THE **OPPORTUNITY THROUGH SURGERY**

RANGANATHAN LAB @ PGSSC

KAVITHA RANGANATHAN, MD

I am a plastic surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital with a focus on craniofacial surgery. My clinical practice focuses on trauma and oncologic reconstruction as well as gender affirming surgery. My research focuses on: 1. Prevention and treatment of poverty as it relates to healthcare, 2. Advocating for equitable care distribution, and 3. Building academic leaders in global surgery.

I collaborate with multiple hospitals in India including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore, and Saveetha Medical College in Tamil Nadu. The ultimate goal of our lab is to use surgery as a time point around which to improve patients' social determinants of health to optimize long-term health and well-being even after discharge.

PGSSC trainees will join a team composed of medical students, residents, and other faculty members from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health, and international sites of collaboration as above. Team members will focus on gaining skillsets in qualitative, quantitative, and large database analyses. The goal of the lab is to position trainees to successfully pursue a career in academic global surgery in a sustainable manner upon completion of the program.

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PROJECTS

Prevention and Treatment of Poverty due to Healthcare Costs:
Defining the Burden of Surgical Expenditures due to Trauma: Unintended Costs and Consequences (Multiple Projects Ongoing)
150 million people devote more than 40% of non-food spending to healthcare. Over 30% of surgical patients incur catastrophic expenditures due to surgery. The impact of these expenses on social determinants of health including food scarcity, education, employment, and financial security are poorly understood. The goal of the current study is to define the burden of catastrophic expenditures on trauma patients, and quantify the impact on clinical outcomes and social determinants of health locally and internationally. This work involves partnerships in Boston, MA, USA. International partners are established in New Delhi, Coimbatore; Tamil Nadu, India, and the Global Surgery Foundation (UNITAR), Geneva, Switzerland.
Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2024
Skillsets Involved: Quantitative and qualitative study methodologies, data collection, data analysis, manuscript preparation, implementation science, grant writing
Collaborators: Dr. Maneesh Singhal, MBBS; Dr. Sabapathy, MBBS; Dr. Praveen Ganesh, MBBS; Dr Geoff Ibbotson, MD, MSc
Open positions: 1 Research Fellow and 1 Research Associate

Advocating for Equitable Care Distribution:
Highlighting the needs and challenges that affect marginalized patient populations while seeking, receiving, and administering surgical care (Multiple Projects Ongoing)
Numerous disparities exist in healthcare. We hope to highlight the challenges that exist for marginalized groups of people in this project at every level- from the teams providing care to the patients receiving it. We use data driven methods to examine the state of transgender health in the United States, gender disparities in academic surgery, and disparities based on race and sociodemographic data.
Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2024
Skillsets Involved: General research methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis, large database analyses, systematic review and meta-analysis expertise
Collaborators: Center for Surgery and Public Health
Open positions: 1 Research Fellow and 1 Research Associate

Building Academic Leaders in Global Surgery
Academic Global Surgery: Paradox or Possibility?
There are unique challenges associated with integrating global surgery into an academic practice. The goal of the current series of projects is to educate trainees on the approach to a sustainable academic career in global surgery with a focus on mentorship and career advancement.
Expected Dates: August 2022-July 2024
Ideal Skillsets: Willingness to learn
Collaborators: Dr. Ranganathan, MD
Open Positions: 1 Research Associate

REGIONS/COUNTRIES

India, USA, Switzerland