



# THE **AFSHAR** LAB

@ PGSSC:

Responsible Innovation,  
Responsible Investing,  
& Global Surgery

## DR. SALIM AFSHAR

Hi! I am a pediatric head and neck surgeon with a passion for solving technical problems at scale. I have an engineering and design background and have deep experience in starting companies and raising capital. In 2014 I returned to Harvard and joined PGSSC. Since then, I have worked in Zambia and India, and also have been mentoring teams around innovation through the IDHA and Harvard I-Lab. Recently, I have focused on mentoring and helping healthcare companies grow through my role as an advisor and venture capitalist with W Health Ventures. My investment and mentoring focus is both for startups forming in the US and internationally. I am particularly passionate about the role of innovation to increase access and care, and as such, my projects are focused on the intersection of global surgery and innovation, the ethical dangers of technology deployment and how to help develop and raise local capacity to solve the material and system needs of the healthcare system.

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## PROJECTS

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### Global Surgery Policy and Advocacy

- Advocate for and support global and regional NSOAP development process and in particular, how to develop strategy frameworks for technology implementation.
- Innovative financing for supporting innovations in global surgery.
- Supporting technology and investing policy and advocacy work through my role as a member of the UN [Healthcare Innovation Exchange](#)

### Global OMS / Head and Neck Pathology

- Increasing the presence of head and neck surgeons in discussing and contributing to health systems strengthening.
- Supporting education and discourse activities around vascular anomaly, the Vascular Anomalies Severity Score VASS & [ISSVA](#)
- Global OMS workforce mapping project (ongoing)

### Innovation and Funding

- Increasing the dialogue regarding the role of venture capitalist to help address the global health and surgical challenges that exist through supporting, mentoring and accompany local innovators
- Supporting the activities of the International Congress for Innovation in Global Surgery
- Supporting the social discourse regarding ethical and responsible innovation, investing and management as well as the importance of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion



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