



Global Partnerships Strategy

2016 – 2019



Remarkable gains have been made in global health in the past 25 years, but progress has not been uniform. Mortality and morbidity from common conditions needing surgery have grown in the world's poorest regions, both in real terms and relative to other health gains. At the same time, development of safe, essential, life-saving surgical and anaesthesia care in low-income and middle-income countries has stagnated or regressed.

The Lancet Commission. Meara J G et al (2015)

Welcome

The Royal College of Anaesthetists is committed to forging and nurturing relationships with doctors and institutions from other countries. This is why we are working in partnership with health education providers in multiple countries to develop high quality anaesthetic training and standards for local doctors and non-physician anaesthetists. We believe that it is important that relationships are two-way – while our expertise can be used for the benefit of others, we must not forget that there is much that we can learn from our peers in different settings, be these differences cultural, economic or geographical.

By working with local organisations and institutions, we aim to strengthen international healthcare systems to ensure the long-term stability and access to healthcare for previously excluded patient groups.

The *Lancet Commission report into Global Surgery*, published in 2015, highlighted the significant unmet surgical and anaesthetic need across the world, particularly in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). These stark facts have led to a shift in focus in global health discussion, both within anaesthetic and surgical circles, and also in the wider community. The new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with their broad focus is testament to this. It is therefore timely that the College expands its international activities, and works collaboratively to tackle the wide-ranging issues faced by clinicians and patients worldwide.

We also intend to increase our support and engagement with our existing international members. We hope to develop an international network, through which information and learning can be shared across borders and continents. Our international members will be instrumental in meeting our Global Partnership aims.



Professor Ellen O'Sullivan
RCoA Council Lead for Global Partnerships

INTRODUCTION

The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) is an organisation that currently has members and fellows in 75 different countries worldwide. Anaesthesia is the largest single hospital specialty in the NHS. The Royal College of Anaesthetists is the professional body responsible for the specialty throughout the UK, and it ensures the quality of patient care through the maintenance of standards in anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine.

The Lancet Commission report *Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development* recognised that five billion people worldwide do not have access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care when needed. This report echoed many of the key messages outlined in the 68th World Health Assembly resolution, which was a call to action to ensure that surgical care is an essential and affordable component for universal health coverage. The resolution highlighted that 11% of the world's burden of disease stems from conditions that could be successfully treated through surgery.

Furthermore, the Disease Control Priorities (DCP3) highlights the economic impact this unmet surgical need has, particularly in LMICs. The report highlights that provision of essential surgical care would avert an estimated 1.5 million deaths per year in low and middle income countries, and highlights the benefit-cost gains from such interventions. Relatively inexpensive surgical procedures can result in considerable reduction of Disability Adjusted Life Year, with conditions being treated via surgical intervention, individuals benefit from improved health outcomes and benefit financially.

There has been a significant shift in global health discussions and the importance of targeting non-communicable disease to tackle mortality rates is increasingly being recognised. In 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was launched which highlight the importance of working in partnership and universal co-operation. Our focus for our Global Partnerships work is aimed at the promotion of healthy lives, inclusiveness and equitable quality education and working in partnership for sustainable anaesthetic services.

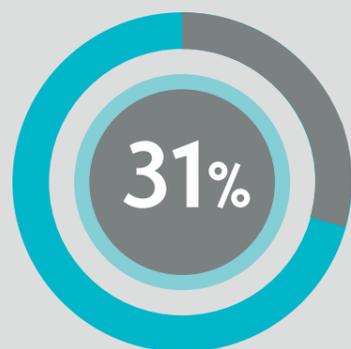
globally. The initial focus of our work will be on the provision of support around education, training and assessment, with which the College has significant experience.

We are actively working with a range of international organisations, and intends to increase the number of partnership organisations we engage with. We hope that our fellows and members are able to play their part in delivering our Global Partnerships strategy, which we see as both ambitious and achievable.

These shifts in recognising current global health issues and challenges has prompted the College to state its commitment to developing anaesthesia

“The urgent need for surgical care in the world’s poorest regions is widely unrecognised. In 2010, an estimated 16.9 million lives (32.9% of all deaths worldwide) were lost from conditions needing surgical care”

The Lancet Commission. Meara J G et al (2015)



Percentage of global surgical unmet

In addition to the **313 million** surgical procedures undertaken each year, it is estimated that an additional **143 million** surgical procedures are required per year, in order to meet unmet need. These figures suggest that an estimated 31% of surgical need is unmet globally.

The Lancet Commission. Meara J G et al (2015)



An estimated **67%** of the world’s population has unmet surgical need.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We have identified the following objectives to drive our international activity:

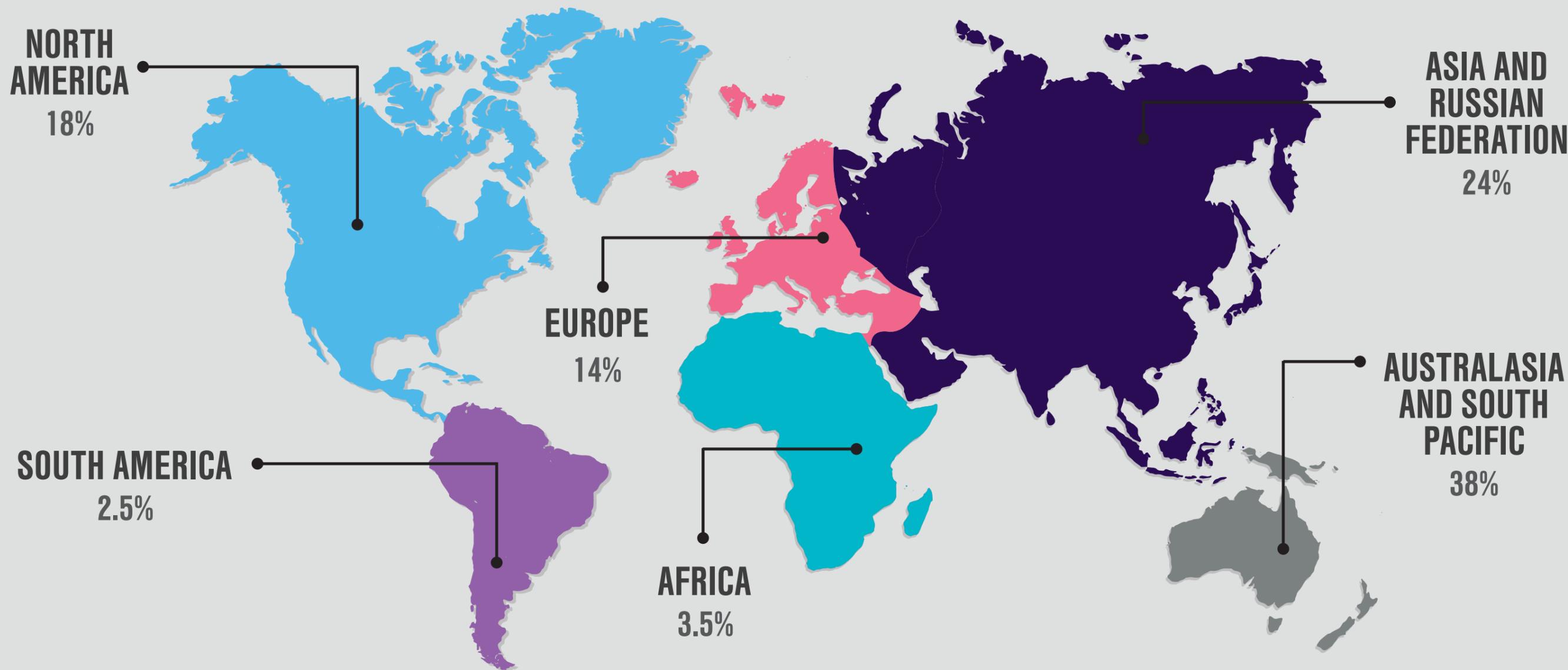
- 1 playing a proactive role in advocating for global anaesthesia services and the provision of anaesthesia as part of the wider surgical team
- 2 working in partnership with overseas based education providers to deliver high quality training to the anaesthetic workforce, which meet the long term needs of the local healthcare system
- 3 collaborating with health ministries (or equivalent), professional organisations and anaesthesia societies to strengthen healthcare systems. This is to ensure long-term stability and access to healthcare for groups previously excluded
- 4 engaging proactively with and supporting overseas members
- 5 monitoring and evaluate RCoA activities considering the latest evidence based practice.

Our Global Partnership Strategy will focus on working in partnership to improve anaesthesia training and the workforce situation in LMICs. When capacity allows the College will share expertise gained from our activities in the UK to assist high income countries.



“Reduction of health inequalities and improvement of health and well-being can only be realised if health professionals understand the global arena in which they are working.”

Time to go global: a consultation on global health competencies for postgraduate doctors. Walpole et al (2016)



NORTH AMERICA

Bermuda, Canada, Jamaica, St Lucia, USA, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil, Uruguay

AFRICA

Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

EUROPE

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine

ASIA AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

AUSTRALASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC

Australia, New Zealand, Fiji

This map shows distribution of the College's international membership.

WHAT THE COLLEGE CAN OFFER

Training the trainer and curriculum development

We will play a proactive, collaborative and advocating role in order to improve the provision and standards of anaesthetic care around the world.

We excel at designing and delivering high quality training programmes and curricula, using reliable assessment methods to evaluate UK trainees, and will be able to share this expertise. This can take the form of:

- curriculum development and design
- assessment model development (including Work Place Based Assessments (WPBAs) and examinations)
- training the trainer packages
- advice and guidance on training.

Assistance with institutional development

We are a well-established professional body with experience in institutional set up, creating and working within robust governance structures, and is responsible for the specialty throughout the UK.

Working collaboratively with other organisations we aim to:

- support curriculum and standards development (with the possibility of Training the Trainer faculty inclusion)
- support institutions in order to gain insight into workforce planning matters
- support institutions in creating of governance structures
- exploring funding opportunities to aid institutional development.

Supporting training and education for UK anaesthetists in LMICs

We have established, working in partnership with a number of organisations, to promote high quality fellowship programmes, which allow UK trained anaesthetists to undertake a placement overseas. Organisations with whom we have partnered include (but are not limited to):

- Zambian Anaesthetic Development Project (ZADP)
- King's Sierra Leone Fellowship (KSLP)
- Lifebox
- Mercy Ships.

Individuals undertaking fellowships internationally develop vital skills, but support the development of anaesthesia provision locally. Information on fellowship placements also expands our knowledge of local context and healthcare systems.

Develop the Medical Training Initiative (MTI)

The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) is a national scheme set up by the UK Government, designed to allow a limited number of overseas trained doctors to enter the UK and benefit from a fixed period of training within the NHS, for a maximum of 24 months. The MTI scheme is philanthropic in nature, with the aim to equip anaesthetic doctors with skills and experiences that they would find difficult to obtain in their home country. It is hoped that these individuals would return and take on leadership roles in their home hospitals, especially in the areas of Quality Improvement and Training. An increasing body of evidence, including the Lancet Commission report shows that there is a huge shortage of trained anaesthetists worldwide, which has a direct impact on patient outcomes.

We aim to increase the number of doctors within the MTI from currently under represented regions.

We also intend to continue our engagement with MTI doctors upon their return to their home country with the intention to create a wider network for MTI doctors who are in the UK and have returned home. It is hoped that through this mechanism, returning MTI doctors would be better supported in their clinical practice and that they would act as ambassadors for the RCoA as a whole.

Re-launch of e-SAFE Resource

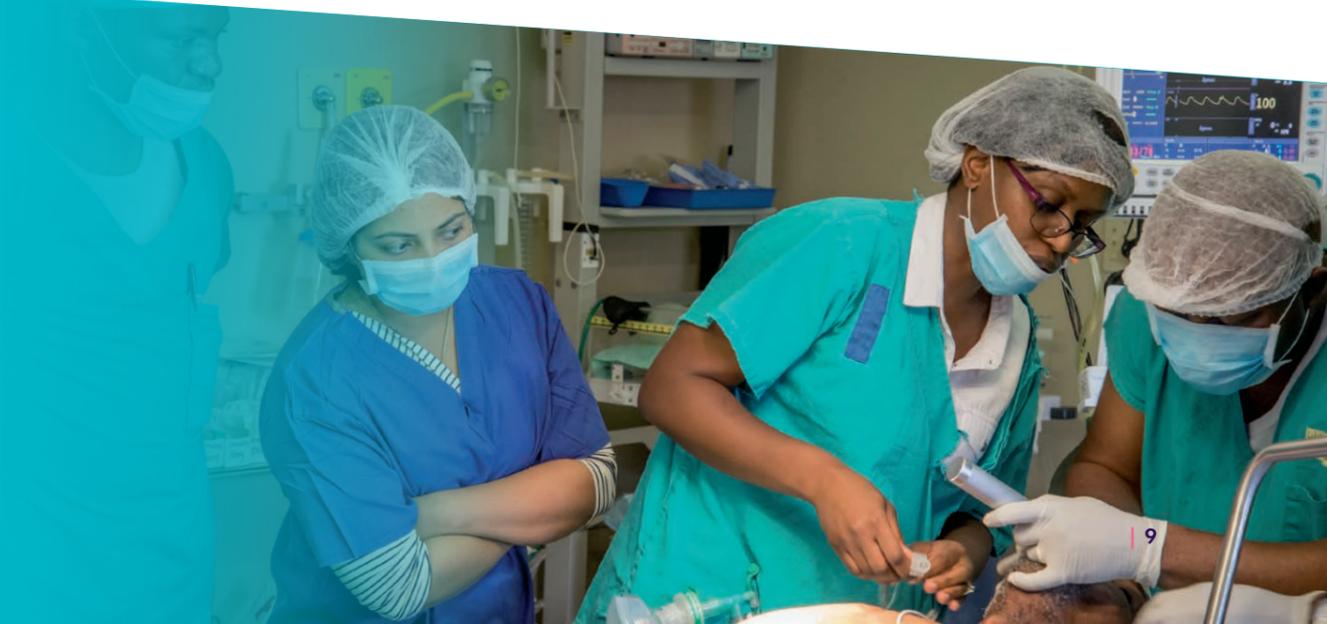
In partnership with the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI), the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and eIntegrity, we developed the e-SAFE e-Learning resource to support anaesthetic services in LMICs. This free, online and digital resource was launched in 2013 and includes over 100 interactive e-learning sessions and an e-Library with over 500 articles covering basic science and clinical anaesthesia and provides free access to individuals and institutions across the world.

This valuable resource has been used to train clinical and non-clinical anaesthetists in resource-poor environments, providing basic anaesthesia content which can be readily applied into day-to-day patient care.

In 2017, this resource will be re-launched following a review of its content, to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date.

“Working In Zambia has been a wonderful cross cultural learning opportunity. It offers ample exposure to develop teaching skills and anaesthetise challenging clinical cases.”

(Dr Lowri Bowen, ST7, Wales, 2014)



E-learning and developing educational tools

We are looking to further explore and expand access to e-learning resources available to anaesthetists overseas. This could include using existing content of eLearning Anaesthesia (eLA) delivered by e-Integrity or the development of new resources. This will be considered with input from relevant partner institutions.

Engaging with members and developing networks

We recognise that among our membership, there is a broad range of experience, knowledge, skill and enthusiasm which can be called upon during the implementation of the Global Partnerships Strategy.

We are committed to improving our communication of global health and international matters on the College website, coverage in the *Bulletin* and at College events and meetings. The College will also engage with UK-based anaesthetists with an interest in global health.

We will increase our engagement with our international members and fellows, by developing networks at national and regional levels. We will also identify 'Country Champions' within countries, to take a proactive role in supporting our Global Partnership Strategy.

“(Partnerships) require shared goals, values, mutual respect and depend more on relationships built over a period than on systems and process”

One World Health: An Overview of Global Health. Crisp N (2016)



IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

The RCoA intends to be clear about which activities we will, and will not be involved in. This means:

- having a transparent set of criteria by which proposed international work is measured, against which decisions are made
- having robust programme management and governance arrangements
- prioritising regions and countries which are identified as having significant need in anaesthetic service and training development
- managing expectations (internally and externally) around our capacity to engage with international projects.
- not take on projects that are not specifically linked to achieving our strategy or expose us or our fellows and members to undue risk.

In addition, to ensure that our international activities meet the strategy and wider sustainability aims outlined in the Lancet Commission report and SDGs, the RCoA must consider:

- whether our input is welcomed and required by the country's health ministry and local anaesthetic workforce
- identifying training and healthcare needs and gaps
- how we can best assist in a sustainable way
- which local organisations and anaesthetists we partner with.

We will also consider, where capacity allows, collaborating with High Income Countries. Such collaborations would be charged at a commercial rate.

The RCoA will **not**:

- provide equipment other than through established agencies or organisations with expertise in the provision of equipment in LMICs
- knowingly place the people we support in significant personal danger
- breach the Foreign and Commonwealth Office policies and recommendations
- work with, or make payments to organisations that do not share our values.

Understanding need

Before undertaking an international project, we will undertake a needs assessment, in collaboration with local partners, to ensure that proposed projects meet the need of local anaesthetic services and patients. We are committed to ensuring that projects are relevant, sustainable and fit for purpose.

Outcome focussed

The aim of our Global Partnerships Strategy is to improve the standard of, and access to, anaesthetic care across the world. In order to develop and undertake projects, and measure success, we will consider:

- developing an evidence-base, against which project success can be measured
- demonstrating good value for money
- considering previous experience and learning through reflection
- applying reflections to improve work in the future
- ensuring that international activity remains strategically relevant.

Collaborative working

We aim to collaborate with partner institutions, such as (but not limited to) the AAGBI, WFSA and other medical Royal Colleges to achieve better outcomes and meet the wider needs for anaesthetic services. We believe working collaboratively will reduce the needless duplication of resources and lead to more effective, long-lasting difference in areas where surgical service need is greatest. To ensure that this is achieved, the Global Partnerships Committee includes representatives from the AAGBI, WFSA and others where appropriate in order to ensure clear communication. The importance of collaborative working is highlighted both in the Lancet Commission Report and also with the development of the SDGs.

“Ensuring universal access to cost-effective, safe, and high-quality surgical care and anaesthesia will require the long-term support of a coordinated global effort.”

Global Surgical Care in the UN Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.
Henry JA and Abdullah F (2015)

Royal College of Anaesthetists

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Royal College of Anaesthetists, June 2017