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Meet the Travel Scholars



International Surgical Week ISW 2026 April



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The World's Congress of Surgery 51st World Congress of the International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC
19 - 23 April 2026 Mexico City, Mexico Jointly organized with the 34th International Congress of the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery



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Travel Scholar is a student or early-career professional who is awarded funding to attend the International Surgical Week ISW 2026.

This opportunity enables young professionals to reach the world, share their work, expand their knowledge, and connect with experts from across the globe.

Travel Scholars receive financial support to help cover expenses related to ISW 2026. In return, they actively contribute to the congress by presenting research, engaging in discussions, and participating in educational sessions.

This experience not only supports professional development but also fosters global collaboration, cultural exchange, and innovation across disciplines.

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Meet our Travel Scholars

In no particular order, we proudly showcase each scholar through a short biography and photo, celebrating their dedication, achievements, and future contributions to surgery worldwide.



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Alazar Berhe Aregawi (Ethiopia)

is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Hawassa University and an active clinician, educator, and researcher. He leads multiple international collaborative research projects and contributes extensively to global surgery and surgical outcomes research. With a strong interest in gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery, he is committed to advancing surgical care, education, and research in Ethiopia and beyond.



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Sofia Bertona (Argentina)

is a General Surgery resident at Hospital Alemán in Buenos Aires with a strong academic and clinical interest in gastrointestinal and minimally invasive surgery. She has completed international observerships in thoracic, robotic, and advanced surgical techniques in the United States and is actively involved in research, with multiple publications and presentations at national and international congresses. She is committed to advancing surgical innovation, education, and patient care.



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Bokalli Francois Adrien Morel (Cameroon/ Kenya)

is a General Surgery resident at the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta National Hospital. With a strong interest in evidence-based medicine and global surgery, he combines clinical training with active research, contributing to multiple publications in surgical and infectious diseases. He is committed to delivering high-quality patient care and advancing surgical practice through teamwork, research, and continuous learning.



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Fenni Megameno Iyambo (Namibia)

is a Specialist Anaesthetist with expertise in anaesthesia, critical care, and pain management. Trained at the University of Namibia, she has extensive experience across district and tertiary hospitals, providing care for a wide range of surgical patients. Actively involved in teaching and clinical supervision, she is committed to improving patient safety, advancing perioperative care, and strengthening healthcare systems.



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Saurabh Maurya (India)

is a General Surgery resident at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, with broad experience in open and minimally invasive procedures. Actively engaged in research and academic activities, his work focuses on quality of life outcomes in hernia surgery. With a strong interest in minimally invasive and robotic surgery, he is committed to advancing surgical practice through education, collaboration, and innovation.



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Tjamena Lucky Simeon Murangi (Namibia/ South Africa)

is a General Surgery registrar at Tygerberg Hospital and Stellenbosch University with a strong focus on trauma, critical care, and surgical education. A member of COSECSA and recipient of multiple academic distinctions, he has extensive experience in clinical practice and national surgical outreach programs. He is committed to advancing surgical training and improving access to high-quality surgical care across the region.



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Shuvaraj Pokharel (Nepal)

is a Lecturer in Surgery at Patan Academy of Health Sciences with a strong commitment to clinical care, teaching, and research. Trained at JIPMER, India, he has a particular interest in gastrointestinal oncology and minimally invasive surgery. Actively involved in academic development and global health initiatives, he is dedicated to advancing surgical education and evidence-based practice.



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Riyaz Shrestha (Nepal)

is a Consultant General Surgeon at Geta Hospital with a strong background in clinical care, teaching, and research. Trained at Patan Academy of Health Sciences, he has contributed to multiple publications and previously served as a surgical tutor at Dhulikhel Hospital. With active involvement in professional societies and community initiatives, he is committed to advancing surgical practice, education, and patient care.



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Yves Joel Tochie Noutakdie (Cameroon)

is a Consultant Anesthesiologist and Critical Care Physician with extensive experience in clinical care, teaching, and research in resource-limited settings. He currently serves in leadership roles in anesthesiology and intensive care while contributing to academic training as an assistant lecturer. With a strong focus on evidence-based practice and patient safety, he is dedicated to improving perioperative outcomes through research, innovation, and education.



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Chisom Rachel Udeigwe-Okeke (Nigeria)

is a Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the National Hospital Abuja with over a decade of experience in clinical care, teaching, and research. A Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons and award-winning specialist, she is actively involved in global surgery initiatives and surgical education across Africa. She is dedicated to improving paediatric surgical outcomes through innovation, collaboration, and capacity building.



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Tesema Hailemariam Getachew (Ethiopia/ Sierra Leone)

is an Anesthetist and Lecturer in Anesthesiology with extensive experience in perioperative care, research, and academic leadership. Working across Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, he is actively involved in clinical care, training, and global health initiatives aimed at strengthening anesthesia and surgical systems in resource-limited settings. He is committed to advancing patient safety, education, and equitable access to highquality perioperative care.



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Krishna Kumar (India)

is an Assistant Professor of General Surgery with over seven years of experience in trauma, emergency, and general surgical care. With a strong background in both academic and clinical practice at institutions including AIIMS Bhopal, he has expertise in trauma management, surgical critical care, and laparoscopic procedures. He is committed to advancing surgical education, emergency care, and patient outcomes.



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Jane Chuah Wai Yee (Malaysia)

is a Specialist General Surgeon at Hospital Queen Elizabeth with a strong interest in upper gastrointestinal, trauma, and vascular surgery. Trained at the National University of Malaysia and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland), she combines broad clinical experience with active involvement in surgical education and professional societies. She is committed to advancing surgical care through collaboration, training, and continuous professional development.



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Adedayo Lawal (Nigeria)

is a Senior Registrar in General Surgery at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex with strong expertise in emergency and elective surgical care. Actively involved in research, audit, and surgical education, he has contributed to major international collaborative studies and is passionate about surgical oncology and minimally invasive surgery. He is committed to improving patient safety, advancing clinical outcomes, and mentoring the next generation of surgeons.



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Yoseph Solomon Bezabih (Ethiopia)

is a General Surgeon with extensive experience in clinical care, teaching, and research. A fellow of COSECSA, he has contributed to multiple international studies and publications, with a strong focus on hepatopancreatobiliary surgery and global surgery initiatives. He is actively involved in surgical education, multidisciplinary care development, and improving outcomes in resource-limited settings.



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Bárbara Sofía Carreño Manríquez (Chile)

is a General Surgeon and Assistant Professor with a strong focus on gastrointestinal and bariatric surgery. A top graduate from the University of Chile, she combines clinical excellence with active research and teaching, contributing to multiple publications and academic programs. She is committed to advancing surgical education, innovation, and evidence-based practice in Latin America and beyond.



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Garvit Garg (India)

is a final-year General Surgery postgraduate trainee at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, with a strong focus on breast and endocrine surgery. Actively involved in research and academic activities, his work centers on cost-effective innovations and improving surgical oncology outcomes in resource-limited settings. He is committed to advancing minimally invasive techniques, global surgery equity, and evidence-based patient care.



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Sejal Grover (India)

is a General Surgery resident at Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Mumbai, with a strong academic record and international exposure. She has demonstrated excellence in research, leadership, and surgical training, with achievements including MRCS Part A and multiple awards at national and international conferences. With a keen interest in surgical oncology and global health, she is committed to advancing patient care, education, and community impact.



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Aditi Tiwari (India)

is a General Surgery postgraduate trainee at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, with an outstanding academic record, including multiple gold medals during her MBBS. Actively engaged in research and surgical oncology, her work explores quality-of-life outcomes in breast cancer survivors. An award-winning presenter at national conferences, she is committed to advancing patient-centered care, research, and innovation in surgery.



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Bharath Shivalingaiah (India)

is a surgical trainee currently pursuing an MCh in Breast and Endocrine Surgery, with prior qualifications including MS and DNB in General Surgery and an MBBS (first class). He has broad clinical experience as a Junior and Senior Resident across multiple institutions in India, with exposure to a wide range of surgical procedures, particularly in endocrine and minimally invasive surgery. He is also engaged in academic activities and has a strong interest in teaching, research, and healthcare innovation.



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Amir H. Sohail (USA)

Amir H. Sohail is a surgeon and academic with international training in medicine, global health, and health policy (Aga Khan University, Oxford, LSE, LSHTM). He completed surgical and oncology training in the US and UK, and his work focuses on healthcare disparities and global health systems. He has over 200 publications in leading journals and has held research roles at institutions such as Oxford, Imperial College, and the WHO. He is also a recipient of several prestigious fellowships.



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Dr. Joanneke Maitz (Australia)

is a burns and reconstructive surgeon based in Australia, trained at the University of Sydney and the Vrije University of Amsterdam. She works clinically in burns surgery while also serving as a Senior Lecturer and research lead in tissue engineering and wound healing. Her career combines surgical practice, academic research, and innovation in medical devices and regenerative medicine.



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Dr. Dhruvesh Ramson (NZ)

is a General Surgery Registrar and Captain in the New Zealand Army, with a focus on trauma and military surgery. Trained at Monash University and the University of Auckland, he combines clinical practice with academic roles as a Senior Lecturer and Adjunct Research Fellow. His research centres on combat casualty care and perioperative outcomes, with an extensive publication record and active involvement in surgical education and research leadership.



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Dr. Hidetaka Watanabe (Japan)

is a Japanese surgeon at Kurume University School of Medicine. He earned his M.D. in 2018 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate. Since 2021, he has worked in several surgical roles across Japan, with a focus on breast and endocrine surgery.

He became a board-certified surgeon in 2024 and is expected to qualify as a breast specialist in 2026. His clinical and research interests center on breast cancer, and he has presented his work internationally, including at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.



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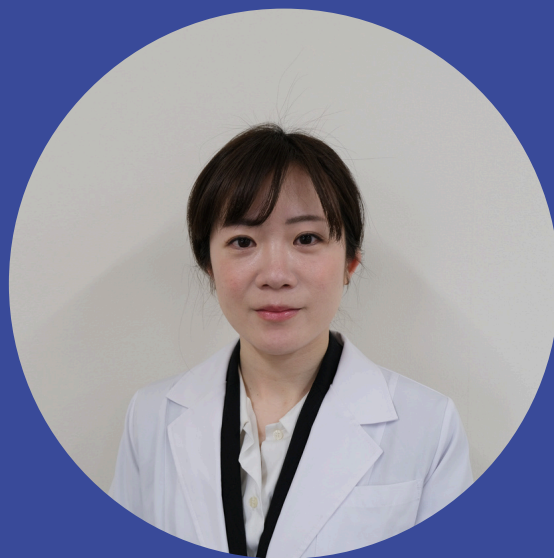


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Dr. Natsuno Yamane (Japan)

is a Japanese physician and Ph.D. student at Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine. She earned her M.D. from Fukui University of Medicine in 2020 and began her doctoral studies in 2024.

Her research focuses on esophageal cancer and gastrointestinal surgery.



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Dr. Rie Sugihara (Japan)

is an Assistant Professor at Kurume University School of Medicine in Japan. She completed her medical degree at Kurume University and her postgraduate studies between 2022 and 2025. Since 2016, she has held clinical positions at several hospitals in Japan.

She is a board-certified surgeon and is expected to become a certified breast specialist in 2026. Her work focuses on breast cancer, with research on prognostic factors such as the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, and she has published in international journals and presented at major conferences.



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Dr. Sean Michael Stanat (Japan)

is a Ph.D. student at Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan. He earned his M.D. from Okayama University in 2020 and is set to begin his doctoral studies in 2025.

His research interests focus on esophageal cancer and gastrointestinal surgery.



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Dr. Yasufumi Koterazawa (Japan)

is an Assistant Professor at Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan. He earned his M.D. from Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine and completed his Ph.D. at Kobe University.

He is a board-certified surgeon in endoscopic surgery and focuses his research on esophageal cancer, robotic surgery, and biological age. He has authored multiple publications on surgical outcomes and techniques in gastric and esophageal cancer.



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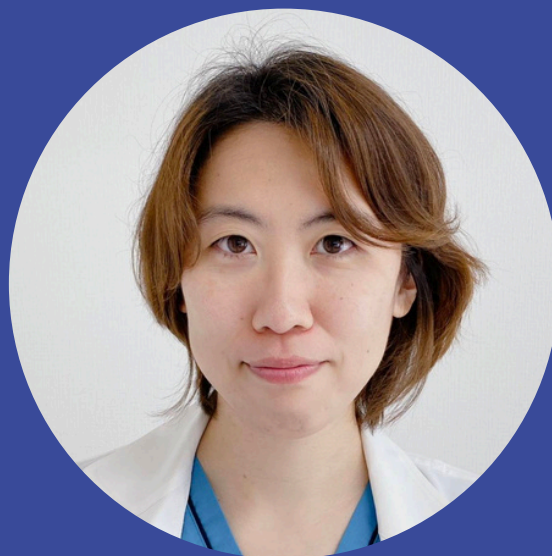


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Dr. Yoko Hashimoto (Japan)

is a staff physician in gastroenterological surgery at Kohsei Chuo General Hospital in Tokyo. She obtained her medical degree from Toho University School of Medicine and has extensive clinical experience, including roles as a staff physician and assistant professor.

She is a board-certified surgeon, with clinical and academic work focusing on colorectal cancer surgery, including presentations on surgical outcomes in elderly patients



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“ If you want to go fast,
go alone.

If you want to go
far, go together..

- Anonymous African Proverb

...If you want to build
new and lasting
routes, take with you
the next generation. ”

- Tatenda Mbanje

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