

Bridging the Surgical Access Gap in LMICs: Military Innovation, Global Health Policy, and the role of Robotic Surgery

Moderators – Global Surgery / Robotic Surgery Leader / ??

Introduction: Introduces the global surgical access gap and frames the discussion around how military innovation, global health policy, and robotic technologies can converge to expand safe surgical care in low-resource environments.

1) Global Health Policy and Equity in Surgical Access

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Surgery Representative *Louise or Martin*
Description: Reviews global surgical access challenges in LMICs, current policy initiatives, and how digital health, tele-mentoring, and emerging surgical technologies may support scalable and equitable care delivery.

2) Operational Innovation: Military Medicine Lessons for Global Surgery

NATO / Military Operational Medicine Expert *COL Christophe Albert*
Description: Presents lessons learned from austere and distributed military medical operations, highlighting telemedicine, remote surgical support, and technology-enabled care models applicable to civilian and LMIC settings.

3) Frontline Perspective: Delivering Surgery in LMIC Environments

LMIC Surgeon / Regional Surgical Society Leader *TBD*
Description: Provides practical insight into real-world barriers to surgical access—including infrastructure, workforce, training, and sustainability—and identifies requirements for successful adoption of advanced technologies.

4) Robotic Surgery Innovation and Future Directions

Academic Robotic Surgeon / Surgical Technology Innovator *Vip Patel*
Explores current robotic surgery capabilities, emerging tele-robotic applications, and pathways toward lower-cost, scalable platforms designed for broader global implementation.

5) Implementation and Partnership Models

A) Global Health NGO / Academic Implementation Specialist *TBD*
Discusses sustainable deployment strategies, cross-sector partnerships, training ecosystems, and implementation frameworks that support long-term success in LMIC surgical programs.

B) Industry & Innovation Perspective *Catherine Mohr*
Scaling Robotic Surgery for Global Access

Addresses how robotic surgery innovation can move beyond high-resource academic centers toward broader global impact, including LMIC and austere care environments.

6) Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A

All Panelists - Interactive discussion focused on defining practical, collaborative pathways to close the global surgical access gap through innovation, policy alignment, and technology-enabled care.