

OPERATIVE NOTES

American Academy of Pediatrics - Section on Surgery Newsletter

2022 NCE Meeting in Anaheim, CA

The 75th Annual AAP Section on Surgery Meeting was held on October 7 through 9, 2022 in Anaheim, CA. There were many highlights over the three days. One of the most important events was the unveiling of the branding for the Section on Surgery:

Vision Statement: Ensure all children receive optimal surgical care

Mission Statement: To advance the health and well-being of all children by engaging pediatric surgeons in multidisciplinary collaboration, advocacy, education, innovation, and research.

Values:

Collaboration to advance optimal surgical care for children.

Empowerment of children, caregivers, members, and colleagues to achieve their goals.

Inclusion of all children, caregivers, members, and colleagues.

Innovation to seek better surgical care for children.

Accessibility for children to surgeons and members to resources and knowledge.

Tagline: “Together, We Heal Children” defines the section’s why, what and how.

Logo: The white space that is created by the individuals is the child that is always at the center of what we do. The individual work hand in hand in a team approach. Each individual may represent people on a committee, committees working together, sections working together, or working with other organizations. Lastly, the colors



AAP Section on Surgery
Together, We Heal Children

The 2022 Jens Rosenkrantz Resident Research Award and Chair's Choice Winners

One highlight of the NCE Section on Surgery Meetings is seeing the fantastic research that is being done by trainees on both the basic science and clinical science fronts. This year was also exceptional. The Program Committee led by Dr. Marcus Malek selected the following **2022 Jens Rosenkrantz Resident Research Award Winners**:



Maria Tecos



Andrew Fleming



Annalise Penikis



Stephen Trinidad

Basic Science: Maria Tecos, MD - *Disruption of Enterobepatic Circulation Ameliorates Small Bowel Resection Associated Hepatic Injury*. Dr. Tacos is a General Surgery resident at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and did her research in the Brad Warner Lab at Washington University in St. Louis.

Clinical Science: Andrew Fleming, MD - *Aggressive Pursuit of No Evidence of Disease Status in Hepatoblastoma Improves Survival*. Dr. Fleming is a surgery resident at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN, and did his research at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

DEI Award: Annalise Penikis, MD - *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Outcomes Among Newborns with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia: Results from a National Children's Hospital*. Dr. Penikis did her research as a postdoc in the Shaun Kuniaski Lab at Johns Hopkins.

Poster: Stephen Trinidad, MD - *Long-term Male Sexual Function and Continence Outcomes after Pediatric Pelvic Surgery for Hirschsprung's Disease or Anorectal Malformation*. Dr. Trinidad is a general surgery resident at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY.

The Jens Rosenkrantz Resident Research Awards were first handed out in 1985. Rosenkrantz was a pediatric surgeon and researcher who finished his career in Cincinnati. The awards are determined by the AAP Section on Surgery Program and Publications Committee. Many award winners have gone on to successful careers in pediatric surgery and we look forwards to these award winners future careers.

The 2022 Chair's Choice Winners

New this year was the inaugural **Chair's Choice Awards** that was created as an additional opportunity to highlight the special skill of the presenters and included Rosenkrantz and non-Rosenkrantz papers. These were chosen by the chair this year to indicate qualities of trainees that he wanted to indicate as important as a pediatric surgeon; the ability to simplify a complex issue, the ability to weave a narrative, expression of joy, and creativity. The Chair awards this year went to:



Gretchen Floan



Megan Vu



Ashlynn Whitlock



Emily Hodgson

Simplification: **Gretchen Floan** - *The Peds DUCT Score: A Highly Specific Predictive Model for Pediatric Cholechocholithiasis*. Dr. Floan is a resident at the Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Story Telling: **Megan Vu** - *State of Women in Pediatric Surgery: Reviewing Worldwide Leadership Trends and Finding the Way Forward*. Dr. Vu is a surgery resident at the Baylor College of Medicine.

Joy: **Ashlynn Whitlock** - Presented 3 Papers during the Rosenkrantz Competition including one for a colleague who had just delivered a baby. Dr. Whitlock is a surgery resident at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and did her research at Boston Children's Hospital.

Creativity: **Emily Hodgson** - *Acute effects of partial liquid ventilation as adjunct to Pumpless Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (P-ECMO) in the lamb model of CDH*. Dr. Hodgson is a resident from McMaster University and did her research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Three Great Symposium!

Over the three days of the meeting, there were three 2-hour symposia. The first two were presented on Friday and bookended the two ends of the spectrum on where pediatric surgeons work - quaternary centers vs. smaller communities and non-teaching centers. The third symposium was presented on Saturday and focused on bioethics using CDH as a topic where challenging discussions and management were discussed.



Symposium 1: Centers of Excellence: If We Build It, Will They Come?

(L-R) Diana Farmer (moderator), Jeffrey Avansino (Colorectal), Shin Hlrose (Fetal), Regan William (moderator), and Jonathan Perkins (Vascular Anomalies)

Symposium 2: Pediatric Surgery From the Roads Less Traveled - Challenges, Collaboration, and Communication

(L-R) Jason Fisher, Renee Umbdenstock, Ellen Reynolds, Julie Soelberg, Katie Apple



Symposium 3: Ethics in Wonderland: CDH Through the Looking Glass

(L-R) Ellie Hirschberg, Matthew Harting, David Munson, Jessica Turnbull, Jenni Linebarger

Named Award Winners and Presenters

The Section on Surgery had three Named Award winners. The first award of the meeting was the **Arnold M. Salzberg Award** which was presented to **Craig Lillehei, MD, FAAP**.

Introducing him to the stage was **Pramitha Nandivada, MD, FAAP**. The second award of the event was the **William E Ladd Medal** which was presented to **Donald Nuss, MD, FAAP**. He was introduced by Drs. Robert Kelly, Jr. and Michael Goretsky. In addition this year, The Section on Bioethics selected **Marry Fallat, MD, FAAP** for the **William G Bartholome Award for Ethical Excellence**. **Mark Mercurio, MD, FAAP** presented the award.



Arnold Salzberg Mentorship Award Presentation:

L - Pramitha Nandivada (Presenter)
M - Kenneth Gow (Chair)
R - Craig Lillehei (Awardee)

William E Ladd medal Presentation:

L - Robert Kelly, Jr (Presenter)
M - Donald Nuss (Awardee)
R - Michael Goretsky (Presenter)



William G Bartholome Award for Ethical Excellence:

Mary Fallat (Awardee)

Professor Emmanuel A Ameh: 2022 Stephen L Gans Visiting Professor

Professor Ameh travelled to the US West Coast and was the 2022 Stephen L Gans Distinguished Overseas Professor for the Section on Surgery meeting. Here is a summary of his trip from his perspective:

September 29 to October 2, 2022 - UC Davis: Dr. Diana Farmer and her team were one of our most supportive collaborators in the development of Nigeria's National Surgical, Obstetrics, Anesthesia and Nursing Plan (NSOANP). Drs. Diana Farmer and Jamie Anderson are longtime friends and seeing them again after a long time was great.

Presentation: Training the Next Generation of Pediatric Surgeons for Global Impact

At the moment, many in LMICs consider global surgery as mainly HIC efforts to help LMIC surgical systems. I shared with the group ongoing efforts in Nigeria to train our pediatric surgeons to be impactful in global children's surgery. Emphasis should be on prioritizing access to care, quality and safety, equity, contextualized research and advocacy.

I had meetings with the global surgery team to learn about their ongoing projects and initiatives. We will be exploring potential areas of collaboration in future.

I also had the privilege of listening to presentations on ongoing research by research fellows. Very impressive work going on. I learnt a lot from them and enjoyed immensely this interaction, particularly the fetal surgery research.

The concluding dinner with Drs. Hirose, Cameron Gaskill, Travis Tollefson and Jamie Anderson was most welcoming. I had some very useful global surgery discussions with Drs. Gaskill and Tollefson and should hopefully link up again in future.

I'm most grateful to Dr. Diana Farmer and her team for the profound friendliness and hospitality.



UC Davis: (L-R: Cameron Gaskill, Shin Hirose, Jamie Anderson, Emmanuel Ameh, Travis Tollefson)

Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

October 2 to 6, 2022 - UC San Francisco: Dr. Doruk Ozgediz and I have been longtime friends and continue to work together on several projects .

Surgery Grand Rounds: Global Surgery & Universal Health Coverage: Minding the Surgical Gaps in Africa

The talk focused on the current gaps in the surgical ecosystem in Africa from burden of disease through human resources to infrastructure amongst others, using data, some of which only became recently available. Highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen the system particularly with prioritization of NSOAPs as the catalytic framework. Anesthesia workforce, children's surgery and peri-operative nursing must be specifically prioritized to ensure they are not overlooked. Financing and research remain some of the most difficult aspects requiring innovation and sustainable solutions. Efforts in Nigeria to address these issues were discussed. Finally, it was emphasized that UHC cannot be fully realized without deliberate and sustainable investments in surgical care

Pediatric Surgery Grand Rounds: Devices and Innovation Challenges for Global Pediatric Surgery

I shared with the group, including the innovations team on desirable innovations in pediatric surgical devices that are likely to strengthen and advance children's surgical care globally. The devices discussed included gastroschisis silo, muscle stimulator for PSARP, esophageal dilators, stoma appliances, gastrostomy kit, perineal retractor, PICC lines and point of care ultrasound equipment. The focus was on innovating around low cost, reusable, durability and availability.

In addition to the talks and discussions, I also had the privilege of:

- i. Meeting with **Dr. Michael Harrison:** we had very interesting discussions around innovations, including use of magnets for long gap esophageal atresia and stoma closure. We are already exploring point of care ultrasound with their Butterfly ultrasound team.
- ii. Meeting with **Dr. Olajire Idowu:** I visited the Children's Hospital in Oakland for a few very inspiring hours. Dr. Idowu shared with me his various innovations including the pectus carinatum strap. I learnt a lot from his wealth of experience.
- iii. Meeting with **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa:** I met with Dr. Sosa, Chief of Surgery at UCSF and Editor-in-Chief for World Journal of Surgery. We had some very useful discussion about increasing children's surgery submissions and publications in the Journal.

I had the privilege of going an evening outing with Doruk and Ruth to the Golden Gate and Beach. The golden gate is always such a beautiful place to visit. I can't forget my craving for Chinese cuisine that evening.

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Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

Thanks so much to Doruk and his colleagues for the wonderful interactions. It was a pleasure meeting in-person, Ruth Laverde and Patti Orozko, who have been working with my team remotely.

Doruk and his wife Bela and children were simply wonderful as hosts. I enjoyed the several dinners I had at their home and the short time with the kids was delightful. I remain most appreciative and grateful to them for taking such good care of me



UC San Francisco: (Top Row: L - Drs. Ruth Laverde and Doruk Ozgediz; R - Drs. Julie Ann Sosa and Doruk Ozgediz; Bottom Row: Dr. Ozgediz at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital)

October 7 to 9, 2022 - Anaheim, CA - AAP NCE 2022: This was the main thrust of my visit to the United States at this time.

Stephen L Gans Distinguished Overseas Lecture: Realigning Global Health Realities Towards Children's Surgery: Progress and Possibilities

The guest lecture focused on the current realities and state of children's surgery globally and highlighted ongoing global efforts to situate children's surgery within global health. The role of the GICS in raising the profile and visibility of children's surgery in the global health space and some of the key defining projects and initiatives were emphasized. These efforts have resulted in some of the successful projects in Nigeria and West Africa, providing encouraging example to what we can collectively achieve by appropriate and mutually beneficial global north-south (HIC-LMIC) collaborations. The lecture ended with a call to action by pediatric surgeons anywhere to commit their time, knowledge and skills, as well as experience and voices to strengthen children's surgery globally to impact more lives and for the overall good of more.

Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

The AAP meetings also provided an opportunity to reconnect with one of the long time mentors, Dr. Henri Ford, from who I learnt so much many years ago, when I visited the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh as an American College of Surgeons International Guest Scholar.

I had the opportunity of attending several impressive and interesting pediatric sessions. The exhibitions were quite interesting and exciting as there were so many innovative devices, materials and programs for children.



Introduction:
Diana Farmer, MD, FAAP

**Stephen L Gans Distinguished
Overseas Lecture:**
Sitting - Kenneth Gow (Chair)
Standing - Emmanuel Ameh (Lecturer)



Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

October 9 to 12, 2022 - Portland, OR: It was a pleasure to visit this location as Dr. Sanjay Krishnaswami and I have been long time collaborators and friends.

Surgery Grand Round - Surgical Systems Strengthening towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa

The talk focused on the existing inequalities in access to surgical care in Africa using evidence from Nigeria and recent Africa data. It also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery to advocate for prioritization of children's surgery in surgical systems in Africa and LMICs. The impact of NSOAP in facilitating surgical systems strengthening in Nigeria was also discussed. The talk ended with a call to pediatric surgeons and surgical providers to invest their time, knowledge and possible resources to support surgical systems strengthening globally.

Pediatric Surgery Meeting - Devices and Innovation Challenges for Global Pediatric Surgery

I shared with the division on desirable innovations in pediatric surgical devices that are likely to strengthen and advance children's surgical care globally. The devices discussed included gastroschisis silo, muscle stimulator for PSARP, esophageal dilators, stoma appliances, gastrostomy kit, perineal retractor, PICC lines and point of care ultrasound equipment. The focus was on innovating around low cost, reusable, durability and availability.

I also had meetings and discussions with the OR coordinators and learnt much from their organization and case scheduling for increased efficiency. In addition, insights into their tumor board activities was interesting and helpful.

I stayed with Jay and family in their home. His wife, Nicole, and their kids were so very welcoming and I enjoyed every bit of time I spent with the family. To end the visit, I had a tour of the very serene and impressive Multnomah Falls with Jay. This location was so calming and I could only imagine how very useful a place it can be to get away to for quiet thinking and planning. I'm grateful to Jay and his family, and colleagues for making my visit enjoyable.



Portland: (L - Ameh at the OHSU Tram; M - With Dr. Sanjay Krishnaswami ; R - Multnomah Falls)

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Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

October 12 to 15, 2022 - Seattle WA: It was a pleasure to visit Dr. Ken Gow and his colleagues and link up again with Dr. Sarah Greenberg, a friend with whom I have worked on several global surgery and global children's surgery initiatives. I've also known Dr. David Rothstein for some time and he was one of the HIC colleagues who graciously contributed to our Pediatric Surgery in Africa book. It was a pleasure reconnecting with him.

SCH Grand Rounds - Strengthening Children's Surgery within Public Health

The talk highlighted the limited investments in global children's surgery despite the increasing burden of common children's surgical conditions (injuries and cancer) as well as inequalities in access to surgical care for children. It focused on compelling advocacy points to drive investments in global children's surgical care including child mortality that can be averted by scaling up surgical workforce in LMICs, massive under 5 mortality caused by injuries and accidents compared to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis combined, and attractive economic and social return on investments in children's surgical care. The progress and momentum created by the work of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery and the ongoing GICS work on surgical care in the first 8,000 days of life were emphasized.

Clinical Case Conference

It was a pleasure to meet the entire department faculty, trainees and research fellows. Sharing ideas on the clinical cases was quite educative and I learnt much from the research presentations.

Other meetings

I had the privilege of having a dinner meeting with the global surgery team at the University of Washington. It was a pleasure to meet again Dr. Charlie Mock, a leading person in global trauma and injury research. Discussions with the many young members of the team on global surgery was quite interesting and I found their commitment most encouraging.

Sarah and I had a breakfast meeting to review things and discuss potential future collaborations. One such potential aspect was the interest from Dr. Bukola Ojo, pediatric anesthesiology to work with my anesthesiology colleagues at my hospital to strengthen pediatric anesthesia. I have connected Bukky to my colleagues and they are already exploring this collaboration.

The willingness of Drs. Andre Dick and Patrick Healey to advise and explore pediatric transplant surgery collaboration is most appreciated. I will definitely be taking this up further as this is one of the massive areas of limitations in pediatric surgery in Nigeria and entire West Africa.

I shared with Dr. Ken Gow, potential device innovations to address global pediatric surgery challenges. Ken is already working with their engineering team to look into potential innovations.

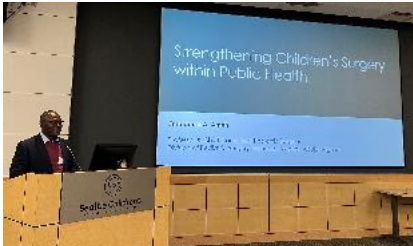
I very much enjoyed a dinner with the faculty.

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Professor Emmanuel A Ameh / continued

A high point of the visit was the one-day tour of Seattle. I had the opportunity to visit several interesting and attractive sites including the Pike Place Market, Miner's Landing, Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, and Space Needle.

I'm grateful to Dr. Ken Gow and his colleagues and administrative team for making my short visit most enjoyable. I'm definitely looking forward to future collaborations and hopefully more visits.



Seattle: (Top Row - L - Grand Rounds; M - UW PROGRESS; R - Dinner with General Surgery Staff; Bottom Row - Touring Seattle - L - Space Needle; M - Waterfront; R - Chihuly Garden & Glass)

Acknowledgement

First, I must thank Vivian Thorpe and her team at the AAP for their patience with me in planning the entire trip and for making sure that all my travels were flawless and enjoyable.

Thanks so much the institutions I visited and all the colleagues and teams at various institutions for being so welcoming. It was a pleasant time reconnecting with old friends and definitely making new friends. I hope that I will have the opportunity to some day welcome each one of them to Nigeria and West Africa.

Finally, I'm grateful to Dr. Ken Gow and the Surgical Section of the AAP for inviting me to speak as the 2022 Dr. Stephen L. Gans Overseas Lecturer. It's an honor I very deeply appreciate and cherish.

Emmanuel A. Ameh

Abuja, Nigeria

31 October 2022

Surgical Equity Fellowship - Apply Now

There is a unique opportunity at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and medical Center that is seeking surgical residents interested in pediatric surgery and surgical equity (including global surgery). This is a 1-2 year training program geared toward US surgical residents in their "lab year" or US residents who have completed general surgery training but want to expand their knowledge and engagement in surgical equity prior to pediatric surgery fellowship. Fellows are expected to be active participants in the division research team, pursuing projects to better understand and address disparities and inequities in surgical care regional, nationally, and globally. Fellows will work primarily with Meera Kotagal, MD, MPH, Director of the CCHMC Pediatric Surgery Global Health Program, but will also have opportunities to work with leaders across CCHMC focused on equity, with pediatric surgeons from CCHMC, and surgeons from partner institutions. If interested, please email meera.kotagal@cchmc.org.



The AAP Section on Surgery Chair Talk was focused on the past, present, and future of the Section. The talk began highlighting the formation by Herbert E Coe including the long and challenging letter writing that he did through the 1930's and 40's to the ACS and then to the AAP. Meeting initial resistance, Coe's persistence finally provided pediatric surgeons its first home in 1948. Coe outlined 4 goals and the talk examined how we have done over the last 75 years on these goals. Based on gaps, the 2022 strategic plan was outlined that provided 4 plans. The first was to carve out our "lane" and that is summarized by our logo and tagline, **"Together, We Heal Children"**. These key branding features will show up on our newsletters, websites, and other pieces over the next few months. The second goal was that of **communication** and fits in with the branding. We need to make policies, papers, and other important work that we do visible to our members and others. The Communications Committee will be tasked with increasing our visibility and feeding important information to our members. The third goal will be enhance our **collaborations** that will help move projects forward. This may be within our section through committees, or as liaisons with other sections, committees, or councils. Last, and most importantly, the SOSu strives to make your membership have importance and **value**. Through working together, we know that important projects will be accomplished to help all children!

