

G4 alliance formally launched

On the 19th May 2015 the G4 Alliance (The Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia care), was formally launched in Geneva, Switzerland. This launch was held a just prior to presentation of the resolution for “Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health care” to the 68th World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland.

The launch was attended by Professor Pankaj Jani and Professor Stephen Ogendo of the department of surgery, both board members. It is planned that later on in the year other regional launches shall take place. In Africa this is scheduled for Malawi in December 2015

The G4 is committed to advocating for the neglected surgical patient and providing a unified voice aimed at increasing access to safe, essential and timely surgery worldwide.

It is the hope that by 2030 as a result of concerted efforts of the G4 and other stakeholders the world will see the end of the neglected surgical patient.

Recent key events that acknowledge the importance of surgery in the public health fora are;

- WHO initiative on emergency and essential surgical care (2004).
- Formation of the Bellagio Essential surgery group (2007)
- “Right to heal”, first global surgery advocacy documentary premiered (2013)
- Surgical organisations demand WHO update 100 core health indicators to include surgical care (2014).
- G4 inaugural meeting (2014).
- Zambia places before the UN a resolution on essential surgery that is adopted by the WHO executive board.
- Other milestones include the inclusion of surgery in the United Nations post 2015 MDG and the Amsterdam declaration (supporting inclusion of safe surgery in the global public health forum) amongst.