

## **Loma Linda University Health Center for Global Surgery**

Approximately one third of the global burden of disease is directly linked to surgical conditions, yet 5 billion individuals lack access to safe, timely and affordable surgical, obstetric and anesthesia care. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 93% of people do not have access to surgical care; only 6% of the world's surgeries are performed on the poorest one-third of its population. This lack of access causes global annual deaths due to surgical conditions to be over 5 times those resulting from HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria combined. Optimal understanding of these critical issues requires health care service delivery to be viewed through the lenses of medicine, surgery, and global public health.

Loma Linda University has several unique features that align with the Center for Global Surgery, namely: 1) a century-old tradition of global missions and international surgical care that is woven into the fabric of LLU, 2) a long association with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (as of 2021, PAACS has 22 training programs in 8 African countries), 3) a strong global surgery program and fellowship within the LLU Department of Surgery, 4) strong partnerships between all LLU Schools, 5) strong global LLU partners, such as the large network of SDA medical schools, universities and hospitals, and 6) LLU brings a strong spiritual emphasis and wholeness to global surgery that is truly distinctive and impactful.

The Center will provide a hub for interaction between all LLU Schools, between any interested LLU Medical Center departments and LLU-affiliated entities. The Center will concentrate in three distinct areas through equitable, two-way partnerships:

- I. **Education:** topics on global health issues, such as cultural awareness and humility, international ethics, social justice, health equity, leadership and management; surgical and clinical competency in low-resource environments.
- II. **Service Delivery:** promote and foster health system strengthening, link with surgical care service delivery through affiliated service networks, as well as assist with development of national surgical, obstetric and anesthesia health policy through work with health ministries and other partners;
- III. **Research:** primary research emphases will be on access to surgical care, surgical care service delivery in low-resource settings, application of data analytics, and integration of GIS technology into surgical services.

### **Mission:**

To promote universal access to safe, timely, and affordable essential surgical care worldwide through education, service, research, and advocacy in a sustainable and ethical manner.

### **Goals:**

1. Identify and address barriers of access to safe, timely and affordable surgical care through innovation, research, policy development, and advocacy;
2. Strengthen entire health systems through surgical services capacity building;
3. Train nascent global surgeons and others with the capacity for competent, ethical and compassionate health care service in low-resource environments;
4. Establish and support collaborative two-way surgical partnerships in low- and middle-income countries that are mutually beneficial and address local and/or regional surgical needs.