

MUSC GLOBAL SURGERY PROGRAM



Progress Report
2024 - 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Two years ago, the MUSC Global Surgery Program was born with a bold mission: to transform how healthcare professionals, trainees, and communities engage with surgical care around the world. Our vision was rooted in bidirectionality—a commitment to not just giving, but learning and growing through mutual exchange.

What began with a handful of committed students has become one of the most dynamic global surgery programs in the country. In 2024 alone, we achieved significant milestones: expansion across specialties, ACGME-approved international rotations, and national recognition for innovation, education, and collaboration.

We hosted global icons like Dr. John Tarpley and Dr. Jim Brown, published numerous academic works, developed low-cost surgical tools through the Zucker Institute, and helped launch new international surgical education partnerships. These accomplishments reflect our collective commitment to improving surgical access worldwide.

In 2025, we look forward to doubling our rotations and expanding our influence. This program has grown beyond what anyone imagined, and now we must build sustainable infrastructure to meet the demand.

Sincerely,



Mike M. Mallah, M.D., FACS, FICS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Trauma/Acute Care Surgeon
Director, Global Surgery Program
Department of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina



Ramin Eskandari, M.D., MS, FAANS
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery
Associate Director of Global Surgery Program
Surgical Director, Pediatric Neuroscience Institute
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Departments of Neurosurgery, Surgery, and Pediatrics



*Mike M. Mallah, M.D.
Program Director*



*Ramin Eskandari, M.D.
Associate Program Director*

MISSION | VISION | VALUES

OUR MISSION

To empower the delivery of the highest quality global surgical care through equitable, bidirectional collaboration in education, clinical care, and innovation.

OUR VISION

To improve access to safe, cost-effective surgical care globally through immersive education and sustainable partnerships.

OUR VALUES

Compassion
Integrity
Innovation
Education
Collaboration

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mike M. Mallah, M.D., FACS, FICS – *Program Director, Global Surgery; Assistant Professor of Surgery*

Mike M. Mallah, M.D., is a double-board certified fellowship-trained trauma and acute care surgeon as well as a surgical critical care intensivist in Charleston, South Carolina. He has traveled to 60 countries and operated on five continents in low resource settings and conflict zones with the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and other smaller NGOs. Not only did this work expose him to pathology and surgical techniques not often seen or practiced in the United States, but it also allowed him to gain an understanding about barriers and lack of access to safe surgical and anesthesia care. He is Chair of the Global Surgery Committee, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, is an Examiner for the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa, and serves on a committee for the Association of Academic Global Surgery.

Ramin Eskandari, M.D., MS, FAANS – *Associate Program Director, Global Surgery; Surgical Director of Pediatric Neuroscience Institute; Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery*

Ramin Eskandari, M.D., is a highly regarded pediatric neurosurgeon known for his expertise in the field. He is involved in various aspects of pediatric neurosurgery, including the management of complex neurological conditions in children. His work spans clinical practice, research, and education, contributing significantly to advancements in pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Eskandari has been involved in the development and support of a Pediatric Neuroscience Institute, the Pediatric Brain Injury and Hydrocephalus Research Laboratory, and the state's first and only Pediatric CNS Biorepository. In addition to his clinical and research endeavors, Dr. Eskandari is committed to educating and training the next generation of neurosurgeons. Dr. Eskandari has brought novel minimally invasive procedures to the MUSC Pediatric Neurosurgery Division through Global Neurosurgical exchanges and education-based mission trips. He is dedicated to ensuring the continued growth and excellence in pediatric neurosurgery at MUSC and globally.

Participating Departments

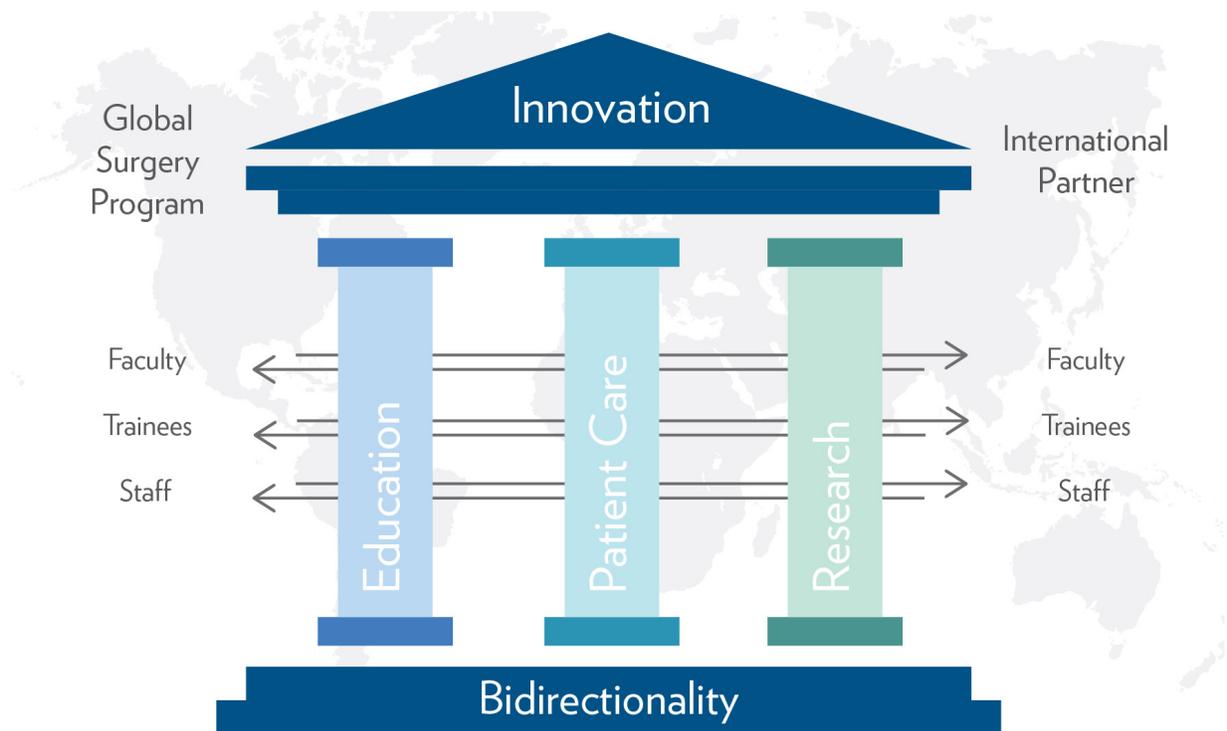
General Surgery | Pediatric Neurosurgery | Orthopedics
Anesthesia | Urology | Emergency Medicine

INNOVATION | IMPACT | INFLUENCE

The MUSC Global Surgery Program is one of the few global surgery programs in the country that is built on the ethos of bidirectionality. This novel program leverages global relationships to create bidirectional clinical education, research, and innovation opportunities that improve care of the surgical patients in low- and middle-income countries and developed nations alike.

In doing so, it aims to be the premier international partner for academic surgical institutions worldwide. Combining these pillars of patient care, education, and research, we can connect the best global minds from the developing world with the experience, resources, and proven excellence at MUSC, inevitably leading to innovation.

THE THREE PILLARS OF THE GLOBAL SURGERY PROGRAM



Making a Difference

Mike M. Mallah, M.D., Named Fellow of the ICS



Mike M. Mallah, M.D., is widely regarded as an expert and a national leader in the field of global surgery. In 2025, he was honored with the induction as a Fellow into the International College of Surgeons (ICS), a global organization dedicated to bringing together surgeons and surgical specialists of all nations and peoples together to build a force for International understanding, good will and peaceful development of the art and science of surgery. The College has members in over 100 countries, with more than 85% of its membership outside of the United States, including the ICS African Federation, the Asian Federation, the European Federation, the Latin American Federation, the North American Federation, and the Pacific Federation.

Highlights from FY25

- Over 150 medical students engaged
- More than 40 active students working with the Global Surgery Program
- 15 trainees traveled to international locations
- ACGME-approved rotation site in South Africa
- Pending ACGME/ABS approval for rotation in Ecuador
- Over 25 faculty members from more than 10 specialties engaged
- 8 manuscripts submitted for publication
- 5 international book chapters published (2 more in progress)
- Hosted three international students in the MUSC surgical department
- Zucker Institute innovation: Low-cost laparoscope developed for low-resource settings (pending patent)
- MUSC President's Value in Action Award for Collaboration (2023)
- Featured on Counton2 News, EAST Traumacast, and MUSC White Coat Ceremony
- Presented at SC ACS, World Trauma Congress, and multiple national Grand Rounds
- Hosted ACS Humanitarian Surgeon of the Year Dr. Jim Brown and ACS Icon of Surgery Dr. John Tarpley



GLOBAL SURGERY FY25 GROWTH

- GLOBAL ACGME/ABS APPROVED ROTATION SITE IN SOUTH AFRICA
- SURGERY ROTATION EXPANDED
- EIGHT RESIDENTS ROTATED IN SOUTH AFRICA
- OVER 150 MEDICAL STUDENTS ENGAGED
- 15 TRAINEES IN INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that global surgery aims to address the lack of access to safe and affordable surgical care for billions of people worldwide, particularly in low- and middle-income countries?

The enthusiasm for MUSC global surgery opportunities is growing and it's only the beginning. To be a part of our effort to create more opportunities for the next generation of global surgeons, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/muscglobalsurgery>



RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

MUSC faculty and trainees collaborated with the Zucker Institute for Innovation to design a low-cost laparoscope specifically for use in low-resource environments. The device, created by a multidisciplinary team, is being submitted for patent protection. It represents MUSC's commitment to not just exporting knowledge but co-developing tools that advance global surgical equity. This project is a hallmark of our bidirectional model: pairing MUSC's engineering expertise with international partner feedback to create real-world solutions.

2024-25 PRESENTATIONS AND GLOBAL TALKS

- International College of Surgeons US Section 2025: Lauren Cox (M2) presented 'A Comprehensive Review of Global Surgery Programs Across the US'
- Global Health Week: Mike Deal, M.D., PGY-2, and medical students Shannon Rychener, Shriya Bhoothapuri and Graham Caulk presented their research
- McKay Meyers presented at the Surgical Infection Society national meeting in Miami, FL
- Mike M. Mallah, M.D., presented at the ICS - US Chapter, the Phoenix Surgical Society Conference and co-presented with Ramin Eskandari, M.D., at the MUSC Neurosurgery Grand Rounds

2024-25 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Lauren Cox (M2) awarded 3rd place; International College of Surgeons U.S. Section 2025 Research Scholarship Competition
- Stephany Kim, M.D., PGY-2 awarded MUSC Center for Global Health Travel Scholarship
- Shannon Rychener (M2) accepted into the International Team for the International Student Surgical Network (InciSioN) – One of the largest medical and nursing student organizations globally.

2024-25 PUBLICATIONS

- *World Journal of Surgery* Surgical training trends in the Americas: A cross-continental assessment of minimally invasive surgery and open surgery among surgical trainees
- *Surgery Open Science* Early use of professional interpreters improves trauma outcomes
- *Neurosurgery* International Observerships in Global Neurosurgery: Overview and Analysis of a 40-Year Experience at Barrow Neurological Institute

JOIN US!

GET INVOLVED | MAKE AN IMPACT

The MUSC Global Surgery Program is experiencing rapid and exciting growth, with new opportunities and partnerships emerging at an unprecedented pace.

As we scale, we remain committed to building a strong foundation that allows us to meet the evolving demands of global surgery while sustaining the program's long-term growth and impact.

To ensure the continued success and impact of the program, it is crucial that we secure sustainable support. This will enable us to maintain the quality of our initiatives, expand our reach, and create lasting, meaningful change in global healthcare.

To meet demand and sustain this momentum, the MUSC Global Surgery Program urgently needs:

- Dedicated Global Surgery Program Coordinator
- Funding for faculty and resident bidirectional travel
- Support for innovation development and global partnerships

We welcome your partnership in any form—attending events, contributing time or resources, or helping us connect with other change-makers.

For more information on how you can partner with us, please contact Heather Parrish, MUSC Development Director, at parrishh@musc.edu or 843-792-4342.

LEARN MORE

Visit our website: musc.edu/surgery/global-surgery-program

Watch our video: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/947491523>

Recent News: [MUSC Global Surgery Program expands, paves way for transformative change](#)

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/muscglobalsurg>

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The MUSC Global Surgery Program

<https://musc.edu/surgery>

