practiced in the East, Central and Southern Africa region, and in low-resource settings. Proposals to collaborate on academic studies on the following topics are particularly of interest

- surgical patient outcomes
- design and delivery of surgical training
- surgically-treatable diseases and disease patterns

- surgical workforce planning and development
- development of surgical careers
- e-learning and e-technology for surgical training
- surgical infrastructure
- gender equity in surgery
- surgical data/information systems
- innovation in surgery
- costing of surgical provision
- equitable access to surgery

COSECSA welcomes proposals to collaborate from surgical researchers and from researchers in non-surgical areas such as - but not limited - to allied health professions; economics; statistics; public policy; education; social enterprise; and international development. Proposals may be from individuals, private organisations or public bodies.

### **Disseminating Research**

The COSECSA Annual Scientific Conference provides a platform for researchers from around the world to disseminate their research findings and interact with policy-makers, NGOs, private companies and funding bodies. It also offers researchers excellent opportunities for networking and mentorship. Held in December immediately following the COSECSA AGM and Graduation ceremony, it has grown to become one of the key conferences in the Global Surgery calendar.

COSECSA publishes the peer-reviewed East and Central African Journal of Surgery (<http://www.cosecsa.org/about/publications/ecaajs-journal>) three times annually. The journal's objectives are the advancement of the science and art of surgery and exchange of ideas among surgeons in the constituent countries of The Association of Surgeons of East Africa (ASEA) and COSECSA. Approximately 50 issues have been published to date. Authors from around the world contribute articles and the readership is similarly global.

### **Contact**

Researchers wishing to collaborate with COSECSA should contact the COSECSA Secretariat Research Coordinator [research@cosecsa.org](mailto:research@cosecsa.org). All proposals must at a minimum contain the following:

- Objective
- Research questions to be addressed
- Ethics
- Partners
- Methodologies
- Timelines
- Funding
- Research findings dissemination plan

**ENDS**