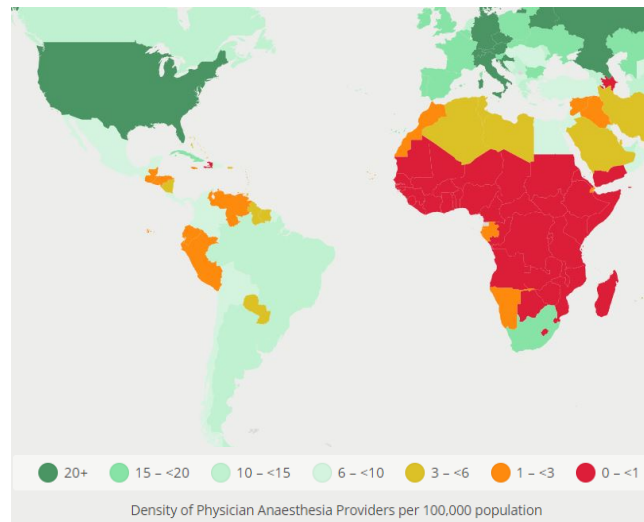


WFSA 2021 World Congress of Anesthesia - Global Anesthesia Village

Volunteer Opportunity: Physicians for Peace - Anesthesia Training Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre, Malawi

The anesthesia workforce crisis across sub-Saharan Africa is well known to those familiar with global health. In Malawi, there are only six practicing physician anesthesiologists, working in concert with anesthesia clinical officers to serve a population of more than 19 million.



<https://wfsahq.org/resources/workforce-map/>

To help address this shortage, the regional professional society, the College of Anaesthesiologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (CANECSA), created a new anesthesia training curriculum with regional collaboration, standardized examinations, and formal accreditation. Malawi was one of three countries accredited for the launch of this new curriculum, with the first candidates starting their training in January of 2021. This CANECSA training augments the national MMED training offered through the medical university.

Physicians for Peace (PFP), a US-based non-profit dedicated to advancing global surgical care through education and training partnerships, is honored to support anesthesia training in Malawi.

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Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre, Malawi

Since 2010, PFP has engaged in a collaborative partnership with Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) in Blantyre, the main teaching hospital for the country's only medical school – the College of Medicine of Malawi, to provide a range of education and training for the full complement of professionals comprising the surgical team, inclusive of physicians, non-physician medical providers (clinical officers), nurses, physician trainees (registrars) and medical students.



Our International Medical Educators (IMEs) serve as visiting faculty members, supporting a locally defined curricula and augmenting local faculty. PFP was initially invited to partner at QECH in the training of general surgeons and has continued to support this endeavor for more than ten years. Subsequently, PFP has contributed to the multidisciplinary training and logistics



and strategy collaboration central to the successful launch and growth of the Mercy James Centre for Pediatric Surgery and Intensive Care, the first pediatric intensive care facility in the country, which has more than doubled the capacity for pediatric surgical care and elevated the acuity of cases able to be successfully undertaken.

To date, our training initiatives have spanned surgery, intensive care, nursing, and support for non-physician anesthesia providers, known as anesthesia clinical officers. A

comprehensive, systems strengthening approach is taken, encompassing support for the surgical team, function and supply of the operating theatre, initiatives to improve pre- and post-operative care, and supporting the fuller system of care, starting from a patient's initial presentation at the district hospital.

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From a surgical perspective, the hospital provides operations for on average 900 patients per month, ~50% of which are obstetric; most of the surgical cases are emergencies or urgent cases. The facilities include 22 operating rooms, a 4-bed adult Intensive Care Unit and a 6-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The Department of Surgery is large and includes general surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatric surgery, plastic surgery, neurosurgery, ENT, and ophthalmology.



When travel is able to resume post-COVID 19, **we invite accredited anesthesiologists to be considered for posts as visiting faculty at QECH** to provide expert clinical supervision, mentoring and active teaching in the ICU and OR settings, as well as contributing to regularly scheduled teaching conferences.

Ideal length of post is 3 months, though shorter durations of 6 weeks or more may be possible.

Opportunities to support training remotely are available now, through Zoom-facilitated weekly teaching conferences. Participation in remote conferences is encouraged for all who would consider an on-site visit in the future.

Additional opportunities to support anesthesia training may exist for those interested in supporting research and publications and leadership training, which may also be possible remotely.

Interested fully accredited anesthesiologists with LMIC experience and a strong clinical educational background should contact Leslie Toledo (ltoledo@physiciansforpeace.org) for additional information. Prior global experience and familiarity with the conditions and resource limitations typical in LMIC setting is strongly recommended. PFP provides housing and travel for qualified volunteer educators.