

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2nd
CHANCE



EDITORIAL

After a second year marked by lockdowns and border restrictions, the development of local medical skills is an obvious priority. In the vast majority of cases, our African colleagues could only rely on themselves to take care of their patients.

Although 2nd Chance hosted webinars on reconstructive surgery techniques and an anaesthesia staff advisory platform in the management of the most severe COVID-19 cases, nothing can replace clinical experience and access to patients who need surgical treatment. Since June 2021, we have made every effort to be back on the ground while other participants remained very much under limitations.

The pandemic has nevertheless made the logistics and coordination of programs more cumbersome, due to restrictions, vaccines, tests and border controls, and has demanded great flexibility from the training and participating teams, both local and international. Our donors have shown understanding. We were able to count on committed and resilient partners to relaunch our activities in the field.

The optimism and enthusiasm of the last quarter of 2021, despite the almost complete resumption of operational activities, remain fragile. Experience has shown us that things move quickly both ways, and it has taught us to keep very responsive, imaginative and flexible.



RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
FOR LIFE RECONSTRUCTION

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Three one-week training courses were organized in 2021. This training was focused on the overall care of patients with the development of surgical, anesthetic and nursing skills.

The patients treated were mainly women and children suffering from the after-effects of burns, and they benefited from quality care during our assignments. The future of the patients, their return to normal life and their social reintegration were at the heart of our concerns, along with the systematic organization of long-term follow-up in collaboration with families and local teams.

The results in 2020-2021 were overall very good and will be the subject of scientific publications.

- Our colleagues from TUMBI Referral Hospital (Tanzania) hosted two courses under the aegis of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and South Africa (COSECSA), from June 7 to 11 and from October 11 to 15, 2021. Twenty-nine (29) surgeons coming from 11 countries in the region, including 12 women, participated in our training programs, during which **64 patients, including 31 children, were operated on.**
- After 20 months of patience we were finally able to organise **the first course in reconstructive surgery** in ENUGU National Orthopedic Hospital (Nigeria) under the patronage of the West African College of Surgeons (COAC). This bilingual course (French - English) brought together 10 surgeons from 6 different countries, including one woman.
- The pandemic having limited us in the organisation of a first basic course in OSHAKATI (Namibia) which had been scheduled for early September 2021, we took the opportunity to conduct an assessment mission and meet the organizers of the event, now postponed to 2022. On this occasion, the first two Namibian surgeons were invited to follow the training program in Tanzania.



These assignments were carried out with the support of African trainers, such as Dr Edward WAYI (Tanzania), Dr Wone Banda (Malawi), Dr Tingadini NYONI (Zimbabwe), Dr Paa HOYTE-WILLIAMS (Ghana) as well as Dr Fikru DELESA (Ethiopia) and Dr Lydia YONAEL (Ethiopia). The establishment of a pool of African trainers is a big step forward for the future of this specialty in the regions concerned.

During these assignments we were able to talk to representatives of regional colleagues who are our partners. Mme Stella Itungi (CEO of COSECSA) and Dr Emmanuel R. Ezeome (Vice-President of COAC) both reiterated their support for the activities of the Association. The University of Dakar has announced the opening of a Higher Diploma (DES) in reconstructive surgery under the supervision of Prof Anne-Aurore SANKALE with the support of COAC and 2nd Chance. A record number of 10 applicants have come forward and passed the COSECSA exam finals specialising in reconstructive surgery, which were held in Harare, Zimbabwe. 2nd Chance awarded a scholarship to Dr Medhanit DEMEKE (Ethiopia), Amanuel TEBIKEW (Ethiopia) and Abebe SAKETTA (Ethiopia) who are now full members of COSECSA like their colleagues from Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The Association has now for the second year participated as an expert examiner during these exam sessions.



THE “GOITRE” PROJECT IN EASTERN CONGO (DRC) AND BURUNDI

The background of the 2020-2021 pandemic has forced the Association to seize opportunities to enable us to continue teaching thyroid surgery in the Great Lakes region. The timetables have been adapted so as not to lose any opportunity to carry out assignments when health and political circumstances allow it.

It is in this context that the Nebobongo missions led by Dr Benjamin GOLD and his team were carried out in April and November 2021, thanks to a calm health and security situation, while Burundi remained inaccessible. These assignments were carried out in a region at a distance from the initial project, but allowed a surgeon from Kisangani to attend the training. As with reconstructive surgery, these missions provide an opportunity to strengthen the skills of the anaesthesia teams. We have also included the development of cervical ultrasound skills, thus refining the process of diagnosing and monitoring patients.

In November 2021, after several months of waiting, we have finally been able to start the extension of the program, at the Kamenge University Hospital Centre, in Bujumbura, through the help of Dr Léonard BIVAHAGUMYE.

Dr Matthieu POUSSIER's team was thus able to supervise the start of the training of 4 Burundian surgeons. We combined with this mission Dr Silas MSANGI, who is our partner at Tumbi Hospital in Tanzania.

Our anaesthesia colleagues also contributed to a half-day of training, at the request of the LifeBox Foundation, for 21 anaesthesia nurses from the Agora Association of Technicians, Senior Anesthetists, and Resuscitators, for the Promotion of Health in Burundi (ATSARPS). Cooperation with the LifeBox Foundation enables us to incorporate the use of pulse oximeters and the WHO safety list in this period of COVID-19.

A total of 41 patients, the majority of whom were women, were operated on and 11 surgeons as well as 9 anaesthesia nurses were able to consolidate their training in the care of giant goitres.



THE “WOMAN” PROJECT IN ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA

The missions planned in Ethiopia and Tanzania had to be postponed due to the lockdown of the training teams. The resumption of the program scheduled for this year in Metu in Ethiopia suffered delays caused by the very difficult security situation in several regions of the country. However, we remain very motivated in our desire to resume a training program as soon as possible in the treatment of rectovaginal fistulas, for which the demand is great.

THE “ANAESTHESIA” PROJECT

As part of the perioperative safety project, 18 nursing anaesthetists participated in a 3rd anaesthesia workshop in Tumbi, Tanzania. Overall skills have thus significantly increased in the field of prevention, anticipation and management of serious perioperative problems. Post-operative analgesia is now a recognized and treated problem. The use of the WHO Checklist is a routine part of the procedure.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The year 2021 was also an opportunity to strengthen the Association's support for the development of academic activities. During our training courses in reconstructive surgery, we introduced a symposium during which all participants have to present a clinical case or an original study in 180 seconds. This exercise trains surgeons to present their practice in a concise, precise and intelligible way (53 presentations). The three winners of our competitions (Rwanda, Ethiopia and Nigeria) received a scholarship of 1000 Swiss Francs, and will go to present their work at a scientific conference in the region.

2nd Chance also continued its commitment and collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva by once again providing an afternoon of training as part of the Humanitarian Medicine course, as well as by supervising the research of 11 students in medicine,

for immersion work in community medicine, Master's work, and doctoral theses.

Their work allows us to go deeper into crucial questions, such as that of the social reintegration of patients after their reconstructive surgery operations, the monitoring of the results of operations, the risks associated with anaesthesia, and the impact of thyroid goitre surgery in rural areas.

On May 5, 2021, the Swiss Medical Review published an article on the "2nd Chance" model for reconstructive surgery training in Sub-Saharan Africa. We also got closer to the Swiss Foundation for Innovation and Surgery Training (SFIST) with which we have developed the English version of a Basic Suturing Course available online for medical students in Geneva, Switzerland, and now Africa.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT FINANCES



Restrictions regarding the organisation of charity events forced us to cancel arranging our anniversary evening to celebrate the Association's 10th anniversary. We will carry forward our desire to meet you for our 15th anniversary in a few years' time.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

However, we would particularly like to register our thanks for their financial support:

**The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations - The City of Geneva - The City of Onex
The Geneva University Hospital (HUG) - The Beaulieu Medical Cooperative Society (SCMB)
The Foundation for Anesthesiology and Resuscitation - The Migros Foundation
The Coromandel Foundation - The towns of Anières and Bellevue
other private Fondations**

And all the private donors and relatives who have continued to support us.



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