

# Examinations and Assessment: *CANECSA experience*

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# Background: COSECOSA

<https://www.cosecsa.org/our-history/>

- In 1996, a *Steering Committee of the Association of Surgeons of East Africa* (ASEA) recognised that the quality and quantity of surgical services available to people within the region was inadequate
- Training of specialist surgeons in the region was restricted to the M.Med surgery programmes (or equivalent)
- A fundamental need was identified to formulate a common surgical training programme across the Region (East and Central Africa)
- The College of Surgeons of East & Central and Southern Africa (COSECOSA) was formed to fulfill this need.
- This was followed by the preparation and publication of the college constitution and an examination syllabus
- the official inauguration of the College in Nairobi in December 1999.
- FCS(ECSA) Examinations first took place in 2004. COSECOSA established annual MCS and FCS examinations thereafter

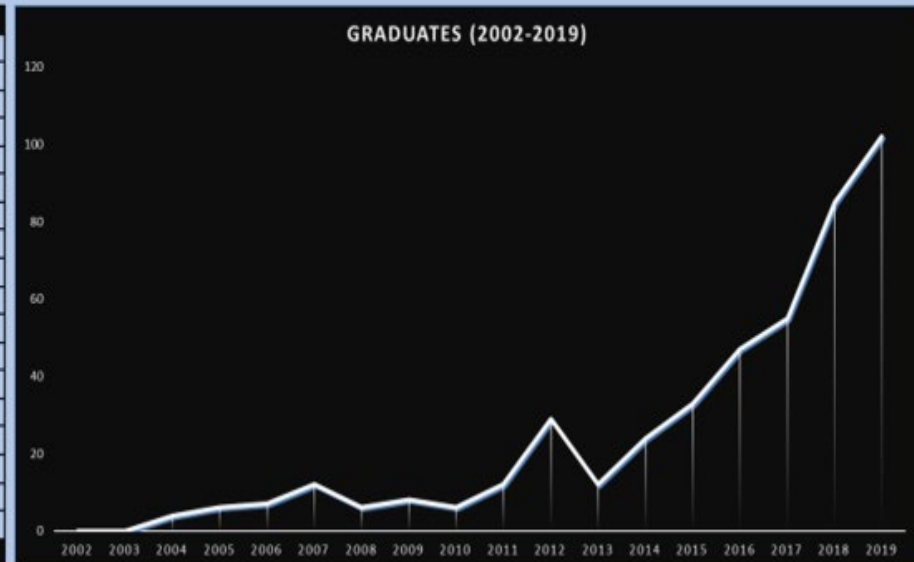
# Impact of COSECSA and College Training

- Since COSECSA started training the growth in surgical workforce and COSECSA graduates has been accelerating

## COSECSA Graduates/ Fellows

- COSECSA, has successfully trained and graduated **448 Surgeons** from the various Specialties.

Year	Total
2002	0
2003	0
2004	4
2005	6
2006	7
2007	12
2008	6
2009	8
2010	6
2011	12
2012	29
2013	12
2014	24
2015	33
2016	47
2017	55
2018	85
2019	102
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>



# Background: ECSA College of Health Sciences

<http://ecsahc.org/ecsa-hc-at-a-glance/>

- ECSA-CHS College of Health Sciences was established by the member states of the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC).
- *ECSA-Health Community* is an inter-governmental health organization whose member states are: Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Eswatini, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- *ECSA-Health Community* was established in 1974 to foster and strengthen regional cooperation and capacity to address the health needs of the member states.
- The Health Ministers Conference noting gaps in Human Resources for Health, especially the limited number of specialists' medical workers, resolved for additional training approach of health specialists to complement the university approach.
- ECSA Colleges: ECSACON (Nursing-1990), COSECESA (Surgery-1999), CPECSA (Pathologists-2010), COECSA (Ophthalmology-2012), CANECSA (Anaesthetists-2014), ECSACoP (Physicians-2015), ECSACOG (Obs/Gynae-2017),

# Background: CANECSA-1

- Based on WFSA anaesthesia workforce data, a strong case was being made to expand physician anaesthesia training globally and in Africa especially.
- A physician anaesthesia provider (PAP) was defined as a medical doctor providing anaesthesia care:
- WHO Africa Region had only 5 countries with >5 PAPs/100,000 population (Ave 1.36)
- Kempthorne P et al. *The WFSA Global Anaesthesia Workforce Survey*. *Anesth Analg* 2017;125:981–90

# Background: CANECSA-2

- The small number of specialist anaesthetists in academic departments does not allow an opportunity for the specialty to develop a critical mass . . .
- The clinical workload is large and the mid-level anaesthetists who do most of the basic anaesthesia and are present in larger numbers, are not in a position to develop the specialty or influence service delivery.
- Most of the programme graduates leave for private practice after a short period, or disperse thinly across a wide range of hospitals or leave the country.
- The result is that numbers grow slowly and critical mass is not achieved.
- Other consequences are that the training programmes themselves renew slowly and recent developments take time to be assimilated.

**Madzimbamuto F.** *Comparison between MMed Anaesthesia programmes in the SADC.*  
AJHPE 2012;4(1):22-27. DOI:10.7196/AJHPE.156

# CANECSA-1

- Was established 2014
- Constitution, Strategic Plan and Curriculum were developed
- Training sites were identified for *facility accreditation* using template adapted from COSECSA (6 sites in Zimbabwe vs 1 MMed training site)
- **Partnership** with (UK) Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA), College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (CAI), Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI), College of Anaesthetists of South Africa (CASA), COSECSA and World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA)
- Education committee to develop training platform with assistance of COSECSA, RCSI, CAI, ReSurge, Smile Train, DeckerMed etc.
- Examinations committee to conduct examinations with assistance of CAI, CASA, RCoA

# TOWARDS EQUITY IN HEALTH



## ❖ ACCREDITATION OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

COUNTRY	NUMBER of proposed institutions (Trainers)	COUNTRY	NUMBER of proposed institutions (Trainers)
Eswatini	2 (3)	Tanzania	6 (34)
Kenya	19 (12)	Uganda	8 (12)
Malawi	2 (4)	Zambia	7 (15)
Rwanda	4 (4)	Zimbabwe	6 (14)



# CANECSA Council and Partners Meeting Arusha 2019



# CANECSA -2

- Fully Registered physician specialists as of June 2020 became founding Fellows of CANECSA in nine countries
- Each Anaesthetic Association is responsible for in-country CANECSA affairs
- Each association identified local College trainers from among its members
- Member countries: Eswatini, Kenya, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,
- Several ToT courses run by CAI and CASA from 2018 in Harare, Nairobi, Der es Salaam etc plus on-line since COVID pandemic

Harare  
CANECSA  
Train the  
Trainers:  
Facilitators from  
CASA  
*Prof Gopalan*  
*Prof Rantloane*  
2019



# CANECSA Examinations

- Examiners:  
50:50 CANECSA examiners  
and partners: CASA / CAI / RCA
- Part I on-line exam: written
- Part II:
  - on-line written
  - OSCE practical to be conducted  
during COSECSA Annual  
Congress



## *Outcome so far*

- The MMed programme in Zimbabwe since its founding in 1988 has graduated between 5-10 specialists annually
- In Zimbabwe the CANECSA programme has
  - *13 passed FCA (2020)*
  - 13 in the Part I (2021) and
  - 16 in Part II
    - 4 in Part II (2021)
    - 12 in Part II (2022)

## *The future ...*

- First CANECSA Exams across all the countries
  - 11 Part I candidates
  - 23 Part II candidates
- Second CANECSA exam
  - 56 Part I candidates registered for 2021
  - 19 Part II candidates registered for 2021