



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

AWARDS PROGRAM

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VIRTUAL



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

AWARDS PROGRAM

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Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, FACS, *Chair, Board of Governors*

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Member Services Pillar Lead, Board of Governors

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Andre R. Campbell, MD, FACS, *Secretary, Board of Governors*

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Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, FACS, *Chair, Board of Governors*



*American College of Surgeons-Pfizer
2021 Surgical Volunteerism and
Humanitarianism Awards*





ACADEMIC GLOBAL SURGEON AWARD

The ACS-Pfizer Academic Global Surgeon Award recognizes surgeons who are committed to giving back to society by making significant contributions to surgical care through organized educational activities.

This year, one award will be granted.





Chandrakanth Are, MBBS, FACS, FRCS

Dr. Chandrakanth Are will receive the inaugural Academic Global Surgeon Award for his efforts in creating and sustaining various global curricula and programs in surgical oncology to help alleviate health care disparities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with a particular focus on India.

Dr. Are, the JL & CJ Varner Professor of Surgical Oncology & Global Health, and vice-chair of education, department of surgery, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Omaha, has been closely involved in the surgical global outreach efforts of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) and served as the chair of the SSO International Committee. During his tenure as chair, he led the joint efforts between the SSO and the European Society of Surgical Oncology to develop a Global Curriculum in Surgical Oncology, which highlights the global variation in cancer care education and makes the case for a streamlined global surgical oncology curriculum of uniform standards. This resource-stratified curriculum can be used as a foundational platform for training surgical oncologists, which is critical in LMICs. The modular nature of this curriculum helps each country select elements that are suitable for their local and regional needs and, perhaps most importantly, that are affordable given their available resources. Several countries have reached out to explore pathways to regionally implement the curriculum, with one expressing interest in implementing it across their entire nation.

In addition, Dr. Are developed a global curriculum in research literacy for surgical oncologists, the main purpose of which is to build the research infrastructure and capacity in countries where research can be difficult to conduct because of limited resources and lack of training. For example, Dr. Are initiated the Global Cancer Surgery Research Collaborative between the UNMC and a tertiary care cancer

*Establishing relationship with MNJ Cancer
Hospital- Hyderabad- Telangana- India, 2009*





center in India. As the founding director of the collaborative, Dr. Are and his team stimulate trainees and junior faculty to pursue and include research in their daily practice.

Dr. Are also is the founding director of the Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons (GFCS), which was formed under the auspices of the SSO in 2017 and comprises 15 oncology societies from around the world. The membership of the GFCS represents approximately 75 to 80 percent of the global cancer burden by incidence and mortality and is aimed at improving surgical care for cancer patients through multidisciplinary clinical care, education, research, outreach, advocacy, and leadership.

Within his home institution of UNMC, Dr. Are initiated an exchange program to train Indian surgeons in the U.S. As founding director of the program, he helped develop a memorandum of understanding between UNMC and the State of Andhra Pradesh, now divided into Andhra and Telangana, in 2009. Since then, Dr. Are has facilitated visits of nearly Indian 900 candidates to UNMC, including medical students, residents/fellows, and faculty. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, in a given month between two and six candidates were on the campus, and some students' entire visits were supported through grants. Dr. Are also initiated and developed a novel International Surgery Fellowship for the general surgery residency program at UNMC.

In India, he performed an assessment of educational gaps and needs for oncology professionals and obtained grants for assessing educational gaps and needs for oncology professionals, which included surveys done at the annual meetings of the Indian Association of Surgical Oncology in India.

*Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons
Inaugural Meeting in Seattle.*





SURGICAL VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

The ACS-Pfizer Surgical Volunteerism Award recognizes ACS Fellows and members who are committed to giving back to society through significant contributions to surgical care as volunteers. This year, four awards will be granted.



Rochelle Dicker, MD, FACS

Dr. Rochelle Dicker, a trauma and critical care surgeon in Los Angeles, CA, will receive the Domestic Surgical Volunteerism Award for her efforts to develop firearm injury prevention education, support for victims of firearm violence, and advocate for firearm injury reduction-based legislation, particularly through the San Francisco Wraparound Project.

In 2001, Dr. Dicker started her fellowship in trauma at University of California, San Francisco, and a fellowship in violence prevention with the California Wellness Foundation, during which she recognized a need for firearm injury prevention and support for victims of firearm violence as she provided clinical care to victims.

Beyond the surgical care she provides to victims of firearm violence, Dr. Dicker, professor of surgery and anesthesia, vice-chair for critical care, chief of surgical critical care, associate trauma director, University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine, developed the Wraparound model, which transformed into the San Francisco Wraparound Project. The Project works to reduce injury and criminal recidivism among the most vulnerable citizens of San Francisco and is based on three critical components: a public health approach for injury prevention, based on evidence that addressing root causes of violence such as poverty and systemic racism can prevent future injury and incarceration; health communication and services that are culturally appropriate; and recognition that a major event like trauma provides a teachable moment.

In partnership with community-based organizations, the Wraparound Project provides services to create social capital in individuals and communities affected by violence. Some of the services provided include crisis response services along with

The Wraparound Team at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention when Mike Texada (in the middle) won an award.





the city's Crisis Response Network and crisis home visits, vocational training programs via art workshops and Friends of the Urban Forest, and employment opportunities throughout the region, among others.

Dr. Dicker expanded her work from the Wraparound Project to bring the model of firearm injury prevention and support for victims to 70 hospitals around the country. As other institutions implemented the Wraparound Model, Dr. Dicker and colleagues identified an additional gap in which to further expand resources and support firearm prevention. These hospitals joined together to create the Health Alliance for Intervention (HAVI). HAVI fosters hospital and community collaborations to advance equitable, trauma-informed care and violence intervention and prevention programs. Recently, HAVI expanded to Europe.

A major component of Dr. Dicker's model is education, teaching, training, and mentoring for individuals involved with firearm injury prevention. The Wraparound Project and HAVI offer a multitude of programs to ensure the success of firearm injury prevention and support for victims, educating the academic community, health practitioners, the communities surrounding San Francisco, and children in schools on topics related to violence prevention. It provides instruction to trauma centers to develop other hospital-based violence prevention programs.

Dr. Dicker also recognized the need to reframe firearm violence as a public health issue as well as to address the social determinants of violence. Through the Wraparound Project and HAVI, Dr. Dicker has been a key participant in advocacy efforts to secure funding for the programs and to create legislative support in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the implementation and continuation of firearm injury prevention programs nationwide. She also leads the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) Improving Social Determinants to Attenuate Violence (ISAVE) group, which is establishing a curriculum for trauma informed care to be implemented in trauma centers, creating a guide for integrating social care into health care, and developing a roadmap for trauma centers to invest in disinvested communities heavily affected by the social determinants of health.

Dr. Dicker with one of her very favorite patients and Wraparound clients.



Seng-Feng Jeng, MD, FACS

Dr. Seng-Feng Jeng, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, will receive an International Surgical Volunteerism Award for his nearly 20 years of volunteerism in Vietnam, where he performs free reconstructive surgery and teaches local surgeons and health care teams in an underequipped health system.

Dr. Jeng, professor of surgery, department of plastic surgery E-Da Hospital, Kaohsiung City, participated in his first reconstructive microsurgery charitable mission with Operation Smile Vietnam in 2002, after which he was inspired to continue a charitable mission program to help build Vietnam's severely underfunded health system. Since his first mission, Dr. Jeng and his team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, senior nurses, and administrative staff from Taiwan have returned to Vietnam—most often Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)—every year for seven to 10 days to provide free surgical services. The operations that Dr. Jeng and his team have provided have varied, including reconstruction of cleft lip/palate and facial deformities, which are highly common in Vietnam; the release of burn scar and subsequent reconstruction with free anterolateral thigh flap; reconstruction of breast cancer lesion with free transverse rectus abdominis flap; and free fibular flap to restore bone tumor of the mandible, among other procedures. In the last trip before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic began in Asia in September 2019, the team provided 166 patients with medical consultations, 90 operations, and 102 surgical procedures at the Quang Ngai Hospital for Children and Women.

However, a short annual trip could not address the surgical needs of Vietnam's low-income citizens. Recognizing the high demand for their services, Dr. Jeng and his team increased the frequency of their missions and focused on training local surgeons to perform basic microsurgery cases while assisting with more complex

*2009, February 25 – March 1,
Hanoi, Vietnam Military Hospital.*



cases. Clinical expertise is shared and the team has taken a train-the-trainer approach to advance the level of local surgical expertise so that more operations can be performed in these underserved areas.

Beyond the borders of Vietnam, Dr. Jeng's missions have gained support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan, which has influenced the Taiwanese government to allow foreign fellows to participate in hands-on, experiential, practical training in Taiwan. Dr. Jeng and his team have been able to secure funds to allow surgeons from Vietnam and other countries, including the Philippines, Nigeria, Romania, and Colombia, to visit Taiwan as fellows to learn, train, and return to their home countries with new skills. In addition to surgical mentorship, Dr. Jeng has mentored the affiliated hospital teams to establish and replicate a standard working clinical protocol that includes screening potential patient candidates, preoperative medical evaluation, assessment of fitness for general anesthesia, and postoperative follow-up consultations.

Dr. Jeng has worked diligently to secure funds, supplies, and training opportunities for Vietnamese surgeons and health care teams, as well as to advocate for an improved health system. He worked with the leadership team at his home institution, E-Da Hospital, to gain committed funding to continue charitable missions as a formalized program. E-Da Hospital has sponsored more than five different missions with a monetary commitment of more than \$150,000 (U.S.). Additionally, he has arranged for equipment donations, including the first modern microsurgical equipment in southern Vietnam, basic laboratory supplies, and more. Dr. Jeng also served as an international advisor to the Vietnamese Surgical Standards Workshop to establish and advocate for the implementation of national surgical standards. This advocacy work is meant to lead Vietnam to a higher standard of safety and patient quality care as its health care system continues to develop.

2002, December 6-16, Hanoi, Vietnam Military Hospital.



Brent A. Senior, MD, FACS

Dr. Brent A. Senior, an otolaryngologist in Chapel Hill, NC, will receive an International Surgical Volunteerism Award for his decades of work in providing otolaryngologic surgery services and education in Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam.

Since 1998, Dr. Senior, the Nathaniel and Sheila Harris Distinguished Professor and chief, division of rhinology, allergy, and endoscopic skull base surgery, University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine at Chapel Hill, has been leading two-week surgical missions to Vietnam to help build medical and surgical infrastructure in a nation that was devastated in the Vietnam War and has struggled since.

Working in both Saigon and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Dr. Senior has performed hundreds of operations in his time as a volunteer, spanning the breadth of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. The operations performed include basic otology and head and neck cancer surgery, facial plastic procedures, and general otolaryngology. Dr. Senior and his teams introduced modern endoscopic sinus surgery procedures to the country, and the operations have included advanced techniques such as cochlear implantation for deaf patients and endoscopic skull base procedures for tumors. Dr. Senior also performed the first endoscopic trans nasal pituitary operation in Vietnam, which is now performed more routinely in major academic medical centers. He and his teams have operated on more than 1,000 patients since 1998.

Perhaps even more importantly, Dr. Senior focuses on educating and training local otolaryngologists to perform these procedures. All surgical procedures that Dr. Senior and his team perform in Vietnam are completed with either a local surgeon or a resident to ensure a broader educational experience for Vietnamese surgeons. In addition, Dr. Senior leads didactic training courses regularly as part of his annual trips. And the educational aspect of his work extends beyond Vietnam's borders. Dr. Senior has personally financed 18 Vietnamese surgeons to come to the U.S. for three-month mini-fellowships at UNC and across the country. Through these fellowships, Vietnamese surgeons learn modern medical

*Dr. Senior with the Otolaryngology Surgical Team
at Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi 2015*





and surgical concepts, skills, and techniques, which they take back to Vietnam to proliferate through the health care system. As a direct result of these efforts, Vietnamese otolaryngologists have instituted quality improvement processes at the two major teaching centers. They now have regular grand rounds and morbidity and mortality conferences, which did not previously exist. Because COVID-19 has waylaid international travel, Dr. Senior has initiated a monthly one-hour Zoom mentoring program for residents and junior physicians in otolaryngology in training at the National ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) Hospital in Hanoi.

Dr. Senior also has worked to ensure a chain of medical equipment donations. He has solicited funds through the North Carolina Medical Foundation, arranging for donations totaling more than \$2 million in equipment from Karl Storz, Olympus, and Brainlab. He arranged the donation of the first computer-assisted image guidance system to the ENT Hospital in HCMC. In addition to equipment, he has personally donated books, journals, and educational materials. As a result of becoming recognized for his long commitment in Vietnam, he has been able to advocate on behalf of the National ENT Hospital in Hanoi and the ENT Hospital in HCMC with the Minister of Health for Vietnam, as well as local leaders in Hanoi and HCMC.

*Dr. Senior teaching in clinic at
National ENT Hospital in Hanoi.*





Rami Kantar, MD, MPH

Dr. Rami Kantar, a general surgery resident in Baltimore, MD, will receive the Resident Volunteerism Award for his work to provide logistical support, surgical and clinical services, and capacity building with the Global Smile Foundation (GSF), which offers comprehensive cleft care in underserved countries around the world.

Since 2013, Dr. Kantar, University of Maryland Medical System, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, has been volunteering with the GSF, which focuses on areas of need, underserved patient populations, and geographical areas significantly affected by geopolitical instabilities and conflict. Dr. Kantar helps to organize and provide logistical support to all missions, and he has provided surgical care to address cleft lip and palate repair in approximately 10 missions to Beirut, Lebanon; San Salvador, El Salvador; and Peru. These areas have been experiencing high rates of poverty and political unrest, and the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the already existing backlog of untreated patients with cleft lip and palate.

On his missions, Dr. Kantar and his teams have provided both primary and secondary cleft lip repair and cleft palate repair. Other surgical services provided include scar revisions, complex facial tissue rearrangements, and surgery for velopharyngeal insufficiency and speech deficits. These missions include surgical, dental, speech and language pathology, as well as psychosocial services, and Dr. Kantar has worked as a liaison to link patients to each in his organizational role.

Concurrently with direct surgical and patient care services, the GSF develops and implements capacity-building cleft care initiatives to empower and assist local physicians and communities in reaching cleft care expertise, with the aim to

Dr. Kantar with one of his patients during the 2015 Beirut, Lebanon, cleft surgery mission.





transition surgical missions into autonomous local cleft care centers. The GSF to date has established local cleft care centers at two sites in Beirut and Guayaquil, Ecuador. Dr. Kantar has worked to implement educational initiatives in the form of simulation-based comprehensive cleft care workshops in areas of need, through which he and his colleagues provide hands on training to students and practicing surgeons.

Dr. Kantar has closely worked with and led multiple initiatives from GSF focused on teaching and mentoring health care workers, with the goal of empowering them to become agents of change in their communities. He has organized simulation-based educational comprehensive cleft care workshops, the first of which was held in Beirut in 2018 and was attended by approximately 100 individuals, while the second workshop was took place in Lima, Peru, in 2019 and was attended by more than 200 individuals. Through these workshops, Dr. Kantar and colleagues have provided hands-on, simulation-based teaching to cleft surgeons. Moreover, as part of the research committee of GSF, Dr. Kantar is directly responsible for mentoring and supporting postdoctoral research fellows.

To help support the activities of the GSF, Dr. Kantar since 2013 has participated in multiple fundraisers and advocacy efforts aimed at making more resources available for patients with cleft lip and palate, as well as improving their access to care. The GSF donates supplies to local sites where they operate, including suture material, surgical instruments, anesthetic agents, anesthesia machines, dental supplies for preoperative naso-alveolar molding, and supplies for speech and language therapy including naso-endoscopic instruments, in addition to patient clothing and other necessities. Dr. Kantar and the foundation also have worked closely with local governmental and health authorities in Ecuador, Lebanon, and Peru to raise awareness of cleft lip and palate services, secure transportation for patients experiencing poverty, and more.

2015, Beirut, Lebanon, Cleft Surgery Team with patients and their families, as well as local support staff.





Feel the power of volunteerism and make a difference in the world.

Operation Giving Back (OGB) was created under the leadership of Andrew L. Warshaw, MD, FACS, and Robert V. Stephens, MD, FACS, in 2004 with the intention to serve as a comprehensive resource center to equip and engage surgeons in surgical volunteerism and humanitarianism efforts. The OGB is currently under the leadership of Girma Tefera, MD, FACS, Medical Director.

The mission of Operation Giving Back is to leverage the passion, skills, and humanitarian ethos of the surgical community to effectively meet the needs of the medically underserved. OGB provides the necessary tools to facilitate humanitarian outreach among surgeons of all specialties, at all stages of the profession, and with emphasis on both domestic and international service. By delivering information on opportunities to volunteer through patient care, education, training, systems strengthening, advocacy

efforts, and donation of needed equipment and supplies, OGB focuses these resources to address critical public health issues as they relate to the provision of safe, timely, necessary surgical care around the globe.

As a central feature of the program, the OGB website was created to provide a dynamic hub of information, resources, and networks for those interested in addressing the unmet surgical needs of the underserved around the globe. Through a network of high-impact partner organizations, OGB directs surgeons to volunteer opportunities that align with their skills, passions, and beliefs. OGB cultivates innovative models and multisector collaborations with academic institutions, corporations, foundations, government, and not-for-profit entities in order to inform public policy, create sustainable avenues of knowledge transfer, and diminish global disparities while lessening the burden of surgical disease.



Recognition of Chapter Achievements



Members of the American College of Surgeons are represented by 116 chapters around the world—65 in the United States, three in Canada, and 48 internationally.

The chapters of the College provide ACS members with an opportunity to improve the quality of surgical care through engagement at the local level. Chapters work in conjunction with the College to provide members with additional local benefits, such as the opportunity to network with surgical peers, conveniently attend educational meetings, participate in advocacy activities at the state and federal levels, mentor young surgeons and trainees, and gain valuable leadership experience, to name just a few.

Chapters also play an important role in recruiting the next generation of ACS members. This year, recognition will be given to domestic and international chapters in the following categories:

- **Largest number of Fellows for 2021**
- **Largest one-year increase of new Fellows**
- **Largest one-year percentage increase of new Fellows**
- **Increased number of new Fellows each year since 2019**



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