



# MUSC GLOBAL SURGERY PROGRAM

## Progress Report

# MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

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Two years ago, the MUSC Global Surgery Program was launched with a bold mission: to redefine how healthcare professionals, trainees, and communities engage with surgical care globally — and to use those connections to enhance our practices here at home. Our vision was rooted in bidirectionality—a commitment to not just giving, but learning and growing through mutual exchange.

What began with a handful of committed students has become one of the most dynamic global surgery programs in the country. In 2024 alone, we achieved significant milestones: expansion across specialties, an ACGME-approved international rotation, and national recognition for innovation, education, and collaboration.

We hosted global icons like Dr. John Tarpley and Dr. Jim Brown, published numerous academic works, developed low-cost surgical tools through the Zucker Institute, and helped launch new international surgical education partnerships. These accomplishments reflect our collective commitment to improving surgical access worldwide.

In 2026, we look forward to doubling our rotations and expanding our influence. This program has grown beyond what anyone imagined, and now we must build sustainable infrastructure to meet the demand.

Sincerely,



Mike M. Mallah, M.D., FACS, FICS  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Trauma/Acute Care Surgeon  
Director, Global Surgery Program  
Department of Surgery



Ramin Eskandari, M.D., MS, FAANS  
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery  
Associate Director of Global Surgery Program  
Surgical Director, Pediatric Neuroscience Institute  
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery  
Departments of Neurosurgery, Surgery, and Pediatrics



*Mike M. Mallah, M.D.  
Program Director*



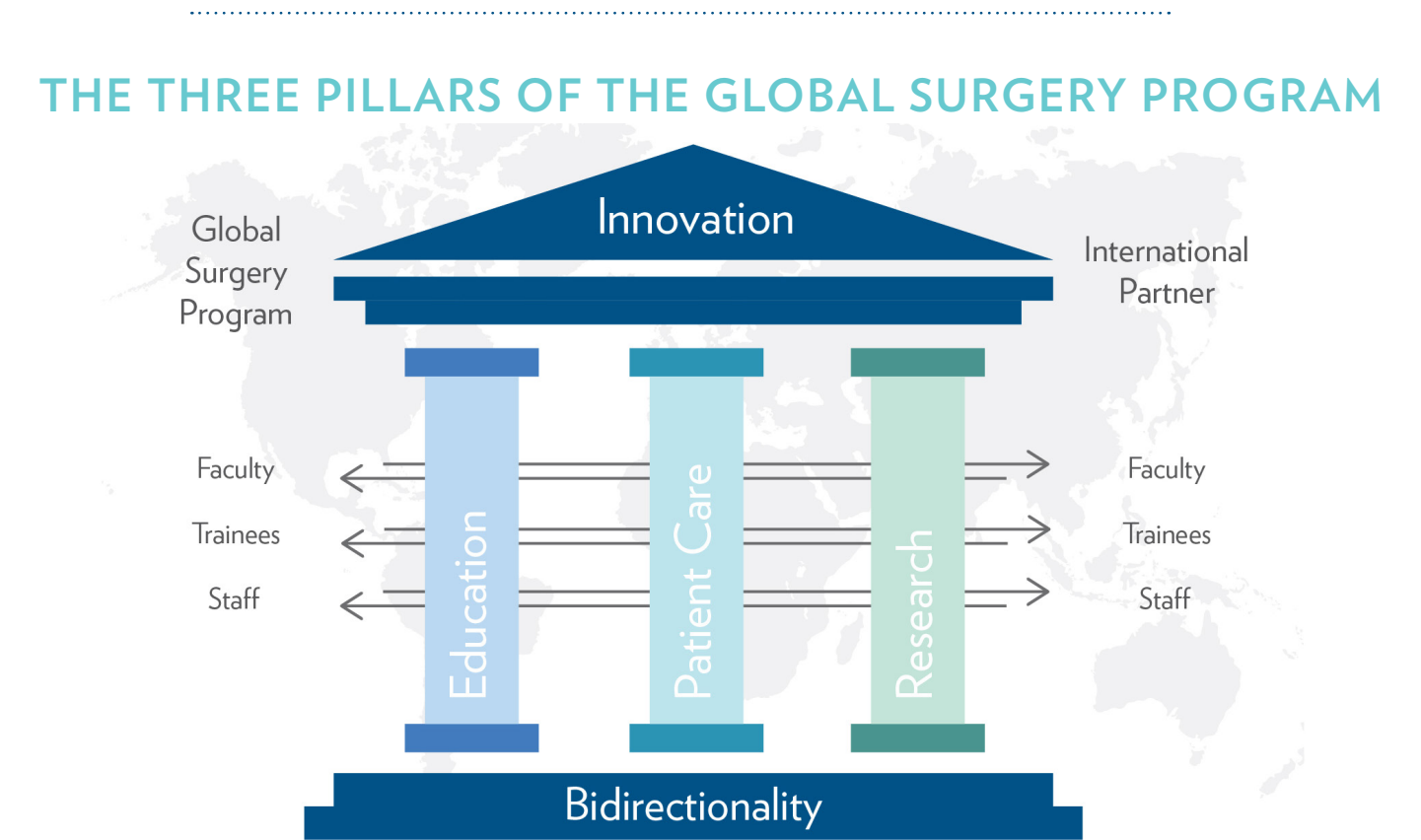
*Ramin Eskandari, M.D.  
Associate Program Director*

# INNOVATION | IMPACT | INFLUENCE

The MUSC Global Surgery Program is one of the few global surgery programs in the country that is built on the ethos of bidirectionality. This novel program leverages global relationships to create bidirectional clinical education, research, and innovation opportunities that improve care of the surgical patients in low- and middle-income countries and developed nations alike.

In doing so, it aims to be the premier international partner for academic surgical institutions worldwide. Combining these pillars of patient care, education, and research, we can connect the best global minds from the developing world with the experience, resources, and proven excellence at MUSC. This collaboration fosters innovation and ultimately enhances surgical care in South Carolina and beyond.

OUR MISSION	OUR VISION	OUR VALUES
To empower the delivery of the highest quality global surgical care through equitable, bidirectional collaboration in education, clinical care, and innovation.	To improve access to safe, cost-effective surgical care globally and locally through immersive education and sustainable partnerships.	Compassion Integrity Innovation Education Collaboration



## MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Mike M. Mallah, M.D., FACS, FICS** – *Program Director, Global Surgery; Assistant Professor of Surgery*

**Mike M. Mallah, M.D.**, is a double-board certified fellowship-trained trauma and acute care surgeon as well as a surgical critical care intensivist in Charleston, South Carolina. He has traveled to 60 countries and operated on five continents in low resource settings and conflict zones with the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and other smaller NGOs. Not only did this work expose him to pathology and surgical techniques not often seen or practiced in the United States, but it also allowed him to gain an understanding about barriers and lack of access to safe surgical and anesthesia care. He is Chair of the Global Surgery Committee, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, is an Examiner for the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa, and serves on a committee for the Association of Academic Global Surgery.



**Ramin Eskandari, M.D., MS, FAANS** – *Associate Program Director, Global Surgery; Surgical Director of Pediatric Neuroscience Institute; Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery*

**Ramin Eskandari, M.D.**, is a highly regarded pediatric neurosurgeon known for his expertise in the field. He is involved in various aspects of pediatric neurosurgery, including the management of complex neurological conditions in children. His work spans clinical practice, research, and education, contributing significantly to advancements in pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Eskandari has been involved in the development and support of a Pediatric Neuroscience Institute, the Pediatric Brain Injury and Hydrocephalus Research Laboratory, and the state's first and only Pediatric CNS Biorespository. In addition to his clinical and research endeavors, Dr. Eskandari is committed to educating and training the next generation of neurosurgeons. Dr. Eskandari has brought novel minimally invasive procedures to the MUSC Pediatric Neurosurgery Division through Global Neurosurgical exchanges and education-based mission trips. He is dedicated to ensuring the continued growth and excellence in pediatric neurosurgery at MUSC and globally.

# DEPARTMENT LEADS

Eight MUSC departments are engaged in the program and are exploring ways to broaden trainee rotation opportunities across diverse medical specialties.



Mike M. Mallah, M.D.  
General Surgery Lead



Ramin Eskandari, M.D.  
Neurosurgery Lead



Dane Daley, M.D.  
Orthopedics Lead



Eric Rovner, M.D.  
Urology Lead



Michelle Rovner, M.D.  
Anesthesia Lead



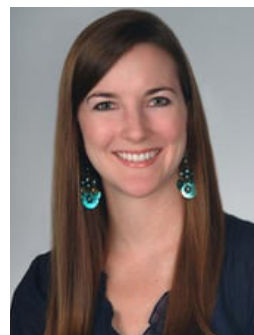
Eliza Barnwell, M.D.  
Ophthalmology Lead



Rodney Schlosser, M.D.  
ENT Lead



Krishna Patel, M.D., Ph.D.  
ENT Lead



Kathryn Koval, M.D.  
Emergency Medicine Lead



Claire Milam, M.D.  
Emergency Medicine Lead

# IMPACT & INNOVATION AT A GLANCE

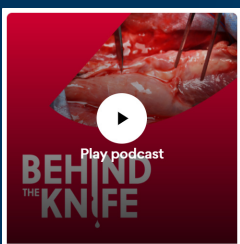
## INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

MUSC faculty and trainees collaborated with the Zucker Institute for Innovation to design a low-cost laparoscope specifically for use in low-resource environments. The device, created by a multidisciplinary team, is being submitted for patent protection. It represents MUSC's commitment to not just exporting knowledge but co-developing tools that advance global surgical equity. This project is a hallmark of our bidirectional model: pairing MUSC's expertise with international partner feedback to create real-world solutions.

## MUSC GLOBAL SURGERY PROGRAM



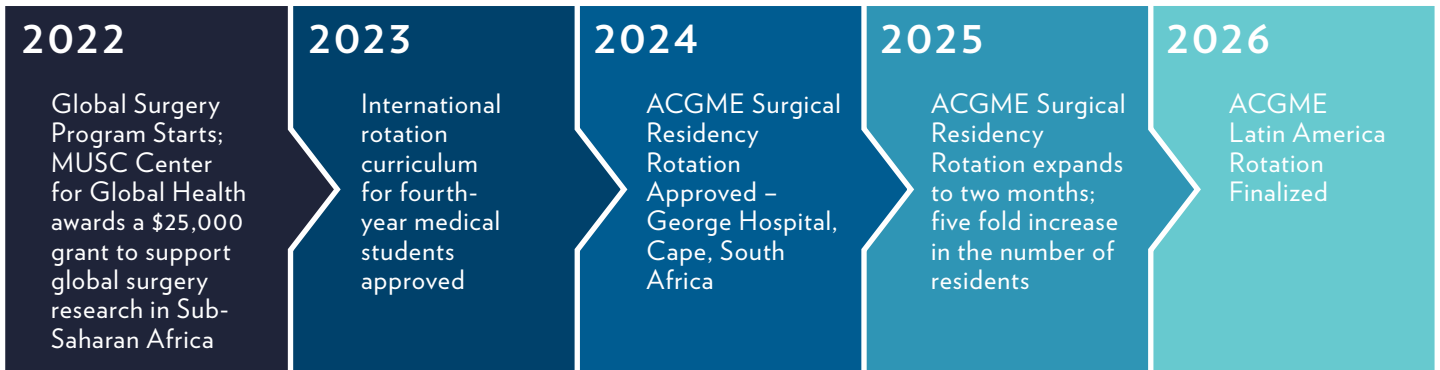
## BEHIND THE KNIFE: EXPANDING OUR REACH THROUGH THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



The Director of the MUSC Global Surgery Program has been invited to produce and host a multi-episode, two-year Global Surgery Series for *Behind the Knife* — the world's #1 surgery podcast. As a leading global resource for surgical education, with tens of thousands of listeners in over 80 countries, this platform will showcase MUSC's leadership and expertise in global surgery, significantly elevating the visibility and impact of the MUSC Global Surgery Program.

# GROWTH

## TIMELINE & MAP



### MAP KEY

- Where We Currently Go**  
*George Hospital, Western Cape, South Africa; Cinterandes Foundation at the University of Azuay, Cuenca, Ecuador; Tygerburg Hospital/Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa; Kijabe Hospital, Kijabe, Kenya; Bukhara State Medical Institute, Registan, Uzbekistan*
- Where We Currently Have Hosted Trainees From**  
*Lithuania, Georgia, Latvia, Jordan, Ghana*
- Where We Will Be Going in the Near Future**  
*We are currently exploring partnerships in Latin America, including Ecuador, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, with goals for expanding our presence in South America.*
- Where We Aspire to Have a Presence (Within 10Years)**  
*Within ten years from the program's inception, we aspire to have a presence in every region of the globe.*

# REFLECTIONS ON GLOBAL SURGERY



## DANIEL AKYEAMPONG, M.D.: INAUGURAL SURGICAL ROTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Daniel Akyeampong, M.D., was the first surgical resident at MUSC to have made the voyage to George Hospital, located in the Southern Cape Region of South Africa.*

During my time in South Africa, I've been fortunate to be paired with and work closely alongside Dr. Hugo Stark, the Chief Surgeon in the Western Cape. **Dr. Stark's focus of "caring over curing" is a refreshing contrast to the mindset often seen in Western medicine. His philosophy on patient-centered care serves as a model for how I want to serve my patients moving forward.**

The most rewarding part of the rotation was going into the surrounding community, which taught me how to handle a wide range of complex pathologies, including advanced breast pathology and general surgery management of pediatric pathology, which I might not see at my current stage of training.

Since George is a state-run hospital where the majority of specialist care is located, a lot of patients have to travel at least 3-4 hours to receive healthcare, but that comes with a lot of other barriers, such as transportation and the need for childcare during these visits. During our outreach clinic visits, we also did a lot of diagnostic care, which can then be handed to their local doctor for continued management, thereby removing some of these barriers to care. Providing health care in a low-resource setting broadened my perspective of the challenges, but also the ingenuity it takes to provide effective patient care in these types of settings.



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*As a result of my experience, I would like to shift my practice to start better understanding my patients as a whole and focus on how to provide them with a better quality of life.*

*I am very grateful to MUSC and the MUSC Global Surgery Program for the opportunity to expand the tools in my toolbox.*

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*-Daniel Akyeampong, M.D.*



## STEPHANY KIM, M.D.: PILOT SURVEY FOR DEVELOPING A RESIDENT GLOBAL SURGERY CLINIC AND RESEARCH ROTATION IN CUENCA, ECUADOR

*Stephany Kim, M.D., a MUSC general surgery resident, was awarded a Center for Global Health Student & Trainee Travel Grant to pursue a global health project in Cuenca, Ecuador.*

Traveling to Macas, a small town on the outskirts of the Ecuadorian Amazon, with the Cinterandes mobile surgical team turned out to be more than just an opportunity to provide surgical care to underserved communities. It became a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of ethical complexity, cultural respect, and the true meaning of surgical service in a global surgery setting. Although we provided meaningful and tangible care to the patients we encountered, I could not help but reflect on the many other patients we could not see and on the broader, pre-existing systemic inequalities that necessitated such episodic, fragmented care rather than healthcare delivered through sustainable infrastructure.

I left this trip impacted by the resilience of our patients and the hospitality of the local community. This experience deepened my sense of humility and reinforced the complexity of providing care in global surgery.

I left with a better understanding of how healthcare is rarely straightforward, demanding careful clinical judgment, cultural sensitivity, and a patient-centered approach that considers not only a patient's medical or surgical needs, but also the broader social and cultural factors that shape each individual's care.

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*As I continue along the path toward becoming a global surgeon, I hope to be continually challenged to see my patients both locally and abroad not as problems to solve, but as people whose lives I am privileged to enter, however briefly.*

-Stephany Kim, M.D.

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# COLLABORATING ACROSS CONTINENTS: VOICES OF IMPACT

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*Hugo Stark, M.D., with Ramin Eskandari, M.D.  
and Mike M. Mallah, M.D.*

It is an honor to be part of this global initiative in surgical education. As we partner together across continents, I am reminded of the profound value of wisdom in our work. In surgery—as in life—wisdom, understanding, and a sense of history guide our hands and our hearts. We are not working in isolation; we are part of something far greater, like a leaf connected to the tree of global knowledge and shared purpose. This program stands as a testament to what is possible when we choose to act wisely—together.



*-Hugo Stark, M.D.  
Surgical Director, George Hospital*



*Edgar B. Rodas, M.D. (left) with a colleague.*

MUSC's Global Surgery Program is a prime example of how strong, knowledgeable, and charismatic leadership combined with enthusiastic, inquisitive, and bright learners have built robust collaborations that are working on developing sustainable solutions in global health. I have had the opportunity to work and collaborate closely with Dr. Mallah, his students and residents in Ecuador. I have experienced and witnessed firsthand the growth of this program and the indelible impression he has on his team.



*-Edgar B. Rodas, M.D., FACS  
President, Cinterandes Foundation*

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## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: INSIGHTS FROM OUR INDUSTRY COLLABORATORS

**kerecis**<sup>®</sup>

“At Kerecis, our partnership with the MUSC Global Surgery Program reflects our shared core values of compassion and integrity. This collaboration not only advances our fish skin graft technology but also plays a vital role in educating future doctors. By working together, we are enhancing patient care and outcomes while fostering improved access to care in the global community.”



“Surgery thrives where courage meets compassion. The impact is seen when collaboration crosses borders, innovation challenges the norm, and every risk taken is in service of raising the standard of care for ALL. BD's partnership with MUSC's Global Surgery Program has allowed for these values to be put on full display by both parties. We are excited to continue this partnership and to be of service internationally.”

# IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL SURGERY



Visualize—just as an illustration of our growth and impact—the tremendous untapped potential and strategic alignment between MUSC’s well-developed robotic surgery program and industry partners. Becoming the global leader and thought base for cross-border robotic surgery training, powered by rapidly expanding internet data bandwidth, would position MUSC at the forefront of international surgical innovation. The MUSC Global Surgery Program aspires to quickly become a renowned destination for surgeons and trainees—from Charleston to Cape Town to Caracas.

— Mike M. Mallah



## TOGETHER, WE CAN CLOSE THE SURGICAL ACCESS GAP



*Your support is a powerful catalyst for driving equity, sparking innovation, and shaping a future where access to safe surgical care isn't determined by geography.*

With your partnership, we can:

- Expand program development in global surgical exchanges  
*Annual Investment: \$100,000 — Scaling opportunities for knowledge-sharing and hands-on training between MUSC and international partners.*
- Support global surgery research and medical device innovation that will transform care in under-resourced communities  
*Annual Investment: \$200,000 — Advancing solutions that will transform care in under-resourced communities worldwide.*
- Hire a dedicated program coordinator to manage growing operations and partnerships  
*Annual Investment: \$100,000 — Ensuring seamless operations, efficient partnerships, and sustainable programmatic growth.*

*Together, we can advance a program that not only educates the next generation of surgeons but reimagines what global collaboration in healthcare can achieve.*

**Make a gift. Start a conversation. Be part of the change.**

To learn more about opportunities to engage with our program, please contact:  
Jenna Brown, Development Director at 843-814-2581.

# The MUSC Global Surgery Program

[muscd.edu/surgery](https://muscd.edu/surgery)

