

# Stefan Galeski

## Global Surgery Fellowship

Improving access to safe, affordable & essential surgical care.



Royal College  
of Surgeons  
of England

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Support the development of Operational International UK's base hospital in Ghana and coordinate its 2025 surgical mission.



### Introduction

Operation International UK (OIUK) is a UK-based surgical charity, founded in 2020 by RCS England Fellow, Dr Sala Abdalla, a Consultant General and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon. The charity's mission is to impact and save lives by providing free surgical care to people in need. To ensure that these efforts impact underserved communities for years to come, OIUK offers education and training to local health care workers during its work. The charity relies on donations of money, time, and clinical skills. 100% of the funds raised by OIUK are used exclusively to support its work overseas.

In 2020, OIUK established a base hospital in a rural part of north-western Ghana. The charity has supported three overseas trips to this base hospital, performing free lifesaving and function restoring surgeries on hundreds of patients. It continues to deliver training to local doctors, nurses, and operating room staff.

### About this fellowship

#### Purpose

The aim of this fellowship placement is to assist OIUK in continuing to develop the surgical service, training, and education in its base hospital in Ghana. The successful candidate will work with the director of OIUK to plan and coordinate key aspects of the charity's 2025 surgical mission and teaching programme.

#### Award

This fellowship will provide the following:

1. Once appointed, the awardee 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.

#### Key tasks & responsibilities

The successful fellow will undertake the following activities:

##### Pre-visit

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 fundraising and sourcing of donations from the charity's local and international partners.
2. Contribute to the design, planning and implementation of service provision during the visit. This may include:
  - Developing or updating clinical protocols for use by volunteers to ensure the safety and security of patients, local staff and volunteers.
  - Liaising with the charity's 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.

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### Key tasks & responsibilities

- 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. Assist with organising the theatre schedule, teams, and caseload during the visit.
5. Perform and/or assist with operations, patient triage and assessments, consultations, and team meetings.
6. Deliver training workshops and lectures.
7. Document the activity, including carrying out evaluations and measuring the effectiveness or impact of mission activities (e.g. operations, patient outcomes, training of health workers).
8. Strengthen stakeholder relationships and identifying potential local research opportunities that might deliver longer-term improvements in surgical care (quality and safety) for the charity and its beneficiaries.

#### Post visit

9. Liaise with the charity director, volunteers and local medical teams to produce a visit report.
10. Undertake any follow-up tasks as required by the charity.

### Key dates & milestones

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

- 2025 OIUK mission is scheduled for May/June

### Impact this fellowship will have on Operation International UK's mission and work.

This fellowship placement will make an invaluable contribution in (a) advancing OIUK's mission and work; (b) widening access to safe, affordable, and sustainable essential surgical care; (c) improving patient safety and health outcomes; and (d) widening access to training and education in surgery for healthcare staff.

Ghana is a lower-middle income country with a predominantly younger population of about 33 million, approximately half the size of the UK. Conditions that require surgical, obstetric, trauma or anaesthesia care are a major contributor to death and disability in Ghana. Over 75% of surgical operations performed in Ghana are essential procedures, most of which are performed at district-level hospitals that do not have consistent access to imaging and operative room fundamentals. While progress has been made in Ghana to improve health care delivery, access to essential surgical care remains low for many Ghanaians. The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) recommends 5,000 surgical procedures per 100,000 population to meet the population's surgical need. The current surgical volume rate in Ghana is 869 surgical procedures per 100,000 population, reflecting the health system's inability to meet the surgical needs of the population. 40% of the population in Ghana live in rural areas, and this is the most underserved subset of the population when it comes to surgical care.

#### OIUK's mission and work

OIUK's base hospital is Holy Family Hospital, a catholic institution, in a rural part of north-western Ghana. It is a 312-bedded Hospital that serves some of the poorest people from the region as well as 8 large adjoining districts in western Ghana. It is mainly run by resident doctors and specialist nurses, with only 14 Consultants across all disciplines.

To date, OIUK has performed a total of 3 missions and nearly 400 lifesaving and function-restoring surgeries in adult and paediatric populations at Holy Family Hospital. It has trained dozens of local healthcare professionals including resident doctors. During its 2023 mission, it partnered with SWIFTSS (Surgical teams Working in Africa Together for Safer Surgery)

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to cultivate and empower local expertise to use low-cost mesh in hernia surgery. This mission also saw the establishment of the first 5-day course in Basic Surgical Skills including inguinal hernia surgery. The first keyhole gallbladder surgery (laparoscopic cholecystectomy) at Holy Family Hospital was performed by the charity director in 2019. A key priority of the charity is to develop and expand access to laparoscopic surgery at this base hospital.

OIUK has supported the paediatric patient population of the hospital through the donation of two CPAP (specialist respiratory support) machines and donation of funds to build a children's playground outside the paediatric ward which is due to open in early 2025.

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

This placement will benefit senior 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 OIUK 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 Ghana will provide real-life exposure to the global health challenges facing health workers and populations in resource limited/ low- and middle-income countries.

### Support & supervision.

1. The fellow will receive an induction from OIUK 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 charity director 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 OIUK 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.

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### 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.
12	Evidence of an understanding of or having participated in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit or service improvement.</li> <li>• Medical education and training.</li> <li>• Research and evidence-based medicine.</li> </ul>
13	Evidence of having performed at least 50 of each of the following surgical procedures (independently and/or supervised): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult inguinal hernia</li> <li>• Adult Paraumbilical/epigastric/femoral/incisional/other ventral hernias</li> <li>• Emergency laparotomy including trauma-related</li> <li>• Cholecystectomy</li> <li>• Appendicectomy</li> <li>• Special interest surgery (Paediatric, Colorectal, Oesophago-gastric, Hepatopancreaticobiliary, Breast, Vascular, Endocrine, Transplant, Trauma)</li> </ul>
14	Able to join the OIUK team on their mission to Ghana during May/June 2025
No	Desirable skills, qualifications & capabilities
15	FRCS or equivalent.

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### Eligibility & selection criteria

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

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	<b>Join our information webinar:</b> to learn more about this fellowship and the work of the Operation International UK, sign up and attend our webinar on <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm.</b>	<a href="#">Information webinar</a>
2	<b>Visit</b> the College website and download a <b>Fellowship Application Form.</b>	<a href="#">Fellowship Application Form</a>
3	<b>Complete</b> our online <b>Equality &amp; Diversity Survey</b> and take a screenshot of the 'Survey Completed' page.	<a href="#">Equality &amp; Diversity Survey</a>
4	<b>Submit</b> the following documents using the Application Upload Link by the deadline ( <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b> ): (a) Completed Fellowship Application (b) Screenshot of the 'Survey Completed' page of the Equality & Diversity Survey. (c) An <b>up-to-date CV</b> , which should be no more than 3 sides of A4.	<a href="#">Application Upload Link</a>
5	<b>Please note:</b> <u>all three documents must be submitted</u> for your application to be complete. Incomplete applications or those received <i>after</i> the closing date <u>will not be accepted</u> .	
6	If you have any queries regarding this fellowship scheme, please contact the Global Affairs Team.	<a href="#">Email us!</a>

### Application dates & deadlines

Application Milestones	Key dates & times
Call for applications open	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Information webinar	7pm, Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 [ <a href="#">register</a> ]

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### Application dates & deadlines

Deadline for applications	11:59pm, Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
Shortlisting	30 <sup>th</sup> September – 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Shortlisted candidates to be invited for an online interview by:	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Candidate interviews will take place on:	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024
Appointment/ decision by	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024
Fellowship term	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024 – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Induction at the College:	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 (time tbc)