

Stefan Galeski

Global Surgery Fellowship

Improving access to safe, affordable & essential surgical care.



Royal College
of Surgeons
of England

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Work with the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) to plan, implement and evaluate its 2025 surgical outreach programme in Bamako, Mali.



Introduction

The West African College of Surgeons (WACS) was established in 1969 and is one of the largest and oldest surgical colleges in Africa. The college is responsible for providing postgraduate surgical education, training, examinations, research and career development opportunities in surgery in West Africa. It was the first institution to organise surgical subspecialty training in the region, award diplomas of fellowship in surgery and is one of two bodies that accredit institutions to train surgical residents in the following member countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo.

WACS is also a multidisciplinary surgical college, comprising anaesthesia, dental surgery, obstetrics & gynaecology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, otorhinolaryngology (ENT), radiology and surgery. The college covers English and French-speaking countries within the West African region and has established its 'WACS UK Forum' – members and fellows of WACS who live and work in the UK.

In 2010, WACS established its annual surgical outreach programme led by its UK Forum. The mission takes place during the 10 days leading up to the WACS Annual General Meeting & Scientific Conference (AGSM) in February/March each year and comprises the following:

- (a) Multidisciplinary teams of surgical volunteers performing surgery on patients who would otherwise not have access to such treatment.
- (b) Strengthening the local hospital and surrounding clinics through on-site practical training and lectures.
- (c) Engaging both surgical trainees and medical undergraduates in the outreach as part of their learning and development.
- (d) Implementing a system for patient follow-up and ongoing treatment/ aftercare where necessary or appropriate.
- (e) Measuring, evaluating and documenting the impact of the outreach: producing case studies, research/ data collection and storytelling through film, photography and oral history.

Each outreach programme will typically treat on average approximately 300 patients suffering from a range of surgically treatable conditions. To date, several outreach programmes have taken place in Calabar (Nigeria), Monrovia (Liberia), Lome (Togo), Kumasi (Ghana), Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Banjul (The Gambia), Abuja (Nigeria), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Tamale (Ghana) and Dakar (Senegal).

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About this fellowship

Purpose

The aim of this fellowship placement is to work with WACS(UK) and RCS in improving access to safe, affordable and essential surgical care through the outreach programme in member states of WACS. The overarching aim is the collaboration between the WACS, RCS and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) to support, improve and facilitate improvement in surgical care, including teaching and training, in the subregion.

Award

This fellowship will provide the following:

1. Once appointed, the candidate may use the title 'Galeski Global Surgery Fellow'
2. A maximum award of £5,000 shall be made available to cover any costs relating to travel and/or professional development activities that the Fellow wishes to undertake to successfully complete the objectives of the placement.
3. This is a 12-month fellowship, which is recognised and certificated by the College. Upon completion, a certificate will be awarded at a suitable College conference, symposium or ceremony.
4. The Fellow may also participate in future outreach programmes as a volunteer.

Key tasks & responsibilities

During the placement, the fellow undertake the following key tasks and activities:

The successful fellow will undertake the following activities:

Pre-visit

Work with WACS(UK) and liaise with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) in Mali to:

1. Conduct service and training needs assessments and develop the scope of activity for the visit. This may include:
 - Organising an inventory of the clinical supplies needed for the visit.
 - Contributing to the sourcing of donations (instruments and consumables).
2. Contribute to the design, planning and implementation of service provision during the visit. This may include:
 - Developing or updating clinical protocols and guidelines for use by volunteers to ensure the safety and security of patients, local staff and volunteers.
 - Liaising with the WACS social media team to update its website and social media channels.
3. Contribute to the design, planning and delivery of the local teaching and training component of the visit. This may include:
 - Liaising with local medical staff and medical schools.
 - Developing structured teaching and workshops, which may, depending on the outcomes of the needs assessment, cover such knowledge and skills areas as anatomy, basic surgical skills, basic life support, wound management, the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, emergency and critical operative care.
 - Evaluating the impact of the training and its outcomes on learners and patients.

During the visit

4. Performing and/or assisting with operations, patient assessments, consultations and team meetings.
5. Delivering training workshops and lectures.
6. Documenting the activity, including carrying out evaluations and measuring the effectiveness or impact of mission activities (e.g. operations, patient outcomes, training of health workers).
7. Strengthening stakeholder relationships and identifying potential local research opportunities that might deliver longer-term improvements in surgical care (quality and safety) for WACS and its beneficiaries.

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Key tasks & responsibilities

During the placement, the fellow undertake the following key tasks and activities:

8. Delivering a presentation/ report back on the mission at the WACS Annual General Meeting & Scientific Conference in Bamako, Mali.

Post visit

9. Liaise with the Co-ordinator of WACS UK, volunteers and local medical teams to produce a visit report.
10. Measure, record and feedback evaluation of the impact of the programme
11. Future planning for succession outreach
12. Publications and review articles as contribution to Global Surgery
13. Undertake any follow-up tasks as required by the WACS UK.

Key dates & milestones

In addition to the application process and timetable (see below), applicants should be aware of the following key dates and milestones when applying for this fellowship:

- Surgical Outreach: Monday 10th – Saturday 15th February 2025
- WACS Scientific Conference: Sunday 16th – Thursday 20th February 2025

Impact this fellowship will have on WACS's mission and work.

This fellowship placement will make an invaluable contribution in (a) advancing WACS's mission and work; (b) widening access to safe, affordable and sustainable essential surgical care; and (c) improving patient safety and health outcomes in the following ways:

WACS is keen to standardise and strengthen its planning, pre-visit and post-visit assessment processes and tools for its surgical outreach programme to better evaluate the impact and sustainable changes that occur as a direct result of the surgical and training interventions.

This fellowship will:

- Make a significant contribution towards achieving WACS goal establishing a sustainable and effective outreach programme.
- Lay the foundations for the effective planning of the 2026 outreach.
- Help document the value of supporting diaspora surgeons and important contribution they are making in the global health/ global surgery space.
- Support the introduction of teaching and training as an integral part of the WACS surgical outreach.

How this placement will benefit the fellow & what they will learn.

This placement will benefit surgical trainees who wish to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:

- This fellowship aims to cultivate the next generation of surgeons as global health innovators, advocates and leaders who share and in the future, will advance the provision safe, affordable and accessible surgical care to those in underserved communities.
- A placement with WACS will provide invaluable learning and professional development opportunities and experiences in leadership, stakeholder engagement, communications and management within an international/ global health context.
- The surgical mission to Mali will provide real-life exposure to the global health challenges facing health workers and populations in resource limited/ low- and middle-income countries.

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Support & supervision.

1. The fellow will receive an induction from WACS and this will be supported by the College in relation to the specific reporting requirements of the scheme (see 'Progress, reporting & dissemination').
2. Supervision and support will be provided by the Coordinator of WACS UK for the duration of the Fellowship.
3. The College will provide training in ethical and visual storytelling through film and photography to support the documentation and recording of the fellowship journey.

Progress, reporting & dissemination

1. Fellows will need to submit an interim progress report at 6 months and a final report on their activities and the impact of the work undertaken within one month of completion of the fellowship.
2. The College will provide a range of opportunities for the fellow present and showcase the outcomes of their work and learning at College conferences, on social media (including the College website and blog) and in publications.
3. Fellows will be encouraged to write articles for publication and submit abstracts or posters for conferences. Delivering presentations at conferences or symposia about their experience and fellowship activities are critical outputs of this fellowship. The College and WACS will work together to facilitate this.
4. Fellows will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the scheme, acting as a source of advice and guidance for future Galeski Global Surgery Fellows.

Eligibility & selection criteria

Applicants will need to demonstrate the following skills, qualifications and capabilities:

No	Essential criteria – general
1	MBBS or an equivalent primary medical qualification (PMQ)
2	MRCS or an equivalent postgraduate medical qualification (PGMQ) in surgery (or be enrolled in a postgraduate surgical training programme).
3	Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
4	Full GMC registration with a licence to practice.
5	Must be based in the UK.
6	Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
7	Evidence of having attended and presented at specialty or subspecialty educational conferences and meetings.
8	Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment.
9	A passion and demonstrable commitment to supporting the ongoing development and implementation of high-quality surgical, obstetric and anaesthesia care in low resource settings, and of building research and practice capability.
No	Essential criteria - specific to this fellowship placement
10	A valid Advanced Life Support Skills (ATLS) certification.
11	Clinical experience in the different components of general and emergency general surgery at, or equivalent to, Specialist Training Registrar year 6 (StR6) or equivalent.

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Eligibility & selection criteria

Applicants will need to demonstrate the following skills, qualifications and capabilities:

12	Evidence of an understanding of or having participated in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit or service improvement. • Medical education and training. • Research and evidence-based medicine.
13	Evidence of competence in key surgical procedures in related surgical specialties at Specialty Registrar level: General, Breast, Vascular, Paediatrics, Trauma, Transplant or other equivalent surgical specialty)
14	Able to join the WACS team on their surgical mission and conference in Mali from 10 th to 20 th February 2025
No	Desirable skills, qualifications & capabilities
15	FRCS or equivalent.
16	Additional clinical qualifications.
17	Knowledge, understanding or experience of working in/or delivering health services in resource-limited settings/ low and middle-income countries.
18	An understanding of the barriers and obstacles to delivering high-quality essential emergency surgical care, sustainable training models and local capacity development in low resource settings.
19	Experience of, or the ability to learn, research skills in quantitative and qualitative research.
20	Knowledge and technical experience working with data, low-cost technologies and systems.
21	Proven ability, experience or potential to publish in internationally excellent publications.

Application process

To apply for this fellowship placement:

No	Next steps	Links/ downloads
1	Join our information webinar: to learn more about this fellowship and the work of the West African College of Surgeons, sign up and attend our webinar on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7pm.	Information webinar
2	Visit the College website and download a Fellowship Application Form.	Fellowship Application Form
3	Complete our online Equality & Diversity Survey and take a screenshot of the 'Survey Completed' page.	Equality & Diversity Survey
4	Submit the following documents using the Application Upload Link by the deadline (Friday 27th September 2024): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Completed Fellowship Application (b) Screenshot of the 'Survey Completed' page of the Equality & Diversity Survey. (c) An up-to-date CV, which should be no more than 3 sides of A4. 	Application Upload Link

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Application process

To apply for this fellowship placement:

No	Next steps	Links/ downloads
5	Please note: <u>all three documents <i>must</i> be submitted</u> for your application to be complete. Incomplete applications or those received <i>after</i> the closing date <u><i>will not be accepted</i></u> .	
6	If you have any queries regarding this fellowship scheme, please contact the Global Affairs Team.	Email us!

Application dates & deadlines

Application Milestones	Key dates & times
Call for applications open	15 th August 2024
Information webinar	7pm, Wednesday 4 th September 2024 [register]
Deadline for applications	11:59pm, Friday 27 th September 2024.
Shortlisting	30 th September – 4 th October 2024
Shortlisted candidates to be invited for an online interview by:	Monday 14 th October 2024
Candidate interviews will take place on:	Thursday 17 th October 2024
Appointment/ decision by	Thursday 24 th October 2024
Fellowship term	Friday 1 st November 2024 – Friday 31 st October 2025
Induction at the College:	Wednesday 20 th November 2024