



H.O.P.E.

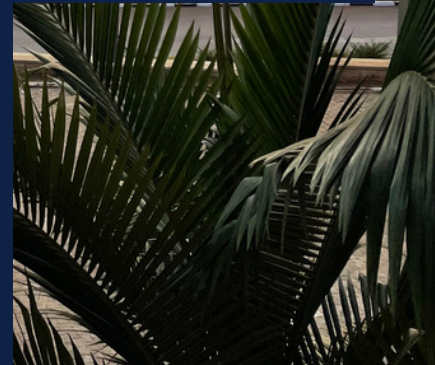
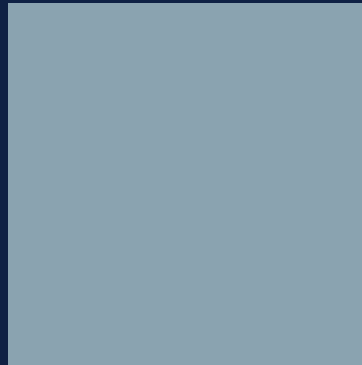
Health Outreach Program for Equity in Global Surgery
American College of Surgeons

Annual Report

Serving. Teaching. Learning.



2024



Thank You

On behalf of the entire ACS H.O.P.E. Team, I would like to express our gratitude and admiration for the transformative work you, volunteer surgeons, do within our immediate community and on a global scale. Your incredible contributions have impacted so many lives. You have generously donated your time, money, and skills to those in need.

We are equally inspired and thankful for your remarkable efforts in mentoring aspiring medical professionals. Moreover, your participation in remote teaching initiatives have made your expert medical knowledge accessible to countless practitioners in various regions, thereby enhancing the standard and quality of care provided globally.

As we take a moment to celebrate and reflect upon the countless lives you have transformed, there is much more to do! We will continue to count on your support for a sustainable impact. Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication to improving surgical care.

Girma Tefera, MD, FACS

Medical Director, ACS H.O.P.E.



ACS H.O.P.E. Leadership and Staff



2024 Committee on Global Engagement Leadership

Advocacy Subcommittee

Raymond R. Price, MD, FACS

Domestic Subcommittee

Sandra L. Freiwald, MD, FACS

Education Subcommittee

Adnan A. Alseidi, MD, EdM, FACS

Tamara J. Worlton, MD, FACS

International Subcommittee

Raphael Lee, MD, ScD, PhD, FACS

Melanie K. Sion, MD, FACS



ACS H.O.P.E. Staff

Girma Tefera, MD, FACS

Medical Director

Miranda Melone, MPA

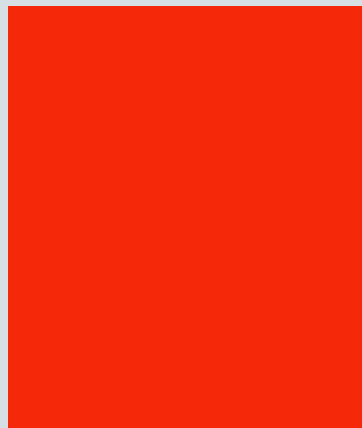
Program Manager

Nicki Griffith

Program Coordinator

Diana Trujillo

Administrative Assistant



Committee on Global Engagement Activities

Advocacy Subcommittee

In 2024, the Advocacy Subcommittee helped draft the global surgery section for the *Global Health Council Briefing Book* from the Global Health Council, advocating for a pathway for foreign medical graduates to train in the US and requesting \$10 million for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs budget.

The subcommittee also organized the [Coalition for Building Reciprocal Initiatives for Global Health Training \(B.R.I.G.H.T.\)](#) with the ACS, Consortium of Universities for Global Health, the University of Maryland, and Yale University to advocate for short-term clinical training in the US for international faculty, fellows, and residents. Members worked with ACS staff to create a new web page that allows organizations to learn and participate.

In 2025, the subcommittee aims to integrate the “Equality in Bilateral Surgical Exchange” and NCD funding into the annual ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit. Members also aim to build a broad coalition to support finding a congressional solution for bilateral surgical training.

Domestic Subcommittee

The Domestic Subcommittee continues to partner with key organizations such as HMARIA and the Health Career Collaborative to fill the gaps in surgical service and education within the US and its territories. Accomplishments in 2024 include supporting the HMARIA/H.O.P.E. cyber-lecture and mentoring program, with expansion to involve undergraduate students at Oberlin College and Conservatory, as well as premed and medical students at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. Attendance has increased since using the ACS staff’s webinar platform.

In 2025, the subcommittee hopes to engage with additional domestic volunteerism programs and work with the ACS Integrated Communications team to publish a domestic volunteerism article in the *ACS Bulletin*.

Committee on Global Engagement Activities

Education Subcommittee

The Committee on Global Engagement Education Subcommittee awarded 11 scholarships in 2024 encouraging education and research in global surgery. The subcommittee awarded the resident research scholarship to Fayrouz Abu-Hamdan, MD, from the Medical College of Wisconsin to complete a project in the ACS H.O.P.E. Surgical Training Hub in Hawassa, Ethiopia, over the course of the next year. In addition, the subcommittee awarded 10 scholarships for residents to attend the Clinical Congress didactic course, "Global Health Competencies for Surgeons." Additional scholarships are planned to encourage more participation in ACS global surgery activities.

The 2024 Clinical Congress didactic course had a record number of participants. In 2025, the subcommittee will collaborate with the ACS Division of Education to develop a yearlong global surgery certificate program inspired by the 1 day didactic course.

International Subcommittee

At the ACS H.O.P.E. strategic retreat in 2023, the International Subcommittee was tasked with creating more opportunities for education and collaboration across the three surgical training hubs. In 2024, the subcommittee launched the "Global Surgery Expert Lecture Series." In this monthly series, ACS volunteers give lectures on topics identified by colleagues based in our hubs. The lectures are live and interactive with participants sharing their local experiences on the topic.

The International Subcommittee continues to work with the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation and the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to support the graduation of women surgeons in the region. The subcommittee plans to collaborate on additional opportunities for this population such as clinical and leadership mentorship programming.

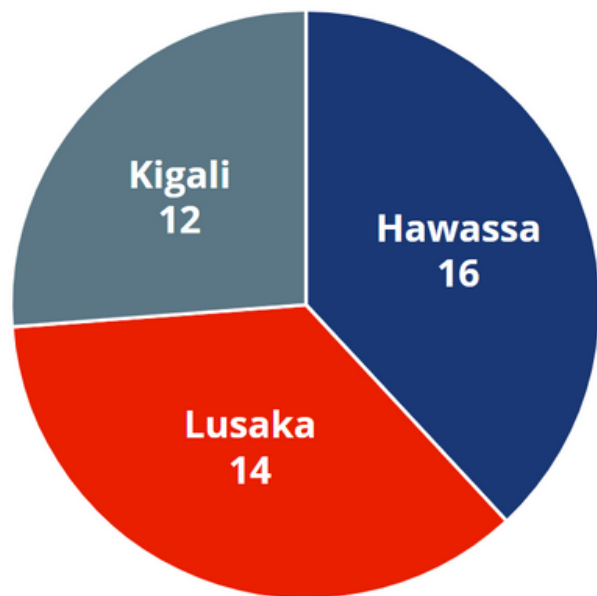
2024 Surgical Training Collaborative Visits

42

Trips

62

Volunteers



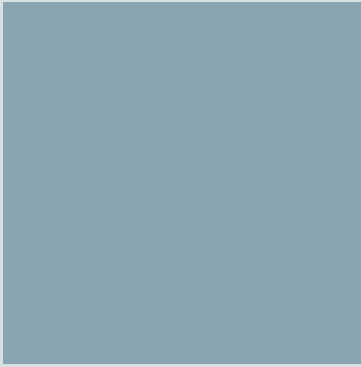
3,600

Hours of donated time



\$645,000

Approximate donation value



Volunteers by Discipline

20.3

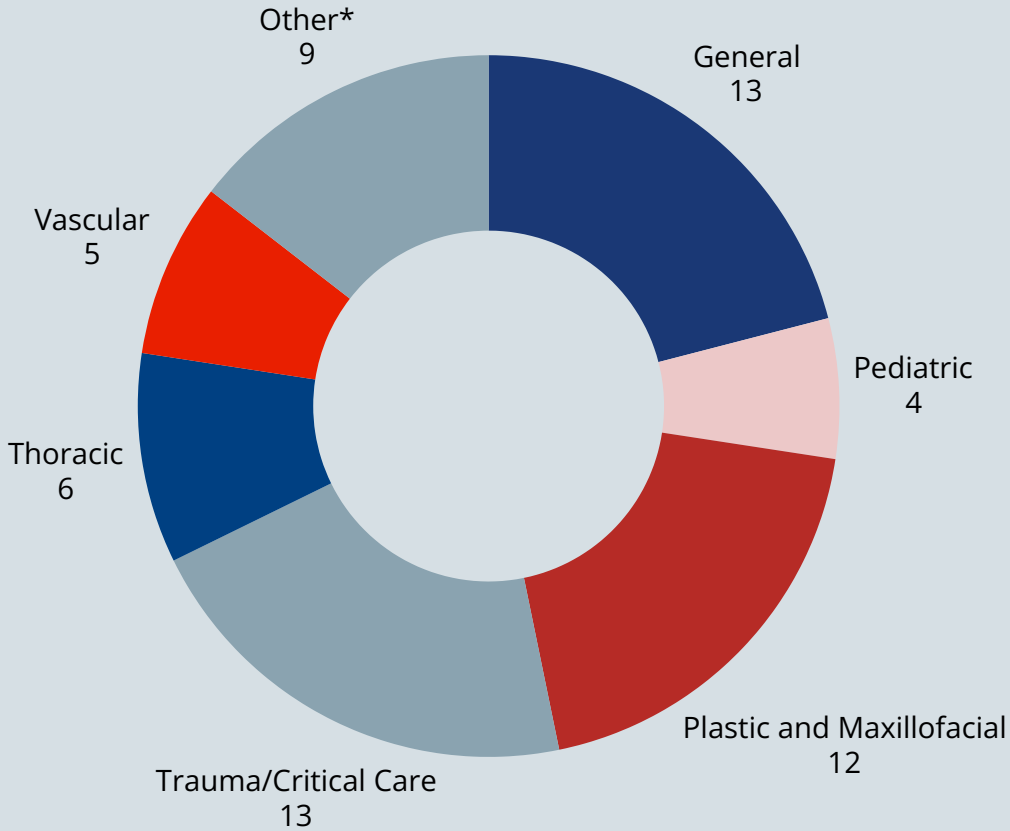
Average years of experience per volunteer

95%

of volunteers were attendings

5%

of volunteers were residents



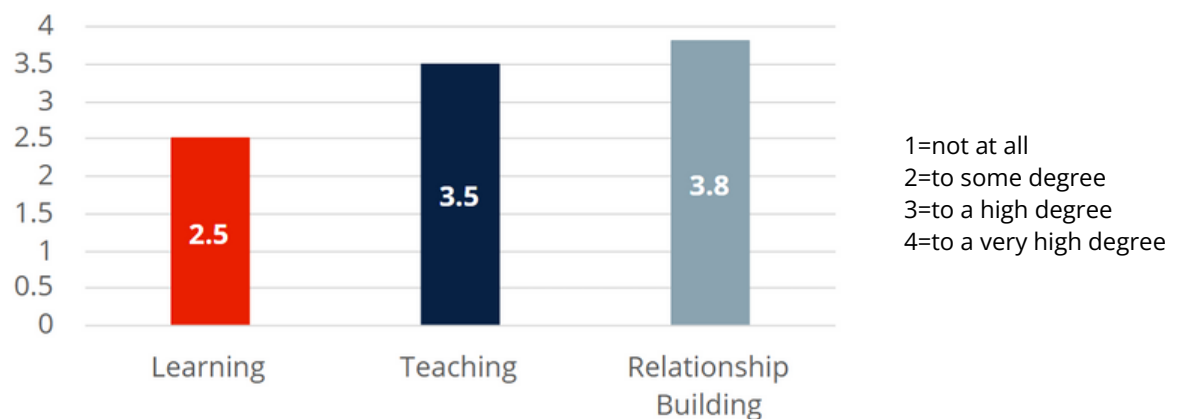
*Other includes anesthesia, biomed, colon and rectal, otolaryngology, residents, and simulation specialist

Measuring the Effectiveness of ACS H.O.P.E.

ACS Volunteer Experiences

Throughout 2023, ACS H.O.P.E. staff worked with a George Washington University MPH candidate to develop the best way to measure how effectively ACS H.O.P.E. functions as a global learning space. Three main components emerged as indicators: Learning, Teaching, and Relationship Building.

Throughout 2024, ACS H.O.P.E. collected surveys from volunteers after each trip to assess their experiences in those three key areas. Participants were asked to rate the degree to which their experience with ACS H.O.P.E. aligned with program goals.



With most volunteers being experts in their fields, the learning score is expected to be lower; however, more can be done to encourage learning and teaching from both sides.

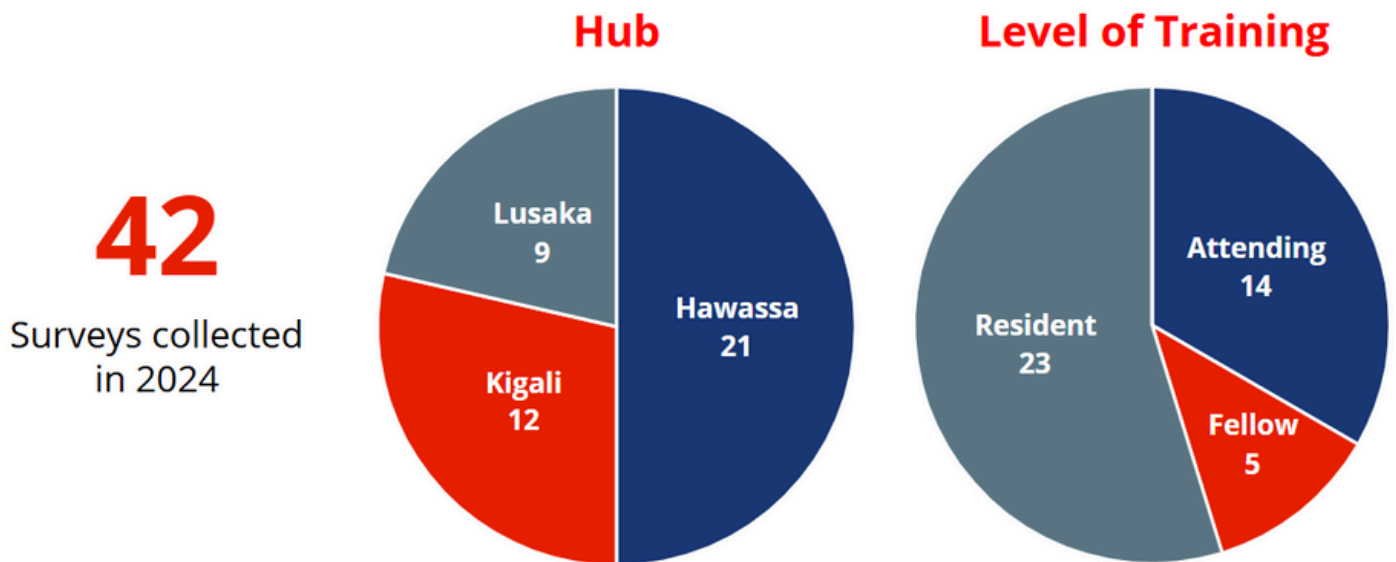
Average Participant Experience Score

3.3

Measuring the Effectiveness of ACS H.O.P.E.

Hub Partner Experiences

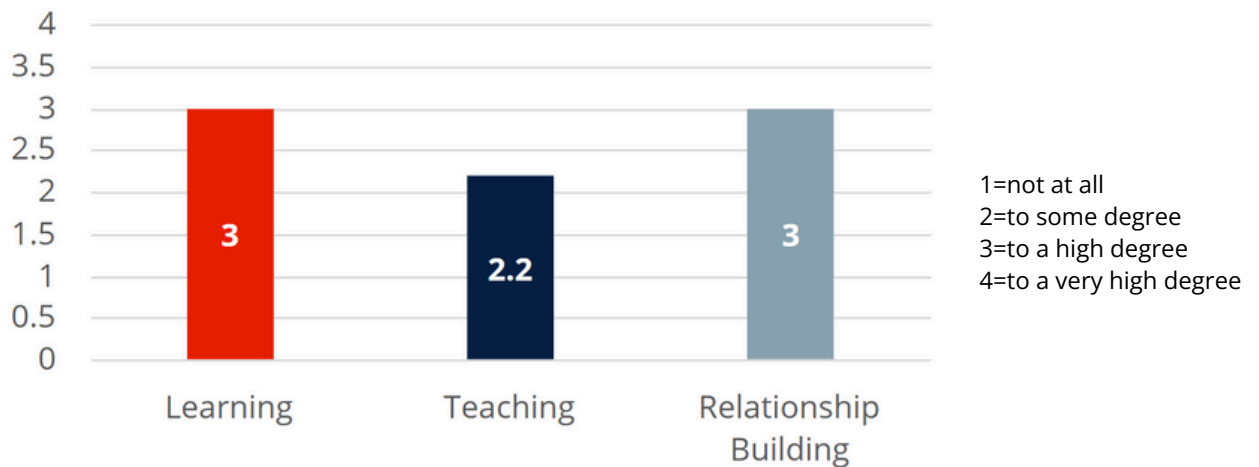
Throughout 2024, colleagues and residents in Kigali, Lusaka, and Hawassa were given the same survey questions as the ACS volunteers with the hope of assessing the bi-directionality of the program. Once per quarter, participants were asked to fill out the survey based on the visits from the past 3 months. Below is an overview of the survey responses collected from the hubs in 2024.



Measuring the Effectiveness of ACS H.O.P.E.

Hub Partner Experiences

Participants were asked to rate the degree to which their experience of ACS H.O.P.E. aligned with program goals. These readings set a baseline to improve upon over the next several years. These scores coupled with the qualitative data from the surveys reveal both the strengths of ACS H.O.P.E. and the opportunities to create a more effective and equitable program.



With residents filling out the most surveys, a higher learning score and lower teaching score is expected.

Average Participant Experience Score

2.8

Visit Activities

Classroom Experiences

ACS H.O.P.E.'s dedication to education extends beyond the OR. Volunteers worked with local colleagues to execute programs such as quality improvement courses, simulation sessions, research methodology courses, biostatistics workshops, lectures, didactic sessions, and more.

107

Total classroom
experiences
delivered

“ Working with ACS H.O.P.E.-affiliated visiting clinicians in a nonclinical setting would teach me to be adaptable, communicate effectively, and collaborate as a team. The diverse perspectives enrich the work.

— *Dr. James Ntegerejimana, Kigali, Rwanda-based resident*



“ The ACS H.O.P.E. research feedback was an important step in strengthening my research focus and receiving pertinent feedback on my project. The insights gained have helped foster new research questions which can be pursued once my current project is done. I also have the confidence to mentor my juniors in research.

— *Dr. Himubali Muzyamba, Lusaka, Zambia-based resident*

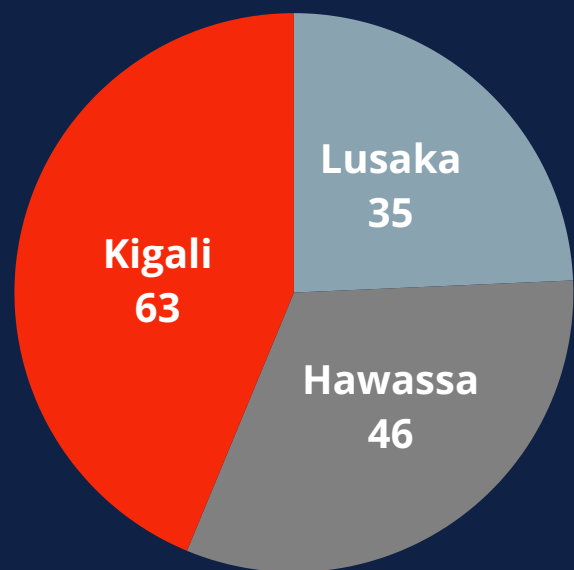
Visit Activities

Clinical Work

Cases treated collaboratively treated during volunteer visits prioritize teaching and skills transfer. From outpatient procedures to several-hours-long complex surgeries, ACS volunteers teach advanced skills, and local colleagues share innovative methods developed in their limited-resource settings.

144

Total cases treated collaboratively in 2024



45%

of the collaboratively treated cases had **Africa-based surgeons as the lead**

ACS H.O.P.E. looks forward to watching this figure grow with continued engagement.

Key Achievements by Subspecialty

Minimally Invasive Surgery

- Hawassa: Skills transfer lap cholecystectomy completed
- Lusaka: Skills transfer lap cholecystectomy ongoing

Pediatric

- Lusaka: Three clinical trips in 2024 reinforcing the ongoing partnership with the American Pediatric Surgical Association to provide specialty (oncologic, urologic, colorectal), educational, research, and outreach support

Plastic and Maxillofacial

- Kigali: Microvascular and maxillofacial workshops
- Kigali: Two recent Rwandan graduates obtained additional fellowships: Craniofacial in Montreal and microsurgery in Taiwan
- *ACS Bulletin* Viewpoint: [Collaborative Effort Helps Bridge Global Surgery Workforce Gaps](#)

Thoracic

- Kigali: Approval of collaboratively developed postgraduate training curriculum
- Hawassa: First video-assisted thoracic surgery completed
- Kigali: First extracorporeal membrane oxygenation assisted tracheal resection completed

Transplant

- Lusaka: Living donor kidney transplant completed by Khoa Thomas Pham, MD, FACS, of Stanford and Victor Mapulanga, BScHb, MBChB, MMed, FCS, and Aggrey Mweemba, MBChB, BScHB, MMED, FRCPE, ECSACOP Fellow, Cert Neph (SA), PhD, of the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka.

Vascular

- Kigali and Hawassa: Dialysis access procedures
- Hawassa: Open abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery and venous procedures
- Kigali: Carotid body tumor resections
- Nine vascular lecture webinars completed
- *ACS Bulletin* Viewpoint: [Vascular Surgery Initiatives in Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Zambia](#)

Scholarships

- 10** Clinical Congress Resident Scholars
- 9** COSECSA Women entering the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons Program*
- 8** COSECSA Women Scholar Graduates*
- 2** West African College of Surgeons leaders supported to attend ACS Surgeons as Leaders Course
- 1** ACS H.O.P.E. Resident Research Scholar

*sponsored jointly with the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation

\$62,911

Awarded in 2024



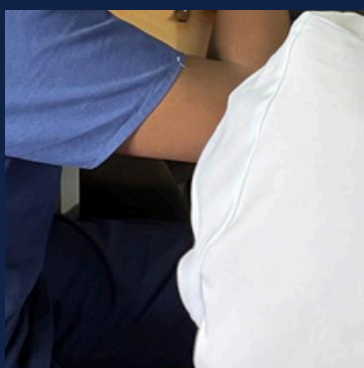
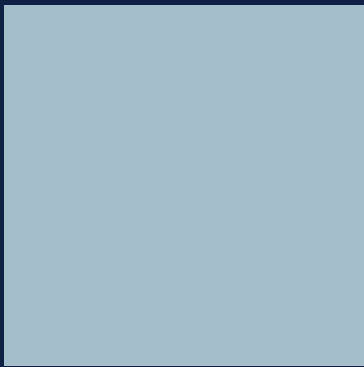
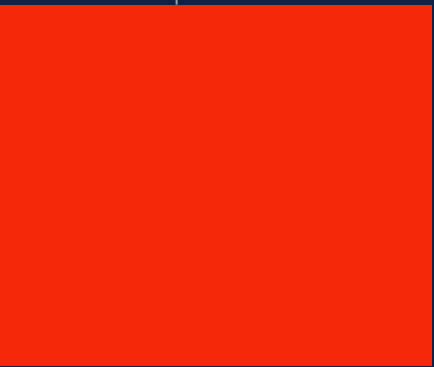
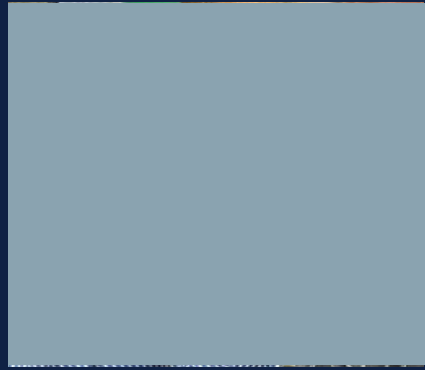
Webinars

10 ACS H.O.P.E. webinars


15 Countries represented

121 Unique individual participants





ACS / AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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 [ACS H.O.P.E. News](#)

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