In 2015 The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery highlighted that more than 5 billion of the world’s 7 billion people are without access to safe and affordable surgical care when needed. The WFSA is a leader in the global advocacy effort to address this inequity, including participation at the World Health Assembly (WHA). In 2017 we contributed to the WHA’s decision to report every 2 years on the implementation of Resolution 68.15: Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage.

OUR ROLE

THE WFSA seeks to ensure universal access to safe anaesthesia.

We deliver our mission through programmes that tackle the key barriers preventing access to safe anaesthesia around the world.

The WFSA Global Position Statement on Anaesthesiology and Universal Health Coverage highlights the need for WFSA and anaesthesiologist leadership in addressing the human resource crisis in anaesthesia, as well as acknowledging the role of non-physician providers in reaching the goal of Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

SAVING LIVES

Safe anaesthesia saves lives. It is essential that safe practices are followed internationally to ensure the best possible care.

The WFSA has official liaison with the WHO. The WFSA International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia, first published in June 1992 and periodically revised, provide expert guidance on what is required in order to provide safe anaesthesia and safe surgery around the world. 2018 sees the publication of the first conjoint WHO-WFSA International Standards.

NATIONAL SOLUTIONS

As we continue to gain traction in making surgical scale-up a global health and economic priority, national governments must commit resources to improve the availability, quality and affordability of anaesthesia and surgery.

The WFSA is actively involved in this planning, and is able to assist our Member Societies in assessing anaesthesia capacity and compiling National Anaesthesia Plans, which can be integrated into national health policy to help engage governments and the wider medical community.

The Tanzanian National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP) describes anaesthesia as “universally identified by all cadres as the most acute problem preventing safe surgical care”. Additionally, the recently published Zambian NSOAP highlights the SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia From Education) Obstetric and SAFE Paediatric anaesthesia training programs, co-created by the WFSA, as part of the Ministry of Health’s strategy for service delivery.
The online resource created by the WFSA highlights the extent and location of the anaesthesia workforce deficit around the world.

Using current population data, more than 136,000 physician anaesthesia providers are needed today to achieve an interim target density of 5 per 100,000 population in all countries.

Without adequate numbers of both physician and non-physician providers it will be impossible to scale-up anaesthesia provision worldwide, and impossible to ensure access to safe anaesthesia for all patients.
In order to enhance patient care worldwide the WFSA works with partner organisations to support a range of training programmes alongside open access online education materials.

Our programmes provide essential information and training to improve the knowledge and competencies of anaesthesia providers, including those from underserved and rural areas.

**SAFE OBSTETRICS AND PAEDIATRICS**

Safer Anaesthesia From Education (SAFE) courses, developed by the AAGBI, the WFSA and other partners, are three day training courses for anaesthesia providers.

SAFE focuses on simulation and small group teaching with content based on the most common clinical conditions. The courses have been run across four continents and trained almost 3,000 anaesthesia providers across 30 countries since launching in 2011.

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More than 80% of children in the world’s poorest countries are likely to have required surgical treatment by 15 years old (including trauma, burns, and infections).

In 2013, 81% of the world’s population was prescribed less than 10% of the world’s morphine.

**SAFE OR**

The SAFE OR course is a multidisciplinary three-day short course for teams of surgeons, obstetricians, nurses and anaesthesia providers who usually work together, but rarely train together.

The aim of the course is to reduce perioperative mortality and morbidity associated with surgery by improving the way that teams communicate and work together.

At least 15% of pregnancies result in complications that need emergency obstetric care, including surgical management.

Caesarean delivery accounts for 33% of surgical procedures performed in Africa.

**SAFE**

**EPM**

Essential Pain Management (EPM) is a cost-effective, multi-disciplinary programme.

Run in over 40 countries it brings together local health workers to improve pain knowledge, implement a simple framework for managing pain and address pain management barriers.

In 2017 37 EPM workshops were run with 1,429 participants and 11 instructor workshop were run with 342 instructors trained.

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**SCHOLARS**

With our industry partners, the WFSA has sent 217 scholars to anaesthesia congresses around the world since 2008.

In 2014 we asked our scholars what they thought about the programme. 94% of scholars said the scholarship has positively impacted their patients, 98% would encourage their colleagues to apply for a scholarship and 98% would like to undertake another WFSA scholarship.

Every 4 years the WFSA and a member society co-host the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA), the pre-eminent international congress for anaesthesiologists from around the world. In 2016 the WFSA was pleased to send more than 51 scholars to the WCA in Hong Kong. Over 6,000 delegates from 134 countries attended the five-day event with 17 scientific tracks and more than 400 speakers.

**Providing scholarships to professionals of countries with low resources, is extremely important and necessary. It allows us to go beyond our limits, beyond our difficulties as a country, beyond what prevents us from maintaining or continuing medical education and especially to amongst young anaesthesiologists who want to absorb as much knowledge from other specialists as possible, and put these lessons into practice.**

Dr Julio Del Carmen Mora Sarmiento (Venezuela), 2018 CLASA Scholar, Uruguay
GRANTS

The WFSA offers grants and awards to foster the development of innovation and research in less affluent countries.

The WFSA Fresenius Kabi Anaesthesia Innovation Awards, a unique programme which identifies and supports the development of innovations that have the potential to transform the field of anaesthesia and improve patient safety worldwide, are awarded annually.

The WFSA is also currently running research programmes at Ohio State University and University of California San Francisco (UCSF) to provide opportunities for anaesthesiologists from LMICs to gain expertise in research.

FELLOWSHIPS

Each year the WFSA offers around fifty 2 –12 month Fellowships for young anaesthesiologists from lower income countries to gain skills in a specialist area of anaesthesia.

43 Fellows were trained across 9 specialities and 25 nationalities in 2017.


In February 2018 Dr Christopher Chanda, a former WFSA Fellow, was the lead anaesthesiologist in the first ever conjoined twins separation led by local doctors in Zambia.

Life in India is teaching me a lot. Thanks to Dr Balavenkat Subramanian [the Fellowship Head], I have settled in well and the training is fantastic. The fellowship is giving me hands-on opportunities with guidance from several consultants, all experts in not only regional anaesthetic techniques, but also in the field of anaesthesiology as a whole.

Under the stewardship of Dr Balavenkat, the programme offers a lot in terms of knowledge and skills. I was able to attend the Gange anaesthesia refresher course which acted as a perfect preamble to the fellowship programme, and the 2017 Academy of Regional Anaesthesia (AORA) Annual Conference. These have been the highlights of my stay in India so far and will also benefit my anaesthesia practice for years to come.

Dr George Kateregga from Uganda travelled to Coimbatore, India to undertake a WFSA Regional Anaesthesia Fellowship. He is also a former Baxter Scholar who attended the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) in August 2016.

LIFEBOX

The WFSA is a proud co-founder of Lifebox.

Through joint projects, grants and advocacy events, they raise awareness of the fundamental role of anaesthesia in surgery, and support the life-saving work of anaesthesia providers around the world.

In 2017, Lifebox delivered more than 2800 pulse oximeters to partners in 41 countries, alongside training for nearly 2000 anaesthesia providers. Results from the ‘Clean Cut’ pilot site targeting surgical site infection at a hospital in Ethiopia show a 180% improvement in the use of appropriate hand hygiene, and a 92% improvement in the proper timing of prophylactic antibiotics.

The WFSA’s work is made possible through the support of our member societies and a growing number of partner organisations. We would particularly like to thank the following organisations for enabling recent scale-up in response to our mission.

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Through a partnership between the WFSA and the International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS), the Global Health Section of Anesthesia & Analgesia (An&An) was formed in 2014 and has been going from strength to strength. In 2017 Anesthesia & Analgesia continued to publish articles with a focus on global anaesthesia, health and development. Articles published in the Section are now available free to download.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Additionally, all programmes are delivered by physicians and trainers who provide their time on an entirely voluntary basis. These teachers/mentors contribute an estimated US$2,000,000 per year of additional value to the WFSA ensuring an outstanding return on investment for WFSA members and supporters.

**UPDATE IN ANAESTHESIA (UIA)**

*Update In Anaesthesia* is the official CME publication of the WFSA. UIA Volume 32 was published in August 2017 and included articles on rapid sequence induction, typhoid enteric fever, wrist blocks and management of paediatric sepsis. Similar to the response to UIA Volume 31 in 2016, there was a noticeable spike in WFSA web traffic as several thousand people visited the WFSA website within hours of the volume’s release.

**ANAESTHESIA TUTORIAL OF THE WEEK (ATOTW)**

*ATOTW*, the WFSA’s web tutorial, aims to support anaesthesia education across the globe. ATOTW is read by thousands across high, middle and low resource countries making it an invaluable open access resource for everybody. In 2017, 23 tutorials were published in English. Many of these tutorials were also translated in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Chinese, covering various different anaesthesia specialties. The WFSA also launched a new self-directed CME/CPD quiz that can be taken after each tutorial.

**ANAESTHESIA & ANALGESIA**

Through a partnership with Southampton Hospital, the WFSA offers a series of subtitled educational videos on Adult and Paediatric Anaesthesia on our Virtual Library and YouTube channel. In 2017 the videos were updated to also include voiceover explanations of each topic being taught. These videos are viewed more than 500,000 times per year.

**ANAESTHESIA FILM TUTORIALS (YOUTUBE)**

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**MEMBER SOCIETIES**

The WFSA is made up of over 130 member societies representing hundreds of thousands of anaesthesiologists. Conservative estimates of the value of volunteer time utilised by the WFSA indicate that the WFSA Council and Committee members contribute over US$1,000,000.00 of professional time each year.

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SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia From Education) courses have been run across four continents and have trained:

2,825 anaesthesia providers across 30 countries since launching in 2011.

888 on SAFE Paediatrics in 12 countries

1,937 on SAFE Obstetrics in 26 countries

750 MORE PROVIDERS WILL BE TRAINED BY THE END OF 2018

FELLOWS

326 fellows have been mentored across 10 anaesthesia specialities and sub-specialities from 55 countries.

49 ADDITIONAL FELLOWS WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE END OF 2018

SCHOLARS

217 scholars from 53 countries have attended 24 meetings since 2008

14 MORE SCHOLARS WILL HAVE ATTENDED BY THE END OF 2018

PUBLICATIONS

375 ATOTW tutorials published in English

32 editions of Update In Anaesthesia

400+ ATOTW TUTORIALS IN ENGLISH WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF 2018