

Stefan Galeski

Global Surgery Fellowship

Improving access to safe, affordable & essential surgical care.

Establishing sustainable ear and hearing healthcare provision for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



Introduction

Refugee Crisis Foundation (RCF) is a UK-registered charity and international humanitarian organisation committed to helping vulnerable individuals in crisis situations. RCF has provided medical, dental, education and welfare aid in refugee camps across Europe and Asia. Our mission is to provide innovative, locally led and sustainable programs, which build capacity and up-skills the local workforce through dedicated training. RCF works in partnership with the UNHCR, the World Health Organisation (WHO), state and non-state actors, local non-governmental organisations and academic partners.

Since 2018, RCF has been working in the world's largest refugee camp in the Cox's Bazar region in Bangladesh. The camp is home to almost one million displaced Rohingya people who in 2017, fled persecution in Myanmar, are stateless and have been described by the United Nations as "one of the most persecuted minorities in the world". More than half of all Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are children (52%), while 51% are women and girls. RCF is the largest oral healthcare provider and the only provider of ear and hearing care services to this vulnerable population.

About this fellowship

Purpose

The overall goal of this fellowship placement is to:

The overall goal of this fellowship placement is to support RCF in equipping local doctors working in the refugee camps in Bangladesh with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively prevent, identify, and manage hearing loss and common ear diseases, with a particular focus on chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM). This training has been informed by a needs assessment conducted by RCF, which revealed that CSOM affects nearly 15% of the camps' population - the highest prevalence of the disease recorded in the world in recent decades.

The aim is to build sustainable healthcare capacity within the camps by empowering local medical professionals to address ear and hearing health concerns with confidence and competence. The training will be supported by Professor Mahmood Bhutta, Chair in ENT surgery at Brighton & Sussex Medical School. Sustainability will be achieved by ensuring that the trained local doctors are able to cascade their learning and train other health professionals. This initiative is also linked to RCF's parallel work in the region, which involves trialling low-cost bone conduction hearing aids for children with CSOM and developing surgical capacity and expertise in myringoplasty.

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.

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Key tasks & responsibilities

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

The successful fellow will assist RCF to deliver a two-day training course based on the WHO's Primary Ear and Hearing Care Manual. Working with and supported by a UK team of senior ENT and audiology specialists, the fellow will undertake the following activities:

Pre-visit

1. Conduct a training needs assessments and develop and define the scope of activity for the visit. This may include:
 - Contributing to an evaluation of the training needs of the local doctors, informed by the conditions they see, and identified knowledge gaps.
2. Contribute to the design, planning and delivery of the local teaching and training during the visit. This may include:
 - Developing the schedule and content for the training visit based upon the evaluation of learner needs, adapting content from the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Care manual.
 - Liaising with the local RCF team to coordinate logistics and planning.
 - Liaising with the charity's social media team to update the website and social media content.

During the visit

3. Participate in and support the training sessions.
4. Strengthen existing stakeholder relationships and identifying potential opportunities to support a wider ecosystem for delivery of ear and hearing care, for example linking to our work on low-cost bone conduction hearing aids and developing surgical capacity.

Post visit

5. Gather and evaluate feedback on the teaching and its applicability in the local setting.
6. Write a brief summary report of the visit.
7. Explore opportunities for continuing work with stakeholders on this project, in education, research, and/or development of services.

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:

- Visit to Bangladesh with a multi-disciplinary team, is currently scheduled for 17th to 26th January 2025 inclusive.

Impact this fellowship will have on the Refugee Crisis Foundation's mission and work.

This fellowship placement will make an invaluable contribution in (a) advancing RCF'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:

There are no audiologists, ENT surgeons or other ear and hearing specialists in Cox's Bazar which is home to the world's largest refugee camp. RCF is the only provider of ear and hearing care training in the refugee camps and has been conducting research and building local capacity since 2022.

To date, RCF's ear and hearing programme has been localised to one area of the camp and the fellow's work in supporting the delivery of this training program will expand knowledge and expertise in the provision of ear and hearing care across the entire camp, helping to ensure that essential ear and hearing care services are more widely available. This ultimately contributes to RCF's overall mission of providing sustainable and high-quality healthcare in the refugee camps.

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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 ear and hearing care to those in underserved communities.
- A placement with RCF and working alongside experts, will provide learning and professional development opportunities and experiences in leadership, stakeholder engagement, communications and management within an international/ global health context.
- The trip to Bangladesh will provide real-life exposure to the global health challenges facing refugees and displacement in resource limited/ low- and middle-income countries.

Support & supervision.

1. The fellow will receive an induction from RCF 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's CEO, Dr Khaleda Zaheer, for the duration of the Fellowship, and Professor Mahmood Bhutta, Chair in ENT surgery at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.
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 to 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 RCF 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	Full GMC registration with a licence to practice.
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.
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.

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

8	Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment.
9	A passion and demonstrable commitment to supporting development and implementation of high-quality health care in low resource settings, and of building research and practice capability.
No.	Essential criteria - specific to this fellowship placement
10	Previous research experience which may include writing study protocols, data collection and analysis, and manuscript preparation.
11	Evidence of having participated in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit or service improvement. • Medical education and training.
12	Interest in and evidence of commitment to ENT surgery
13	Able to join the RCF team on their visit to Bangladesh from 17 th to 26 th January 2025
No.	Desirable skills, qualifications & capabilities
14	Enrolled in a UK ENT training programme.
15	FRCS or equivalent.
16	Knowledge, understanding or experience of working in/or delivering health services in resource-limited settings/ low and middle-income countries.
17	An understanding of the barriers and obstacles to delivering high-quality essential health care, sustainable training models and local capacity development in low resource settings.
18	Experience of, or the ability to learn, research skills in quantitative and qualitative research.
19	Knowledge and technical experience working with data, low-cost technologies and systems.
20	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 Refugee Crisis Foundation, sign up and attend our webinar on Monday 9th 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 27 th September 2024):	Application Upload Link

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Application process

To apply for this fellowship placement:

No	Next steps	Links/ downloads
	(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.	
5	Please note: all three documents <i>must</i> be submitted for your application to be complete. Incomplete applications or those received <i>after</i> the closing date <i>will not be accepted</i> .	
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, Monday 9 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:	Friday 18 th October 2024 (afternoon)
Appointment/ decision by	Thursday 31 st October 2024
Fellowship term	Friday 1 st November 2024 – Friday 31 st October 2025
Induction at the College:	Wednesday 20 th November 2024 (time tbc)