Surgical Colleges Support the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery

We endorse the vision established through consensus by the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery:

*Universal Access to Safe, Affordable Surgical and Anaesthesia Care When Needed.*

We further agree to propagate the Commission’s five key messages:

1. 5 billion people are unable to access safe surgery when needed
2. Scaling up surgical anaesthesia care will need at least 143 million additional procedures annually
3. Affordability: current estimates suggest 33 million individuals face catastrophic health expenditure due to payment for surgery and anaesthesia each year and a further 48m from additional costs from transport, food or loss of earnings.
4. Investment in surgical and anaesthesia services is affordable, saves lives, and promotes economic growth
5. Surgery is an indivisible, indispensable part of health care and thus must be integrated within the health system and is essential to universal health coverage.

The Colleges undertake to promote research on access to safe, affordable and timely surgery, reporting on the WHO’s and the Lancet Commission’s recommended surgical indicators. We will progress these within our region and support low and middle income countries with whom we partner and will report progress at the October 2015 American College of Surgeons Congress and subsequently at the May 2016 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Congress.

We support the World Health Assembly Resolution 68/31 on the need to strengthen emergency and essential surgical care, and promote the urgency of its implementation to our respective ministries of health.


The list of Surgical and Anaesthetic Colleges and Societies that support this statement continues on the following page.
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College of Surgeons of Hong Kong
College of Surgeons of Indonesia
College of Surgeons of Malaysia
College of Surgeons of Singapore
Hamad Medical Corporation Qatar
International Federation of Surgical Colleges
Myanmar Surgical Society
Pacific Island Surgeons Association
Papua New Guinea Surgeons Association
Philippine College of Surgeons
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Royal College of Surgeons of England
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand
World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery
An open process to advance surgery as a public measure