



### ROBERT RIVIELLO MD, MPH

I am a trauma, burn, and general surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). I serve as the Deputy Director of the PGSSC, and am tasked to ensure that our partnerships are collaborative and equitable.

The focus of my academic work is building surgery and research capacity in Rwanda and in the region, including 8 years as U.S. surgical faculty liaison for the Rwanda Human Resources for Health program, where I developed close working relationships with the Ministry of Health, University of Rwanda, and University Teaching Hospital-Kigali (CHUK).

I now serve as the chair of department of surgery for the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, founded by Partners in Health. This role that keeps me deeply tied to Rwanda's efforts to develop clinical capacity and professionalism.

At BWH, I am the Director of Global Surgery Programs at the Center for Surgery and Public Health (CSPH), a national leader in surgical health services research where we are engaged in research and capacity-building efforts in surgical safety, surgical and trauma systems, and burn injuries.

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CURRENT PGSSC RAs/RFs:

# THE RIVIELLO LAB @ PGSSC

Strengthening surgical delivery through education, quality improvement, and capacity development

### PROJECTS

#### **University of Global Health Equity**

UGHE is a relatively new university with its main campus in northern Rwanda and headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda. Under the inspiring leadership of Agnes Binagwaho, Paul Farmer, and Abebe Bekele it aims to develop health care professionals and leaders to build a strong, resilient surgical systems that can provide consistent, affordable, high quality care. PGSSC-UGHE fellows will engage in a broad scope of work including implementing and improving the surgical curriculum for UGHE medical students; serving as a liaison for other PGSSC RAs, fellows, faculty; engaging in research, innovation, and simulation-based education through the Center for Equity in Global Surgery (CEGS).

The CEGS was formally launched in February 2022. The Center serves as a solution to the imbalance in access to SAO care through the action of five key pillars; fellowship, research and innovation, education and training, policy, advocacy and financing, and global convenings. The CEGS is a natural partner for PGSSC activities and we are just beginning to explore all the synergistic possibilities.

Positions are largely on-site in Rwanda. This positions work closely with Hett-Gauthier Lab in terms of Rwanda-based research and the TIGER lab in terms of simulation development at UGHE.

Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2025

Skillsets Involved: Grant writing, curriculum design/ implementation / assessment, teaching mentoring UGHE students, engaging the broader Rwanda and ECSA surgical community

Collaborators: Abebe Bekele (UGHE), Bethany Hett-Gauthier (PGSSC), Geoff Anderson (PGSSC)

**Open positions: 2 Research Fellow and 1 Research Associate**

#### **Non-Technical Skills for Surgery (NOTSS)**

Half of surgical deaths and complications stem from errors of non-technical skills in surgery – situation awareness, decision-making, communication/teamwork, and leadership. The NOTSS framework is an assessment tool for intra-op performance of these cognitive and social skills, which facilitates teaching, learning, assessing, and improving. The NOTSS framework and teaching videos have been contextualized to the Rwandan setting. The next wave of work includes – intra-disciplinary integration of the content, transformation of the material to a web-based platform to allow for scale, scaling via critical partners – teaching hospital hubs and colleges in the African continent.

Barnabas Alayande, Callum Forbes,  
Selam Degu

Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2025

Skillsets Involved:

Collaborators: Egide Abahuje (University of Rwanda / Northwestern Un); Steve Yule (Univ of Edinburgh)

**Open positions: 1 Research Fellow, 1 Research Associate**

**Trauma / Burn System Development in Rwanda**

There is a growing coalition, led by the MOH of Rwanda and University of Rwanda faculty leadership, to support the development of trauma systems, leaders, and research in for the country.

Collaborators: American College of Surgeons, UGHE, Univ Michigan, Univ Utah, others

Positions: none at this moment, though opportunity likely to arise

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**REGIONS/COUNTRIES**

Rwanda, East/Central/Southern Africa (ECSA)