

Dr. Robert Lane, United Kingdom

Dr. Robert Lane is a retired colorectal surgeon, writer and mentor. For 12 years, on behalf of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ASGBI), he has organized basic surgical skills courses and the management of surgical emergencies for surgeons and clinical officers in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Lane was past president of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ASGBI) at the Royal Society of Medicine. He is Secretary General of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges (IFSC), Surgical Advisor to The Tropical Health & Education Trust (THET) and co-founder of the International Collaboration of Essential Surgery.

He will present:

Training of Surgeons in East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA).

There is a desperate shortage of surgically trained personnel in the ECSA Region, particularly in rural areas where the mortality from injury, obstructed labour, neglected surgical emergencies (such as peritonitis, obstructed bowel and burns) is totally unacceptable in this day and age, especially when prompt treatment could be lifesaving.

It was recognised over many year that the quality and quantity of surgical services available to the people of the ECSA Region was inadequate. Training of specialist surgeons in the Region was restricted to the M. Med Surgery Programmes (or equivalent) in University Teaching Hospitals with only limited numbers and a variable training programme.

The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa was founded in 1999 as an independent body to formulate a common surgical training programme and surgical qualifications alongside the University Teaching Hospital Programmes. These could be undertaken in accredited training institutions in central as well as peripheral hospitals in the Region with a common examination and the award of an internationally recognised Fellowship for specialist surgeons (FCS) and Membership for surgically trained doctors (MCS).

The College has come a long way over the past 16 years and has been supported by Johnson & Johnson, the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and in Ireland together with Irish Aid.

This year 75 candidates have registered for the MCS and 44 for the FCS Programmes. There are now 74 accredited training hospitals, 857 Members and Fellows and 118 accredited Trainers.

This presentation outlines the development of training programmes that have led to this success and also our plans for the future.