

The PULSE



NEWSletter
July 2026



ThePULSE

NEWSletter July 2026

Editor-in-Chief Javier González Lagunas
Graphic Designer María Montesinos

Executive Committee 2024-2026

President	Dr. Nicholas Kalavrezos
Past President & Congress Chairman Roma 2024	Prof. Manlio Galie
Senior President (Elect)	Prof. Stefaan Bergé
Junior President (Elect)	Prof. Gabriele Millesi
Interim Editor-in-Chief	Prof. Jorg Wiltfang
Interim Deputy Editor	Dr. Leo Vassiliou
Treasurer	Dr. Aakshay Gulati
Secretary General	Dr. Satheesh Prabhu
Assistant Secretary	Dr. T Dormaar
Education & Training Officer	Prof. Christos Perisanidis
Media Development Officer	Dr. Javier González Lagunas
UEMS Liaison Officer	Prof. Frank Hölzle
Executive Advisor	Prof. Reha Kisnisci
Executive Advisor	Prof. Majeed Rana
Research	Prof. Sylvie Testelin

Secretariat

Mrs Jill McFarland
Secretariat Administrator

EACMFS Secretariat
PO Box 85
Midhurst GU29 9WS
West Sussex. UK
web: <https://www.eacmfs.org>





NICHOLAS KALAVREZOS

President EACMFS

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Colleagues and Dear Friends,

It has been a great privilege and honour to serve as President of the European Association for Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery (EACMFS). One of the greatest privileges of this role has been the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and advancement of our specialty, whilst strengthening representation across Europe and internationally. This commitment has been at the heart of my presidency and has guided my efforts throughout my term.

The sustained efforts of the Executive Committee are now beginning to bear fruit. We are witnessing a significant expansion of training opportunities for both European and international trainees, a substantial enhancement of the postgraduate educational programmes available to EACMFS members, and a growing number of awards, fellowships and educational initiatives supported by our Association.

Being President of EACMFS has also given me the opportunity and honour to invite you to what I genuinely believe is the biggest event in our specialty this year—a true celebration of knowledge, clinical science, collegiality, friendship, and the exchange of ideas.

As we look ahead, I would like to share several important developments that reflect the continued growth and international reach of our Association.

Expanding International Partnerships

I am particularly proud to announce that preparations are well advanced for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with one of the world's leading universities, the National University of Singapore (NUS). This landmark collaboration will create exciting new opportunities for trainee education and international exchange. European trainees will have access to training opportunities at NUS, while trainees from Singapore will be able to undertake fellowships and observerships in leading European centres of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery and Head & Neck Surgery. This partnership represents an important step in strengthening international collaboration and fostering the next generation of surgeons.

I am genuinely excited about this partnership and would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Majeed Rana and Professor Christopher Peck for their invaluable efforts in laying the groundwork for this collaboration.

I am equally enthusiastic about the potential signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Peking University School of Stomatology, one of China's foremost centres of excellence in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery and Head & Neck Surgery. I recently had the privilege of visiting the Institution and was deeply impressed by the outstanding quality of clinical care, the intensity of academic activity, and the exceptional commitment and dedication demonstrated by its faculty and trainees.

I am particularly grateful to Professor Cai Zhigang for his friendship, support and shared vision for international collaboration. I sincerely hope that this agreement, which will facilitate fellowship exchanges between European centres and Beijing, will be formally signed during the 28th EACMFS Congress in Athens.

Advancing Education and Professional Development

Alongside these international collaborations, EACMFS continues to strengthen its educational mission.

You will soon hear further announcements from our Executive Officers regarding the expansion of the EACMFS Postgraduate Education Programme. Without pre-empting those announcements, I can confidently say that the programme is evolving to cover the full spectrum of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery, including dedicated educational pathways in orthognathic surgery, TMJ surgery, and prosthetic rehabilitation.

Recognising Excellence

Another important milestone has been the continued commitment to recognising and supporting excellence in research and education within our specialty.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Julio Acero for his extraordinary contribution to EACMFS through the establishment of the biennial Julio Acero Award. This prestigious award will recognise the best paper published in the Journal of Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery during the preceding two-year period. Equally remarkable is Professor Acero's generous commitment to securing funding for the award over the next five EACMFS Congresses. This exceptional act of generosity reflects his dedication to the educational mission of our Association and to the future of our specialty.

Join Us in Athens: The 28th EACMFS Congress

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to extend a warm invitation to you all to join the EACMFS Party!

From 15–18 September 2026, Athens will host the 28th EACMFS Congress, bringing together colleagues from across Europe and around the world for four days of outstanding science, education, collaboration and friendship.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Scientific Committee, particularly our Deputy Scientific Chair, Professor Leo Vassiliou, for the tremendous work invested in creating an outstanding scientific programme.

I would also like to thank the entire Organising Committee and our Professional Congress Organiser, led tirelessly by Guillem Torres whose dedication has been instrumental in preparing what promises to be an exceptional Congress.

As you will discover throughout this newsletter, the scientific programme brings together some of the most distinguished speakers and experts in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery worldwide.

Networking and Social Highlights

Alongside the outstanding scientific programme, I would like to make a personal promise regarding two truly unforgettable social and networking events.

The first is our Gala Dinner at the magnificent Acropolis Museum, preceded by an exclusive guided tour of the Museum.

The second is our spectacular seaside networking event on the Athens Riviera: the Mamma Mia Party. Set against the beautiful Athenian coastline, this promises to be an evening full of surprises and memorable moments for all attendees.

Looking Forward to Welcoming You

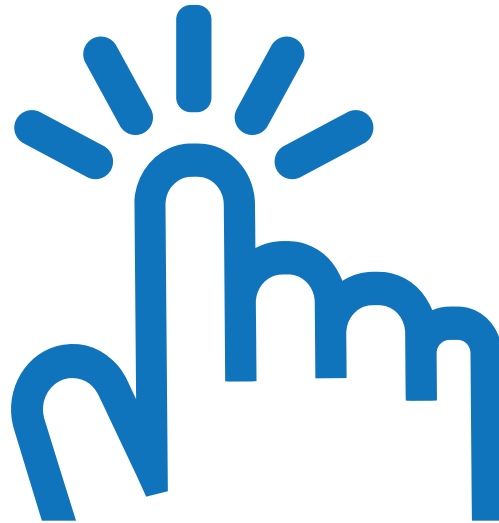
So, with no further ado, please join us at the premier event of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery in 2026—the 28th EACMFS Congress, Athens, Greece, 15–18 September 2026.

I very much look forward to welcoming you personally to Athens.





**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
CRANIO MAXILLO FACIAL
SURGERY**



**BECOME
A
MEMBER**

Join today and start enjoying the many valuable benefits offered to the EACMFS Members.



Benefits



Member-Types



Online application form

contents

July 2026

Opinion

- 03 President's column
- 07 Editor's column
- 09 Education & Training Officer column
- 011 General Secretary column

Events

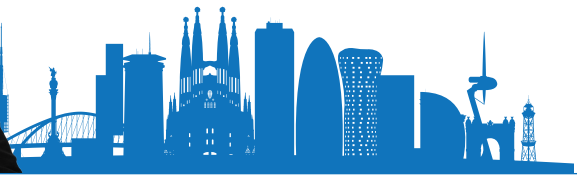
- 012 Athens Congress

Interview

- 020 Let's talk about UEMS
José Luis Cebrián

Report

- 024 European Collaboration Strengthens
Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgical Training in Tanzania
Fernando Garcia-Marin and Tony Markus



JAVIER GONZÁLEZ-LAGUNAS

Editor-in-Chief

BARCELONA calling

LOOKING BACK: A REWARDING JOURNEY AS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Dear Readers,

Every professional journey is defined not only by the goals achieved but also by the people, ideas, and experiences that shape it along the way. As I conclude my role as Media Development Officer, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the projects we have accomplished together and the remarkable progress made over these years.

From the very beginning, our objective was clear: to strengthen communication within our community, showcase the outstanding work of our specialty, and create meaningful educational resources that could reach colleagues across Europe and beyond. Looking back, I feel proud of what has been achieved through teamwork, creativity, and a shared commitment to excellence.

One of the most rewarding initiatives has been the continued publication of The Pulse. Released every six months, the magazine has evolved into much more than a newsletter. It has become a platform for sharing ideas, highlighting achievements, and stimulating discussion about the future of Craniomaxillo-facial Surgery.

Throughout its editions, The Pulse has explored a wide variety of topics reflecting the rapid evolution of our profession. We have addressed emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and their potential impact on clinical practice, education, and research. At the same time, the magazine has celebrated the scientific excellence and collaborative spirit demonstrated during our congresses, providing readers with summaries, interviews, and insights from some of the most important events in our calendar.

Another privilege during this period has been the opportunity to collaborate in the organisation and promotion of four major EACMFS congresses held in four outstanding European cities. Each congress represented much more than a scientific meeting; it was an opportunity to strengthen professional relationships, exchange innovative ideas, and demonstrate the vitality of our specialty.

These meetings showcased the exceptional quality of European Craniomaxillo-facial Surgery while reinforcing the international reputation of EACMFS. Thousands of participants gathered to learn from world-renowned experts, present cutting-edge research, and build connections that will undoubtedly influence

the future of our profession. Being involved in communicating these events and helping to highlight their impact has been one of the greatest privileges of my role.

Education has always remained at the heart of our mission, and perhaps no project reflects this commitment better than Max-Flux. From its inception, the platform introduced a pioneering approach to digital education within EACM-FS. It has provided members with accessible, high-quality educational content while creating new opportunities for continuous professional development regardless of geographical location.

The recent substantial technical improvements implemented within Max-Flux will significantly enhance both its performance and user experience. These developments ensure that the platform is better equipped to support future educational initiatives and continue evolving alongside the needs of our members.

Communication today extends far beyond traditional publications, and one of our major priorities has therefore been strengthening EACMFS's presence across social media. Over recent years, we have dedicated considerably more effort to creating regular, engaging, and visually attractive content capable of reaching both established professionals and younger generations entering our specialty.

This renewed strategy has resulted in a significant increase in our number of followers and, more importantly, in our level of engagement with our community. Social media has become an essential channel for sharing educational resources, promoting congresses, celebrating scientific achievements, and reinforcing the visibility of EACMFS on an international stage. The growth we have witnessed reflects not only improved communication but also the enthusiasm and engagement of our members.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of an extraordinary team. Every publication, every congress, every educational initiative, and every social media campaign has been the result of collaboration among talented colleagues who generously contributed their expertise, ideas, and time.

Every project has a beginning and an end, and for me, this marks the conclusion of a truly fulfilling chapter as Media Development Officer.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to these projects over the years. Whether through editorial work, educational initiatives, congress organisation, communication, or countless behind-the-scenes efforts, your commitment has made every achievement possible.

Finally, I would like to offer my deepest appreciation to María Montesinos, our extraordinarily talented graphic designer. Her creativity, professionalism, attention to detail, and remarkable ability to transform ideas into compelling visual communication have been fundamental to the success and identity of our publications and media projects. Working alongside her has been both a privilege and a pleasure. Thank you all for your trust, your collaboration, and your friendship. It has been an honour to serve as your Media Development Officer.

This paper was written together with Max, my AI co-author.



CHRISTOS PERISANIDIS
Education & Training Officer

The **ATHENS** report

SIX YEARS IN SURGICAL EDUCATION — AND THE ROAD TO ATHENS 2026

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As my tenure as EACMFS Education & Training Officer draws to a close at our Athens Congress, this Athens report is a special one for me. Allow me, for once, to look back — over six years of building, together with all of you, the educational architecture of our Association — before looking forward to the celebration that awaits us in my home city in September.

2020: A Tenure Born in Challenging Times

I assumed this role in October 2020, in the depths of the pandemic, when surgical exposure and face-to-face teaching had collapsed across Europe. That crisis became our opportunity: we reimagined how surgical education could be delivered, revitalising the web-based European Lecture Series with distinguished new faculty, debate lectures, and expert panel discussions, and committing the Association to a new generation of structured training — with a promise, from day one, to give special priority to colleagues in Eastern Europe.

A Portfolio of Postgraduate Programmes

The flagship achievement of these years has been the creation of the EACMFS Postgraduate Programmes — a concept that did not exist in 2020 and now forms a complete educational portfolio. The Postgraduate Programme in Head and Neck Surgery: Oncology, launched in February 2022 and accredited by the EACCME, is now approaching its fifth edition, having trained senior residents and young specialists through online modules, clinical observerships at leading European centres, and hands-on cadaver workshops. It was joined in 2024 by the Postgraduate Programme in Facial Plastic Surgery, which attracted 27 participants in its inaugural edition and is currently running its second with outstanding feedback. The portfolio will soon expand further, with the Postgraduate Programme in Oral Implantology and the Postgraduate Programme in Orthognathic Surgery, both planned to launch in the near upcoming period. Four programmes, one philosophy: comprehensive curricula combining e-learning, clinical observership at centres of excellence, and cadaveric training, delivered by world-class faculty. My deepest gratitude goes to all Scientific Directors and speakers whose generosity made these programmes a reality.

Putting Trainees at the Centre

Equally close to my heart has been the empowerment of our young colleagues. We reactivated the National Trainee Representatives across Europe and established the NTR Forum with themed work groups. This structure bore fruit with the inaugural EACMFS OMFS Trainee Conference in Naples in June 2025. Alongside this, the EACMFS Network of Teaching Centres of Excellence, launched in 2023, and our guest scientific sessions at major congresses – from Vancouver, Singapore and San Diego to Baku, Antalya, Seoul and Punta Cana – have carried European surgical education across the globe.

Athens 2026: The Celebration Awaits

And now, the finale. The 28th EACMFS Congress in Athens (15–18 September 2026) promises to be the leading global event in oral and maxillofacial surgery – four thematic axes hosted in the magnificent halls of the Athens Megaron, with 49 confirmed keynote speakers, 47 symposia, 19 masterclasses, and over 45 guest societies, all under the theme “From Foundation to Innovation: Harnessing our Surgical Future”.

I draw your particular attention to the John Lowry Pre-Congress Day on Monday, 14 September 2026. This dedicated educational session for trainees and young surgeons has been actively curated by our National Trainee Representatives themselves, ensuring that the topics discussed are precisely those that matter to the next generation. If you are a resident or young specialist, this is where your Congress must begin – a full day of education, debate, and networking with peers from across the world, in the city where the foundations of medicine were first laid.

Thank You

Serving as your Education & Training Officer has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life. Whatever we achieved, we achieved together – Executive Committee, Councillors, faculty, and above all our trainees. I look forward to welcoming you all to Athens in September, and to watching the next chapter of EACMFS education unfold in dedicated hands.

With gratitude and warm regards.



SORG

**SORG pre-conference
at the 28th EACMFS Congress
Date: Monday, September 14,
2026 | Athens, Greece**

**Advanced facial trauma course
Special offer to all SORG associate members**



SATHEESH PRABHU
Secretary General

OXFORD minutes

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is once again conference time and the excitement and anticipation within the EACMFS family is palpable. Having broken all previous records for abstract submissions, this will undoubtedly be a highly successful conference, with a large attendance and extensive opportunities for scientific exchange and social interaction. It is no secret that organising these conferences requires significant effort and dedication from both the President and local organising team. In addition to the considerable organisational demands, there are numerous external factors beyond anyone's control. It is therefore a huge relief to see the global geopolitical situation settling, bringing renewed hope for a return to normal international travel and participation.

The interest for new executive officer positions was encouraging. The enthusiasm to serve the speciality and the membership was very visible. The selection process was followed as per our Constitutional guidelines, and we hope that the new officers will bring innovative ideas and plans to take the Association in the right direction. The process of ratification by the General Assembly will be final step in their appointment. I hope that all members will be able to attend this important meeting and take the opportunity to receive an update on the Association's activities and developments. I also would like to thank Prof Perisinadis, Prof Wiltfang, Dr Lagunas, and Dr Gulati for their immense contributions to our Association.

Interest in EACMFS extends beyond Europe, with an increasing number of opportunities emerging for international collaboration. By joining forces and working together, we can further promote the specialty and advance our shared goal of delivering the greatest possible benefit for our patients.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Jill McFarland, who has contributed over decades to our organisation. Throughout this time, she has provided invaluable corporate knowledge, wisdom, and commitment, offering unwavering support to the Executive, Councillors, and our members. She has been instrumental in developing the new Secretariat team. I wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

WELCOME TO ATHENS

EACMFS welcomes you to Greece's capital,
where ancient history and modern innovation come together



28th EACMFS CONGRESS

15-18 September 2026

Pre-Congress day: 14 September

ATHENS - GREECE



THE COUNTDOWN TO THE 28th EACMFS CONGRESS HAS STARTED!

LEO VASSILIOU

Deputy Chair Scientific Committee

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Less than three months left before our exciting meeting in Athens!

The countdown to the 28th EACMFS Congress has started!

The scientific and organizing committees have been tirelessly working in the last year and currently in feverish preparations to deliver to you a truly momentous scientific event!

In a milestone development our Congress has now expanded to span a full week packed with scientific lectures, debates, masterclasses and workshops.

Starting on Monday 14th of September with a pre-Congress day, bursting with activity, A TMJ-course and an extended John-Lowry Day, the 28th EACMFS Congress will officially open on Tuesday 15th of September.

It is the first time in the history of our Association that our Congress will extend to span four full days.

The mainstream Scientific Program will be built on four main thematic axes with the Friday been dedicated to Oral Surgery and Implantology open also to colleagues from dental and office-based practices.

The Scientific Program will incorporate 48 keynote lectures from world-wide international experts, and 45 scientific Symposia that span all new technologies and advances in all fields of our Specialty.

Symposia, Plenary and Keynote Lectures will discuss:

- Novel aspects in facial reanimation
- New technologies in CMFS
- Facial transplantation
- Tissue engineering
- Skin cancer
- Advancements of cranio-maxillo-facial trauma
- Complex paediatric surgery
- Rare diseases (head neck sarcomas and salivary gland malignancies)
- Intraoperative targeted imaging
- Facial feminization surgery
- Management of arterio-venous malformations
- Complex head & neck trauma
- Updates in head and neck oncology
- Minimally invasive orthognathic surgery
- Novel aspects and techniques in facial aesthetic surgery
- Scientific research in oral dysplasia
- Advances in the management of cleft and craniofacial surgery
- Skull base surgery
- Temporomandibular Joint surgery and its novel aspects
- Complex head neck reconstruction

- Robotic surgery in oncology and reconstruction
- Management of vessel depleted neck
- Complications in head and neck surgery
- Odontogenic tumours
- Advanced implantology and oral rehabilitation
- Sustainability and green surgery
- Mentorship in surgery
- Management of private practice
- World-wide missions
- Management of war trauma

Scientific Debates on 'hot' topics of oncology and orthognathic surgery will spark discussion on controversies.

The Congress Scientific Program will be augmented by 18 parallel streams delivered by a historical record of 47 Guest Societies from all over the world.

Hand-on workshops and 17 masterclasses delivered by experts will further add another tone in specialised topics for the enthusiastic delegates and complete the event-packed agenda of the guided program.

With an overwhelming application of just under 3,000 abstracts from 48 countries, the 6 collateral scientific areas in the Congress Venue, the Megaron will host Guest Societies parallel lectures and 1250 free paper presentations alongside over 1300 displayed posters from the research frontline of our Specialty.

We are in position to promise you an unmissable scientific event!

Full of excitement, we are looking forward to meeting you all this coming September for a party of science and innovation, a milestone in the history of the EACMFS, and an unforgettable experience in the spectacular setting of Athens.

Do not miss out registering for the 28th EACMFS Congress!

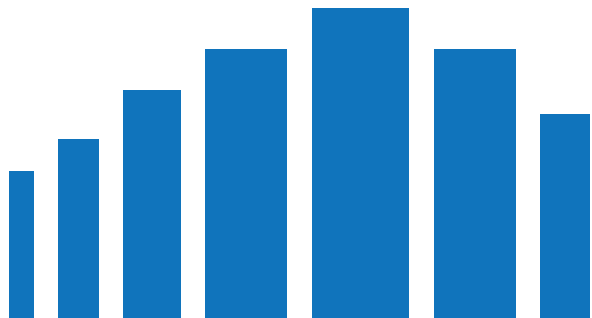
With best wishes.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



Monday 14th September 2026					
MORNING SESSIONS	MITROPOLIS HALL	SKALKOTAS HALL	BANQUET HALL	MC1 ROOM	MC2 ROOM
	John Lowry Education Session (from 12m)	SORG Educational Session	Workshop in Arthroscopy of the TMJ Download the Program		Hands on session
AFTERNOON SESSIONS	MITROPOLIS HALL	SKALKOTAS HALL	BANQUET HALL	MC1 ROOM	MC2 ROOM
	John Lowry Education Session	SORG Educational Session	Workshop in Arthroscopy of the TMJ Download the Program	Hands On orthognathic: Precision & Predictable Fixation Download the Program	





MEGARON ATHENS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Megaron Athens International Conference Centre (MAICC) is one of Europe's premier conference venues and one of the most prestigious meeting facilities in the Mediterranean. Located in the heart of Athens, it combines elegant architecture, state-of-the-art technology and outstanding accessibility, making it the ideal venue for international scientific congresses.

For the 28th Congress of the European Association for Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery (EACMFS), the Organising Committee carefully selected MAICC as the host venue. Its international reputation, exceptional infrastructure and strategic location provide the ideal setting for one of the world's leading congresses in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The venue offers the capacity, flexibility and technological capabilities required to accommodate a comprehensive scientific programme, industry exhibition, poster presentations and networking activities, while ensuring an outstanding experience for the thousands of delegates expected from across Europe and beyond.

Offering more than 143,000 m² of indoor space, MAICC features 18 versatile meeting rooms, four world-class auditoria, extensive exhibition and networking areas, and a total capacity of up to 6,000 delegates. The venue can simultaneously host large plenary sessions, parallel scientific programmes, poster exhibitions, industry symposia and social events.

The main auditoria include the Christos Lambrakis Hall (1,960 seats), the Alexandra Triantifili Hall (1,500 seats), the Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall (450 seats) and the Nikos Skalkotas Hall



(380 seats). Additional conference rooms accommodate between 25 and 200 participants, providing excellent flexibility for workshops, committee meetings and educational sessions.

MAICC is fully equipped with cutting-edge audiovisual systems, high-speed Wi-Fi throughout the venue, professional technical support, extensive catering facilities and complete accessibility for delegates with reduced mobility. The venue also offers a secure underground car park with 750 parking spaces.



Alexandra-Trianti-Hall

Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall



Its central location places delegates within walking distance of major hotels, museums, restaurants and the elegant Kolonaki district. The adjacent Megaro Moussikis Metro Station (Line 3) provides a direct connection to Athens International Airport in approximately 35 minutes, ensuring convenient access for international participants.

With decades of experience hosting major international medical, scientific and corporate events, the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre combines world-class facilities with the rich cultural heritage of Athens, creating an inspiring environment for scientific exchange, education and collaboration. As the host venue of EACMFS 2026, it will provide an exceptional setting for advancing knowledge and strengthening professional connections within the global cranio-maxillofacial community.



The EACMFS Congress Gala Dinner: An Unmissable Evening at the Acropolis Museum

By Javier González Lagunas

One of the most anticipated highlights of the upcoming EACMFS Congress in Athens will undoubtedly be **the Gala Dinner**, a prestigious corporate event that brings together delegates, speakers, partners, and distinguished guests for an unforgettable evening of celebration and professional networking.

The Gala Dinner represents far more than a social gathering. It is one of the most important networking events organized by the European Association for Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery (EACMFS), reflecting the Society's commitment to fostering collaboration, strengthening professional relationships, and celebrating excellence within the specialty. Every edition of the Congress offers participants the opportunity to learn from world-class scientific sessions, but the Gala Dinner provides the perfect setting to continue those conversations in an elegant and inspiring atmosphere.

This year's event will take place on Wednesday evening, offering delegates a unique opportunity to step away from the conference halls and experience one of the world's most extraordinary cultural venues. The chosen location is the magnificent Acropolis Museum, an exceptional setting that perfectly combines history, architecture, and contemporary elegance. Situated at the foot of the Acropolis and surrounded by some of the most iconic landmarks of Western civilization, the museum provides an unparalleled backdrop for an

evening dedicated to friendship, professional exchange, and celebration.

The Acropolis Museum is widely recognized as one of the finest museums in Europe. Its modern architecture, breathtaking panoramic views of the illuminated Acropolis, and remarkable collection of archaeological treasures create a truly unforgettable environment.

Guests attending the Gala Dinner can expect an evening of exceptional hospitality, fine cuisine, and an atmosphere designed to encourage meaningful interactions among colleagues from across the globe. The event offers a rare opportunity to meet fellow surgeons, researchers, educators, residents,

and industry representatives in a relaxed and elegant environment, away from the formal structure of scientific sessions.

The Gala Dinner offers delegates the chance to connect with many of the specialty's most respected opinion leaders. Internationally renowned surgeons, influential researchers, senior academics, and pioneers in cranio-maxillo-facial surgery will be present, making this one of the most valuable networking opportunities of the entire Congress. Whether you are an experienced consultant, an early-career specialist, or a resident beginning your professional journey, the evening provides an ideal setting to exchange ideas and establish meaningful professional connections.

As with every prestigious event, places for the Gala Dinner are strictly limited. The unique capacity of the Acropolis Museum ensures an exclusive experience for attendees, but it also means that availability is restricted. Delegates are strongly encouraged to secure their place as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Once capacity has been reached, no additional tickets will be available.

Athens, the birthplace of democracy and one of the world's most influential cultural capitals, provides the perfect destination for such a distinguished gathering. The combination of the city's rich history, the inspiring surroundings of the Acropolis, and the outstanding scientific programme of the Congress makes this year's Gala Dinner particularly special. Few venues in the world can offer such a remarkable blend of heritage, culture, and modern sophistication.

Whether attending the Congress for the first time or returning as a long-standing member of the EACMFS community, delegates will find that the Gala Dinner is an essential part of the overall Congress experience. It is an evening where conversations become collaborations, introductions become friendships, and professional connections become lasting partnerships.

The EACMFS Gala Dinner is much more than a dinner—it is a celebration of the international cranio-maxillo-facial surgery community. Secure your place early and join colleagues from around the world for an evening that celebrates excellence, innovation, and the future of cranio-maxillo-facial surgery.

This paper was written together with Max, my AI co-author.



Are you an **EACMFS** member



Have you recently...

Participated in an **engaging course**?

Attended a **networking event**?

Achieved a **professional milestone**?

We would love to highlight our members on social media.
If you would like to share your experience, please email:
ewiner @eacmfs.org or **tag us** in your post.





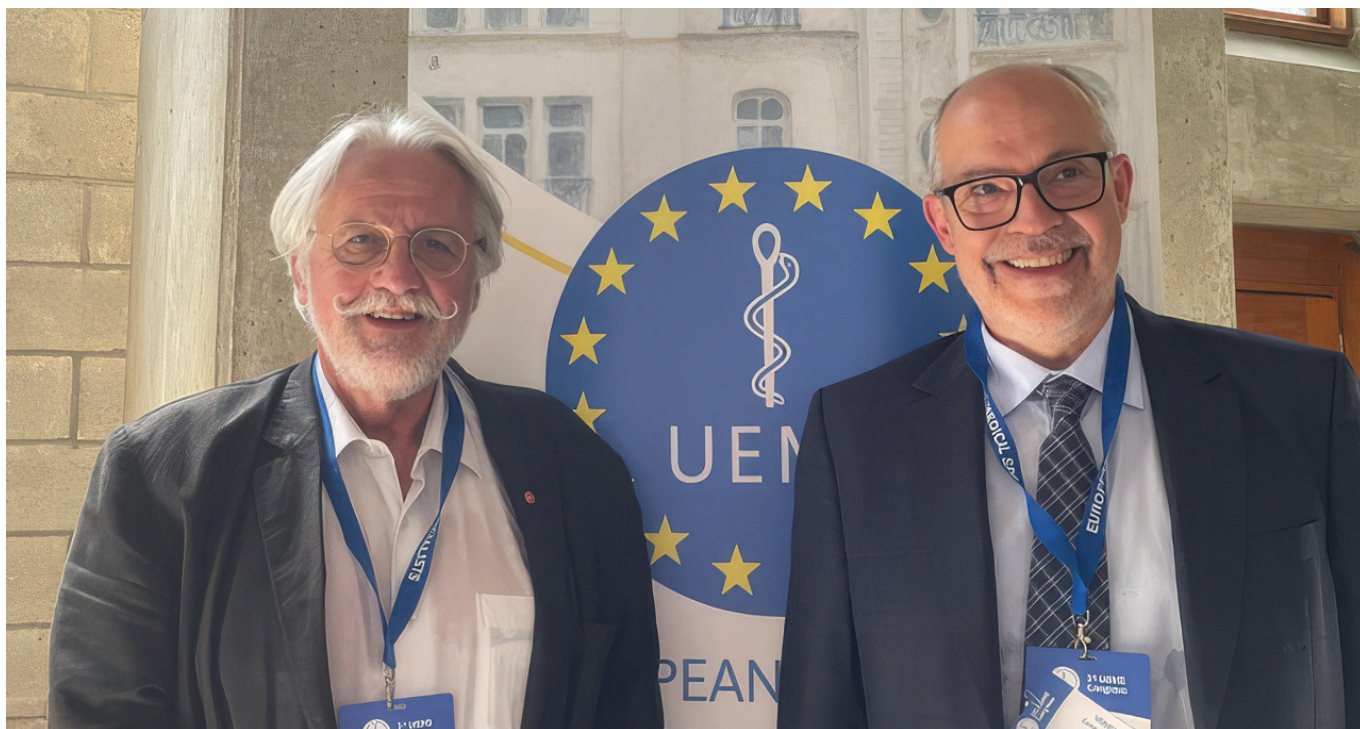
LET'S TALK ABOUT UEMS

JOSÉ LUIS CEBRIÁN

What is UEMS, and when was it founded?

Founded in 1958, the UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes) is the oldest and largest medical organisation in Europe, representing more than 1.6 million medical specialists. Since its inception, the UEMS has represented medical specialists across the European Union and associated countries, serving as the official liaison between the medical profession and European institutions. Its functions included defining European requirements for specialist training (ETRs), accrediting courses and conferences through CME credits, organising European examinations that award Fellowships in various specialties, and representing the interests of specialists before the European Commission and other institutions. Comprising representatives from 40 countries, the UEMS brings together the National Associations of Medical Specialists from the European Union and associated countries. Its governance is led by the Council, which oversees the work of 43 Specialist Sections and their respective European





Boards, each responsible for advancing postgraduate training and standards within its specialty.

Tell us about the monospecialist section of OMFS: how many countries represented, functions, etc?

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery section (OMFSUEMS) represents the medical-surgical specialty at the European level. Its main objective is to harmonize and raise the standards of training, certification, and continuing medical education across Europe, thereby guaranteeing the free movement of specialists.

Perhaps its most significant role, however, lies in the field of training. The UEMS is responsible for the development, review, and approval of the European Training Requirements (ETRs), which define a harmonised curriculum and the competencies required for independent practice within each specialty across Europe. In this regard, it also reviews the ETRs of other specialties, ensuring the maintenance of multidisciplinary work across different areas of competence through the MJC's, such as the one for head and neck surgery, which is currently under development.

In addition, the UEMS also organises Pre-Specialisation Assessments, which are offered free of charge and are designed to help residents and junior specialists evaluate their level and prepare for national or

European examinations. These are multiple-choice exams similar to those they will encounter in their home countries during their residency. In this capacity the UEMS also functions as a Program Review, offering formal, external reviews of national training programs to ensure they meet European standards. Finally, we also offer the support and collaboration of EBOMFS (European Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery).

All of these activities must be undertaken while recognising the diversity of our specialty. One of the defining characteristics of the UEMS Section is its recognition of the dual training pathways that exist across Europe. Within the UEMS Section, two recognised training pathways are represented: Dental, Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery (DOMFS), practised in countries where both medical and dental degrees are required, and Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery (OMFS), practised in countries where only a medical degree is required. The UEMS actively promotes the recognition of both pathways and fosters collaboration between them under the motto "One Specialty: Two Titles", with the shared objective of maintaining high standards of training and ensuring excellence in patient care, irrespective of the training route followed within each country. Countries where the specialty is based exclusively on dental training are also welcomed as observers. Under this framework, the Section represents



32 countries across Europe. To learn more about its statutes, educational programs, or to access its publications and annual events, you can visit the official UEMS OMFS website (<https://omfsuems.eu/>)

You are the political arm of the specialty in Europe... do you plan to expand to other activities to other areas?

It is true that it can be considered a political organisation, but always in a positive sense. I believe our duty is to give a voice to and listen to the challenges and unique characteristics of the specialty in each country, and to offer our help wherever needed. I believe we must increasingly empower the delegates from each nation and encourage them to attend meetings to be heard, rather than simply to listen.

There are also other important functions, as I mentioned before, such as the accreditation of courses and congresses (via CME credits), and even of educational centers in the near future, and, of course, the drafting and updating of the specialty's ETRs.

On the other hand, there is the fundamental role of the European Board, which we will discuss later and which is a priority objective. It is important to remember that the UEMS section is not a scientific society. In that respect, we must always work closely

with the EAOMFS (European Association of Medical Physicians and Surgeons).

What is the role of the UEMS in advocating for and safeguarding the interests of Maxillofacial Surgery within the complex and multidisciplinary field of Head and Neck Surgery? I believe the UEMS's work is essential in this aspect. In fact, the organisation has proposed the creation of Multidisciplinary Joint Committees (MJC's) for various areas of expertise, such as Head and Neck surgery. The idea is that these committees will bring together all the specialties working in an area of expertise like this. The basic philosophy of these committees is to find common ground rather than points of conflict between the various specialties, with the final goal of improving patient treatment. In this context, the knowledge and expertise of individual specialties should be integrated to enhance patient care, which increasingly relies on multidisciplinary teamwork and collaboration across multiple medical specialties and healthcare professions.

Name the most important problem today in Europe, and how you want to address it-

At some point in the interview, we discussed the nuances of the specialty regarding dual certification. It's a difficult issue to resolve and causes a certain heterogeneity within the specialty, hindering the free movement of specialists. It's difficult to solve, and we'll have to live with it.

But something easier to resolve, and which is a priority for me, is recognising the multidisciplinary nature of head and neck surgery, preventing any one specialty from appropriating that name. We must work towards the full development of the Head and Neck MJC (Multidisciplinary Joint Committee).

Another important priority is to work with the UEMS Executive Committee to expand the accreditation of not only educational courses but also training centres within the organisation, while promoting clinical rotations in these centres of excellence. Finally, another important concern is trying to involve those more than 30 countries in the section. My intention is to be closer to the delegates, listen to them, and ask for their proposals. Normally, between 25 and 35 percent of the delegations are absent from the annual meetings, and this cannot continue.

Which is your relationship with EACMFS? Is it close and easy? What can be improved?

Maintaining a good relationship with the European Association is fundamental for us. We must not forget that the delegates from the different countries are appointed by their national associations, and the European Association is, to a certain extent, the parent society where we all feel represented. Every year, we coordinate our meetings in Brussels during the first weekend of March and hold some joint working sessions with the European Society, both from the Section and Board.

In recent years, the potential gap between the two organisations has progressively narrowed through the establishment of the liaison officer role, which ensures ongoing awareness of developments within both organisations and facilitates the exchange of relevant information between them. This collaboration has been further strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies. There are aspects that I believe should be addressed jointly, such as those related to residents and trainees (in fact, we collaborate on developing assessments for residents throughout their training), and others that we can discuss amicably.

What is very clear to me is that the European Association is responsible for all events related to scientific topics and that our role is the one I have already outlined. Perhaps one area where we still need to improve is by raising awareness of the section among surgeons. To this end, we can increase our visibility during European congresses, where we can inform attendees about our activities. Do you foresee a future in which membership of EBOMFS represents more than academic recognition, becoming a means to facilitate professional mobility and the ability to work freely across Europe?

I don't see it happening in the near future. The fact that the pathway to specialisation isn't uniform across Europe and that legislation differs from country to country makes it very complicated. However, I believe that being a Fellow of the European Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery goes far beyond mere recognition. In fact, in my opinion, it should be, and is, a point of unity for all European maxillofacial surgeons. It's something that

can bring unity to such a complex specialty with so many external threats. I firmly believe that it should be strengthened and that it's the duty of older surgeons to try to convince younger ones, to become FEBOMS (Fellows of the European Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery).





European Collaboration Strengthens Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgical Training in TANZANIA

By Fernando Garcia-Marin and Tony Markus



Several European organisations and institutions are working together to strengthen cranio-maxillofacial surgical training in Tanzania through a coordinated programme of fellowships, clinical exchanges, educational initiatives and capacity-building projects.

BUGANDO MEDICAL CENTRE

In 2023, the **Fundación Española de Cooperación Sanitaria (FECS)** signed a partnership agreement with **Bugando Medical Centre (BMC)** in Mwanza, Tanzania. As the principal referral hospital for the Lake Victoria region, BMC serves a catchment population of approximately 20 million people and plays a pivotal role in delivering specialist healthcare to predominantly rural communities.

The primary objective of this collaboration is to strengthen local surgical capacity through a comprehensive training programme for Tanzanian surgeons and healthcare professionals. The initiative combines visits by experienced international volunteer surgeons with fellowships that enable Tanzanian specialists to undertake advanced training in leading centres in Europe and India.

This is a truly multi-partner initiative including FECS (Spain), **Future Faces (United Kingdom)**, MKA Tanzania (Nederland), the **GSR Institute of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery** in Hyderabad, India, **Hospital Universitario La Paz** and **Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal** in Madrid, and the **Queen Victoria Hospital** in East Grinstead, United Kingdom.

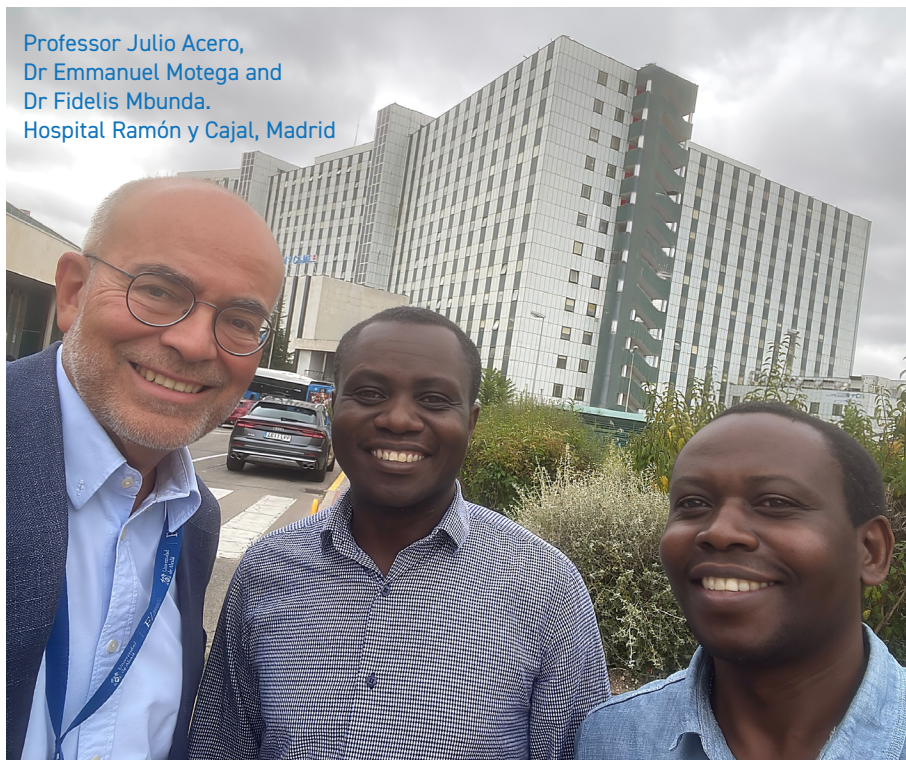
As part of this programme, the first Tanzanian fellows, **Dr Emmanuel Motega** and **Dr Fidelis Mbunda**, arrived in Madrid in June 2024 to begin an intensive advanced training programme. They spent four months rotating through the Departments of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Hospital La Paz (Dr Jose Luis Cebrian) and Hospital Ramón y Cajal (Professor Julio Acero).

In 2025, their fellowship continued with a further three months at the **Queen Victoria Hospital**, East Grinstead (Dr Aakshay Gulati), one of Europe's leading centres for reconstructive cranio-maxillofacial surgery.

The final stage of their programme took place at the **GSR Institute** in Hyderabad, India, where they received highly specialised training in cleft, craniofacial and reconstructive surgery. Overall, the fellowship provided almost one

year of intensive postgraduate training, generously funded by **Future Faces**, under the leadership of **Professor Tony Markus**, in close collaboration with FECS.

Professor Julio Acero,
Dr Emmanuel Motega and
Dr Fidelis Mbunda.
Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid



VRIMS (VIRTUAL REALITY IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY)

As part of the expanding training programme in Tanzania, **Future Faces** awarded scholarships to two surgeons from **Bugando Medical Centre** to participate in the **VRiMS (Virtual Reality in Medicine and Surgery)** programme.

Developed by **Professor Jag Dhanda** (Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, and Brighton & Sussex Medical School), VRiMS is an innovative educational platform that harnesses high-quality Virtual and Extended Reality (VR/XR) technologies to transform surgical education, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The platform enables surgeons to observe complex procedures in an immersive environment and provides access to an extensive educational library covering multiple surgical specialties, including Oral and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr Fidelis Mbunda and **Dr Vihar Kotecha** attended the intensive VRiMS training programme in Guildford (8–12 September 2025), where they received hands-on instruction in the use of Extended Reality technologies for surgical education in



Professor Jag Dhanda



resource-limited settings. Their training included participation in the **VRiMS 19 cadaveric course**, while also contributing to the development of immersive educational content in **Swahili**, thereby making the platform more accessible to healthcare professionals across East Africa.

A further milestone was achieved in **February 2026**, when Professor Jag Dhanda visited Bugando Medical Centre to oversee the implementation of the VRiMS platform. All the necessary equipment was subsidised by Future Faces. This marked the beginning of a new era in digital surgical education in Tanzania, providing local surgeons with continuous access to advanced training resources and strengthening the long-term sustainability of the country's cranio-maxillofacial training programme.

MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL, DAR ES SALAAM

The collaborative training initiative has recently expanded to **Muhimbili National Hospital**, Tanzania's leading university teaching hospital, where a new generation of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons is undertaking advanced subspecialty training in **Head and neck oncology**.

At the end of August 2025, **Dr Enock Alphonse Robi**, **Dr Abbas Mussa Mungia** and **Dr Arnold Mtenga** began an ambitious international fellowship programme designed to develop future leaders in cranio-maxillofacial surgery. The initiative is coordinated by **Dr Albert Wittkamp**, of the **Dutch Foundation for the Development of Maxillofacial Surgery in Tanzania (MKA-Tanzania)**, in close collaboration with **FECS** and several European and international partner institutions.

The programme commenced with enrolment in the **AO CMF Global Oral Cancer Diploma**, a ten-month international online course providing comprehensive theoretical training in head and neck oncology.

Following completion of this academic component, **Dr Enock Alphonse Robi** has continued his fellowship with two months of clinical training in head and neck oncology at two leading university hospitals in the Netherlands (Dr Robert van Es). His programme continued with a further two months at the **GSR Institute of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery** in Hyderabad, India, before moving to Madrid, Spain, for a three-month fellowship, and finally to the **Queen Victoria Hospital** in East Grinstead, United Kingdom, for an additional three months of advanced clinical training.

This international pathway provides progressive exposure to different healthcare systems, surgical philosophies and subspecialist expertise, enabling the fellows to acquire the knowledge and clinical experience required to establish and further develop modern head and neck oncological services in Tanzania.

REACH TANZANIA: BRINGING SPECIALIST CARE CLOSER TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Building on the progress achieved through international surgical training, a new initiative is currently under development to improve access to specialist cranio-maxillofacial care for rural populations in Tanzania.

The **REACH Tanzania** project is inspired by the successful **REACH (Rural, Effective, Affordable, Comprehensive Healthcare)** model, developed more than 25 years ago in India by **Professor Gosla Reddy** and **Professor Tony Markus**. The programme has demonstrated how community-based healthcare networks can overcome geographical and socioeconomic barriers, enabling patients living in remote areas to access specialist surgical services.

The Tanzanian adaptation aims to establish a sustainable referral network across the Lake Victoria region, where millions of people continue to face major obstacles in accessing specialist cranio-maxillofacial care. Rather than waiting for patients to reach tertiary hospitals, the programme brings the healthcare system closer to the community by creating an integrated network linking community health workers, district hospitals and specialist referral centres.

The pilot programme, scheduled to begin in **Nzega District**, Tabora Region, will establish a structured pathway for the early identification of patients with cleft lip and palate, craniofacial deformities, head and neck tumours, traumatic injuries and other conditions requiring specialist cranio-maxillofacial surgery. Community health workers will be trained to recognise these conditions, register patients through a dedicated health information system and facilitate timely referral to **Bugando Medical Centre** or other specialist units when appropriate.

Beyond patient identification and referral, REACH Tanzania incorporates community health education, screening programmes, professional training and comprehensive patient support. The programme will cover transportation, accommodation, surgical treatment and multidisciplinary follow-up, ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent access to life-changing care.

The initial twelve-month pilot phase is expected to provide treatment for **100-200 patients** while strengthening local healthcare capacity and evaluating the effectiveness of this community-based model.

CONCLUSION

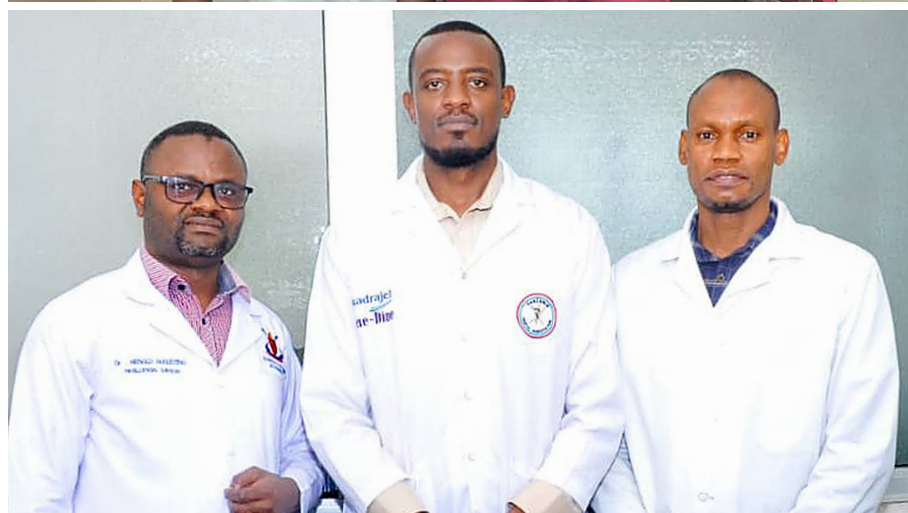
These initiatives demonstrate how long-term international collaboration can move beyond short-term humanitarian missions to create

sustainable improvements in specialist healthcare.

By combining advanced clinical fellowships, innovative digital education through Virtual and Extended Reality, multidisciplinary international partnerships and community-based healthcare delivery, European and Tanzanian institutions are working together to develop the next generation of cranio-maxillofacial surgeons while improving access to specialist care for underserved populations.

The strength of this collaboration lies not only in the transfer of surgical knowledge, but also in its commitment to building long-term local expertise, empowering healthcare professionals and establishing sustainable systems capable of delivering high-quality cranio-maxillofacial care for future generations.

Dr Priya with Enock A Robi.



Dr Arnold A. Mtenga, Dr Enock A. Robi and Dr Abbas M. Mungia from Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam. The three surgeons are participating in a comprehensive international fellowship programme in Oral and Maxillofacial Oncology across Europe and India.

The **PULSE**

NEWSletter



PO Box 85. Midhurst GU29 9WS. West Sussex. UK