



Meeting of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery held



The 3rd meeting of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) was conducted at the Centre for Stem Cell Research in College Campus, on the 12th and 13th of January 2018. The meeting focused on surgically avertable deaths and disability among children, especially in low and middle-income countries, through early intervention, local empowerment, training, research, networking, and advocacy for national surgical policies.

Paediatric surgical professionals and agencies from all over the world came together to discuss the current status of global paediatric surgery and develop an 'Optimal Resource document for Children's Surgery' (OReCS) and create global consensus on essential surgical care for children, for all levels of healthcare in low-resource settings. Children's surgeons, anaesthetists, allied health professionals and international



organisations came together to network and form working partnerships aimed at improving access to safe, affordable children's surgery in deprived settings.

GICS III, organised under the leadership of Professor Vrisha Madhuri, Head of Pediatric Orthopaedics, and Professor Kokila Lakhoo, Chair-elect, GICS, was successful in laying down a road map for the implementation of Optimal Resources, recommendations for National Surgical Plans incorporating children's surgery, geospatial mapping of access to children's surgery, and global research collaborations for neonatal and children's surgery. The workshops conducted focused on establishing bellwether procedures for neonatal and children's surgery, on research and on children's surgical specialities.

The international organisations represented included the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), the Alliance for Surgery and Anaesthesia Presence (ASAP), and the World Federation of Paediatric Imaging (WFPI).

Several funding and infrastructure development agencies such as KidsOR, Medical Aid International, Intersurgeon, Smile Train, Lifebox, International Quality Improvement Collaborative for Congenital Heart Disease, Children's Heartlink and CDH International, among others, were also present.