



DR. BETHANY HEDT-GAUTHIER

I am a biostatistician and health systems researcher, leading a series of projects with the goal of improving access to high quality surgical care in rural district hospitals. This research is implemented in close partnership with **Partners In Health/Rwanda** along with colleagues at the Ministry of Health. Historically, this work has been focused on cesarean sections, but the portfolio will be broadly interesting to those wanting to gain experience on health systems research.

My teams focus as much on the *process* of research as the products. We have adopted strategies to ensure that all collaborators are engaged, that everyone has the opportunity for professional growth, and that the focus is on priorities as identified by the project sites. Next year, we are primarily looking for RAs and RFs that will be Rwanda-based; for RAs, this is spending 9 months in Rwanda, for RFs, this is 1.5-18 months over the two years. These individuals will receive support from Rwanda-based mentors as well.

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CURRENT PGSSC RAs/RFs:

Primary: Faith Odwaro, Bonnie Wong
Affiliate: Barnabas Alayande, Callum Forbes

THE **AGASEKE** LAB

@ PGSSC:

Advancing global access to surgery through education, knowledge and equity.

Specific areas: Health services research, cesarean delivery, data science, digital health, health information systems, equity in collaborations

PROJECTS

mHealth tools for community health worker-led postop follow-up

We are designing tools for CHWs to use to lead follow-up. Next year, we will continue with tool development/evaluation and prepare for a prospective follow-up in 2023/2024.

Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2024

Ideal Skillsets: Strong writing, qualitative research

Open positions: one RF

Establishing a district-hospital based surgical center of excellence

Partners In Health/Rwanda has recently designated Rwindwavu District Hospital as a surgical center of excellence. The next few years of this project will be establishing protocols, integrating systems, and leading baseline and early evaluations of the program. This includes implementing the Safe Surgery Organizational Readiness Tool (SSORT).

Expected Dates: September 2022-ongoing

Ideal Skillsets: Protocol development, operational research

Open positions: one RA (likely already identified).

Image-based diagnostics for surgical site infections

We are exploring a set of strategies using images to support SSI diagnoses, including human and machine learning processing of images.

Expected Dates: Ongoing

Ideal Skillsets: Machine learning, data science

Open positions: one RA or RF, with a background in AI, machine learning, etc.

PGSSC Research Equity Assessments (under the Research Pillar, together with Adeline Boatin)

As part of the strategic plan, the PGSSC Research Pillar will lead a review of our research to date – looking at the impact of this work and the equity in engagement with collaborators.

Expected Dates: Ongoing

Ideal Skillsets: Strong organization and writing skills

Open positions: one RA and/or RF to lead this process, others can be engaged as interested. (This can be one's 20% administrative commitment.)

REGIONS

Sub-Saharan Africa, primarily Rwanda.