



# NETHERLANDS SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY



## **Newsletter December 2025** **Netherlands Society for International Surgery**

The Netherlands Society for International Surgery (NSIS) is a taskforce that operates under the Netherlands Society for Surgery ([NVvH](#)) as well as the Netherlands' Society for Global Health ([NSGH](#)).

Our three main objectives are:

- (1) to create awareness for the surgical patient in resource limited circumstances
- (2) to improve the quality of surgical healthcare in LMICs
- (3) facilitating and improving the surgical training of global health and tropical medicine residents in the Netherlands



**We are also found on the NVvH website!**

### **The Basics of Teacher Training**

The Basics of Teacher Training program has launched its third edition at Haydom Lutheran Hospital, bringing together aspiring surgical and anesthesia educators from Tanzania and the Netherlands. The initiative focuses on building long-term, sustainable surgical capacity by empowering the next generation of trainers, not only with strong skills teaching techniques, but also with the art of storytelling to communicate knowledge effectively, creatively, and with inspiration.

Led through a long-standing partnership between Haydom Lutheran Hospital, Global Surgery Amsterdam, Dokters van de Wereld Nederland, and Amsterdam UMC, along with support from Pharos Foundation, participants were made ready to provide the Open Fractures course, Burn Care course, and Basics of Anesthesia course. The course ended with inspiring words from Haydom Lutheran Hospital Executive Director Dr. Paschal Mdoe and Director of Clinical Services Vicky Daudi. Dr. Mdoe reminded us of Mandela's message: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Proud to see such growth, creativity, and commitment to strengthening surgical training at HLH.





### Basics of Burn Care

After the Basics of Teacher Training course, the newly trained facilitators went on to teach the Basics of Burn Care course to a group of 26 enthusiastic participants, a truly inspiring step toward sustainable, locally led burn care education.





**We would like to invite you all to upload your profile in Linking Global Health**

#### *What is Linking Global Health?*

Linking Global Health is a collaboration between KCGH and TROIE. With this map we offer all players in the field of Global Health - (para)medics, researchers, institutions, and projects - a platform to get in touch with each other. Use the map to let others know where you are currently working, and to connect with experts in other locations.

This is how we put the global in global health.

#### *How does this work?*

Do you already have own a KCGH account? Then you're all set up to have your own pin on the map. Sign up by completing the form, and check the box 'show on map' at the bottom of the page. This will allow your visiting address to show up on the map\*.

Only visitors with a KCGH account will be able to see your name and the contact option.

For more information, click [here](#)



During the NVvH 'Najaarsdag' conference, Tom Gresnigt, a board member of NSIS, was awarded the Schoemaker Prize for best publication with "Minimally invasive thoracic surgery in Sierra Leone and Liberia."

See [link](#) for the article!

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### Endocrine Surgery Course for Surgical Residents

From 20–31 October 2025, an Endocrine Surgery course for Liberian surgical residents was delivered at JFK University Hospital (Monrovia) and Phebe Hospital (Bong County). This was a joint initiative of NVvH Global, the IAES–INTEREST programme, CapaCare, the surgical teams at JFK and Phebe, and the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons (LCPS).

The program consisted of both theoretical knowledge-gaining as well as hands-on training with lectures, discussions, patient selection, and supervised thyroid surgery.

This outreach aligns closely with the aims of the NVvH Global modular training

programme and the IAES-INTEREST educational model, and underscores a shared commitment to strengthening surgical training capacity in Liberia. Most importantly, it was highly appreciated and applauded by the residents in training for surgery in Liberia.



blog [niels jansen](#)

## Laat medische missie geen medische misser worden

Vorige week stuitte ik op een bericht over een medische reis naar Kenia die ik even twee keer moest lezen van verbazing. In de oproep stond: 'Samen ga je bijdragen aan betere gezondheidszorg in Kenia. Een (recente) baan in de zorg is zeker geen vereiste'.

12 december 2025  3 reacties

[lees meer](#)

We apologize, the text in the above link is in Dutch.

## RESEARCH

# A pilot study on the acceptability and safety of collaborative triage and treatment with traditional bonesetters for extremity fracture patients: a stepped-wedge, cluster-randomised controlled trial in rural Tanzania

Joost J Binnerts, Thom CC Hendriks, Jovine Okoth, Nkaina W Harun, Annelise Gill-Wiehl, Nefti Bempong-Ahun, Geoffrey C Ibbotson, William J Harrison, Claude Martin, Michael J Edwards, Erik Hermans, Bwire M Chirangi

BMJ Global Health Nov 2025

### Introduction

Fracture patients in resource-limited settings frequently attend traditional bonesetters (TBSs), often resulting in non/malunion or infectious complications. Intersectoral collaboration between formal healthcare and TBSs has the potential to make this practice safer but has never been tested previously. This pilot study assesses the acceptability and safety of collaborative fracture management (CFM).

### Methods

Within a pilot stepped-wedge cluster-randomised controlled trial, we included three TBSs (clusters) and their extremity fracture patients from Ranya district, Tanzania. We randomly assigned TBS timepoints to transition from standard TBS care (control) to CFM (intervention). CFM consisted of X-ray imaging, analgesia and guideline-based discussion between a doctor and TBS to guide definitive fracture management. Patient follow-up was at 1, 3 and 6 months postinclusion. In an intention-to-treat analysis, we estimated average treatment effects through ordinary least squares and Poisson regression for primary outcomes of protocol adherence, patient satisfaction and number of complications. The trial is registered at the Pan-African Clinical Trial Registry (PACTR202307910320431) and is completed.

### Results

Between 28 August 2023 and 28 April 2024, we included 21 intervention (9 females, 12 males) and 31 control patients (11 females, 20 males). Protocol adherence was 66.7% in the intervention group, with prohibitive cost and fear of surgery being the most common reasons for non-adherence. Mean satisfaction, quality of life and disability did not differ statistically between groups. Intervention patients had 0.072 less complications than control patients (95% CI -0.11 to -0.031,  $p=0.001$ ), corresponding with a number-needed-to-treat of 13.9 patients to prevent one complication.

### Conclusions

Our results suggest CFM is acceptable and safe to patients and TBSs, offering a model to improve fracture care in resource-limited settings worldwide. To improve the model's

efficacy, additional strategies are necessary to overcome socioeconomical and educational barriers to surgery. Future research could investigate the generalisability of our findings in other settings.

Read full article [here](#)

### **Basics of Open Fractures Course in Shirati and Bunda**

Building on the ongoing collaboration described above, the Basics of Open Fractures Course was delivered at Shirati KMT Hospital (3rd edition) and in Bunda District Hospital (1st edition).

Over three days, traditional bonesetters and healthcare workers trained side by side in core trauma skills, including fracture management, splinting techniques, X-ray interpretation, and wound care. To date, a total of 91 healthcare workers and 21 traditional bonesetters have been trained through this programme.

Supported by: Shirati KMT Hospital, Stichting Shirati, Bunda District Designated Hospital, Bugando Medical Centre, AO Alliance, Global Surgery Amsterdam, The Global Surgery Foundation, Delft Imaging, and BCorp.



## Dr Wouter Run 2025

On 19 December, the annual Dr Wouter Run, a 10 km charity race, was organized by the Wouter Nolet Foundation and Masanga Hospital in Sierra Leone. The event brought the entire Masanga community together to run in memory of Dr Wouter and to raise essential funds for the hospital.

The strong turnout was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through collaboration and community spirit. Funds raised will support Masanga Hospital's running costs, including staff salaries, essential medicines, and patient care.

Congratulations to all race winners, who received prizes on the day. And a sincere thank you to everyone involved—runners, organizers, volunteers, and supporters of Masanga Hospital—for making this event such a success.





### Malawi Surgical Oncology Summer School 4th edition

This week, the fourth Malawi Surgical Oncology Summer School has started, training the next generation of Malawian surgeons and gynaecologists in the fundamentals of surgical oncology. For the first time, clinical officers were also participating, helping to build a stronger national network for consultation and referral. The programme reflects a strong collaboration across institutions and borders, supporting sustainable improvements in surgical cancer care.





## Surgical Oncology module in Liberia

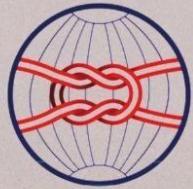
At JFK Hospital in Monrovia, the NVvH collaborated with Liberian surgeons and CapaCare through a focused Surgical Oncology module, together with Marije Gourdinou de Gouberville and Tom Gresnigt.

With nearly all Liberian surgical residents participating (two were on rural rotation), the module offered an in-depth introduction to key principles of surgical oncology. The aim is clear: to strengthen local expertise and inspire the next generation of Liberian surgeons to further develop this emerging subspecialty.

We are grateful to Trésor Mabanza for the collaboration, and to Juul Bakker and Theophilus Hampaye for their support. Special thanks to the NVvH for fostering this sustainable partnership with our Liberian colleagues.



# 5 WAYS TO SUPPORT GLOBAL SURGERY



## GET SMART



Talk to experts, listen to a podcast, join a journal club, read a book or an article. There are many ways to learn about global surgery!

## SHARE

Whether you're sharing a post or telling a friend about the importance of safe and affordable surgical care, sharing is caring!



## DONATE

Donate your time, donate your money, or donate supplies in accordance with WHO guidelines and local need



## ADVOCATE

Investing in global surgery is investing in independent, resilient health care systems.

Remind your governments and representatives that health care is the basis for a dignified human life and a strong community.



## COLLABORATE

Connect with passionate contributors and colleagues to explore how you could work together to improve safe and affordable access to surgery. Together, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.



globalsurgery\_germany



[www.globalsurgery-germany.de](http://www.globalsurgery-germany.de)

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Basics of Burn Care

Find your course in the list below. If you have been invited to join a course, you can register on the course page with your personal registration code.

COURSE | Burn Care

February 7, 2026



**Central Park Utrecht**

Provided by Interplast Holland & Global Surgery Amsterdam

COURSE | Burn Care

April 21-22, 2026



**Kumi, Uganda**

Provided by Kumi Hospital with the support of Interplast Holland & Global Surgery Amsterdam

## Basics of Open Fractures

Find your course in the list below. If you have been invited to join a course, you can register on the course page with your personal registration code.

COURSE | Open Fractures

February 13, 2026



**Amsterdam Skills Centre**

Provided by NSIS & Global Surgery Amsterdam

# Basics of Local Flaps

The 'Back to Basics course' about the essential in local flap surgery.

Find your course in the list below. If you have been invited to join a course, you can register on the course page with your personal registration code.

**COURSE | Local Flaps** **February 27, 2026**

**Back to Basics Flap Course**  
- The Essentials in Local Flap Surgery -



**Amsterdam Skills Centre**  
Provided by Amsterdam UMC

## Next Global Surgery Network Congress 2026 Tanzania



Prof. Akoko



Dr. Njambilo



Sr. Dr. Deogratius



Dr. Hillner





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From left to right: Charissa Rahmee, Rinse Meester, Matthijs Botman, Jurre van Kesteren, Ellen Reuling, Eva Stortelder, Marije Gordinou de Gouberville, Inne Borel Rinkes, Peter Reemst, Pieter Haasnoot, Roeland Voorhoeve, Hanna Hazenberg, Jonathan Vas Nunes



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