



Welcome

RUSH

Rush Otolaryngology Fourth Global Health Symposium

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Fourth Global Health Symposium hosted by the Department of Otolaryngology at Rush University Medical Center.

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as Director of the Otolaryngology Global Health Program and organizer of this symposium. This gathering reflects our shared commitment to advancing global collaboration, education, innovation, and equitable access to care in otolaryngology and related disciplines.

Over the years, our symposium has brought together physicians, surgeons, trainees, researchers, educators, and global health advocates from diverse backgrounds and regions of the world. Through meaningful dialogue and interdisciplinary partnership, we continue to strengthen our collective mission of improving patient care and expanding opportunities for underserved communities worldwide.

This year's symposium highlights important advances in global otolaryngology, humanitarian outreach, medical technology, education, and international collaboration. We are especially grateful to our distinguished speakers, faculty, residents, students, and partners whose dedication and expertise make this event possible.

Global health is built upon collaboration, compassion, innovation, and service. We hope this symposium inspires thoughtful discussion, fosters lasting partnerships, and encourages continued efforts to address healthcare disparities both locally and globally.

Thank you for joining us and contributing to the success of the Rush Otolaryngology Fourth Global Health Symposium.



Ashok Jagasia, MD, PhD

Course Director

**Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
Rush University Medical Center**

Director, Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Rush Oak Park Hospital

Director, ENT Global Health



**CME
EVENT**

RUSH University Medical Center Otolaryngology Global Health Symposium

Empowering Otolaryngology for Global Health: Bridging innovation, Access and Collaboration.

We hope that this free one-day remote and in-person conference can serve as a forum for further engagement with otolaryngology colleagues around the world on a range of timely topics within global health otolaryngology. We are inviting students, residents, trainees and medical professionals at all levels to attend.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the extent of disparities in otolaryngology care and their impact on global and rural health outcomes.
2. Analyze clinical and system-level strategies and resources available to address disparities in ENT care.
3. Apply evidence-based best practices to improve access to otolaryngology care within their own practice or community, particularly in underserved or resource-limited settings.
4. Collaborate in global health initiatives and advocate for equitable, sustainable healthcare solutions in otolaryngology.



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[**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT***](#)

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

In support of improving patient care, RUSH University Medical Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



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INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

CREDIT DESIGNATION STATEMENTS MEDICINE

RUSH University Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABS credit.

Friday May 29, 2026

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Joan and Paul Rubschlager Building

1520 W. Harrison St.

Chicago, IL 60607

**Residents and Students: Click above to submit an abstract for consideration for a poster or oral presentation. Presentations can be in-person or remote.*

**The following sessions will not receive continuing education credit. This is in no way a reflection of the integrity or quality of the content.*



RUSH University Medical Center

Otolaryngology Global Health Symposium

Empowering Otolaryngology for Global Health: Bridging innovation, Access and Collaboration.

Agenda - Session One

Location: Room 500A

8:00 Introduction & Welcome

Ashok Jagasia, MD, PhD - Rush University, USA

8:10 Bridging the Gap in Hearing Care: WHO strategies for Otitis Media and Access to Rehabilitation Services

Carolina Der, MD

8:30 Scaling up Ear and Hearing Care Services in LMIC Countries: A Kenyan Experience

Lilian Mokoh, MD

8:50 Redefining Ear and Hearing Care Through Integrated ORL-Audiology Practice

Dr. Joyce Sagun, MD

9:10 Moderator Session

Ashok Jagasia, MD, PhD; Saif Salih

9:30 Timely Matters: Time to Care for Head and Neck Cancer Patients

Mary Xu, MD

9:50 Expanding Access to Head and Neck Surgery Care in Sub Saharan Africa, Journey to a Head and Neck Fellowship in Kenya

Samuel Okerosi, MD

10:10 Advances and Innovations in the Clinical and Surgical Treatment of Deafness

Ricardo Ferreria Bento, MD, PhD

10:30 Moderator Session

Samer Al-Khudari, MD; Myra Zaheer

10:50 Refining Health Literacy in Pediatric ENT in the Middle East

Taseer Din, FCORL, MBCHB, MMED

11:10 USA and Africa - Priorities for Shared Global Surgery Future

Johannes Fagan, MD

11:30 MedGlobal: A Model for Reducing Global Health Inequity

Zaher Sahloul, MD

11:50 Moderator Session

Joshua Widermann, MD; Isabel Chris

12:00 Lunch & Poster Session

Please see next page for Session 2

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Oral Abstract Presentations (non-CME) | Time: 13:00–15:30 | Location: 500A

#	TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE
	13:00	Afternoon Keynote Address: Joshua Wiedermann, MD	
1	13:25	Selamawit Z. Tadesse	Unheard Needs: A Qualitative Study of Healthcare Satisfaction among Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2	13:35	Gamubaka Richard	Breaking Barriers: How Cosecsa residents in Mbale Regional Referral Hospital Are Redefining Ear, Nose and Throat Emergency Care with Remote Management in a Low-Resource Setting
3	13:45	Zachary Elwell	OtoSurg 1: A Prospective Evaluation of Worldwide Tonsillectomy Indications, Techniques, and Outcomes
4	13:55	McKenna Gervais	The ‘Hispanic Paradox’: Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity as a Protective Factor Against 30-Day Readmission in Adults Post-Tracheostomy
5	14:05	Micaela Shields	Discrimination in Head and Neck Cancer Treatment: A Qualitative Study

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Oral Abstract Presentations (non-CME) | Time: 13:00–15:30 | Location: 500A

#	TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE
6	14:15	Ananya Uddanti	Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Programs as a Resource for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Populations
7	14:25	Amani Alvi	Racial and Socioeconomic Survivorship Disparities in Head and Neck Cancer: Not All Survivors Are Equal
8	14:35	Anannya Das	Understanding Pediatric Disability Weights in ENT Surgery: Severe Deficits in Preliminary Literature
9	14:45	Monik Assis Espindula Mota	Community-Based Pediatric Hearing Health Advocacy and School Engagement Initiative in Brazil During World Hearing Day 2026
10	14:55	Saif Salih	Bridging the Language Gap: A National and Regional Analysis of Otolaryngology Provider Language Availability and U.S. Demographic Needs

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The Center for the Underserved at Rush ENT (CURE)

About: CURE is a collaborative effort between physicians, students, audiologists, support staff, and general volunteers within Chicago and across the globe who work together to advance our mission to expand access to high-quality specialty medical care to historically underserved areas and communities.

With the support of our Rush University Department of Otolaryngology, faculty, residents and students, Ashok Jagasia, MD, PhD, established the Cure Initiative in 2022. All of the programs described are new service lines of care for the underserved communities which did not exist previously.



Please visit our website to learn more: <https://www.rushu.rush.edu/research-rush-university/departmental-research/cure-initiative>

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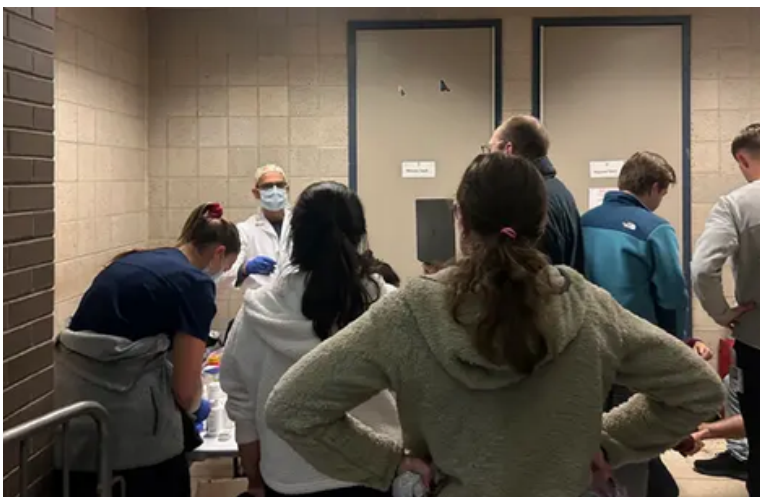
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The Center for the Underserved at Rush ENT (CURE)

Our Initiatives:

CURE Clinic: In our attempt to bridge the healthcare inequity that homeless citizens encounter, we have launched a hybrid in-person/virtual care program to improve access to otolaryngology care for the homeless community through Rush University Medical Center and local homeless advocate organizations on Chicago's South Side.

Rural-Urban Health Initiative: We have provided services in the region of central Illinois, serving many of the rural counties otherwise lacking otolaryngology care. Patients seen at these rural clinics who present with complex needs have also been referred to Rush University Medical Center for surgical services that are otherwise not available in their communities. The areas of referral include head and neck surgery, rhinology, otology, facial plastics, and laryngology, averaging about 60 surgical cases/referrals a year.



Please visit our website to learn more: <https://www.rushu.rush.edu/research-rush-university/departmental-research/cure-initiative>

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The Center for the Underserved at Rush ENT (CURE)

Our Initiatives:

Hearing Program for the Dominican Republic: Our objectives include expanding the hearing services to other hospitals in the Western region of DR. The long-term objective is to provide free access and widespread availability of hearing screens for newborns and pediatric patients up to 18 years of age.

Journal of Global Otolaryngology: The Journal of Global Otolaryngology in Global Health (JGO) was founded to address the historic underrepresentation of otolaryngology within global surgery literature and to create a unified platform for collaboration, research, and education. JGO serves as an open-access forum for clinicians, trainees, and researchers to share innovations, best practices, and evidence-based approaches in delivering ENT care across diverse and resource-limited settings.



Please visit our website to learn more: <https://www.rushu.rush.edu/research-rush-university/departmental-research/cure-initiative>

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Dr. Johannes Fagen, MD
Speaking at 8:10 AM

Johan Fagan is Emeritus Professor and former Chair of Otolaryngology at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He completed fellowships in Head and Neck/Cranial Base Surgery and Otolaryngology/Neuro-Otology at the University of Pittsburgh, has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications and has lectured in 35 countries. He self-publishes two widely used open-access textbooks - [Open Access Atlas of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Operative Surgery](#) and [Open Access Guide to Audiology and Hearing Aids for Otolaryngologists](#).

Professor Fagan founded Africa's first Head and Neck Surgery Fellowship at UCT, training the majority of the continent's subspecialists in this field. UCT also hosts Africa's only fellowships in Otolaryngology, Rhinology, and Paediatric Otolaryngology, with graduates establishing new fellowship programs in Uganda and Ethiopia.

He has written on ethics in global health, racial bias in research, vaccine nationalism, and equitable access to knowledge through open-access publishing, and has received multiple international honours recognizing his global impact and service including the Nikhil J. Bhatt MD International Public Service Award from the AAOHNS and being inducted into the AAOHN's Hall of Distinction.

Dr. Carolina Der, MD, PhD is an internationally recognized otolaryngologist and otologist specializing in ear and hearing care. She currently serves as a Technical Officer in the Ear and Hearing Care Programme at the World Health Organization in Geneva, where she works to advance global access to hearing healthcare and rehabilitation services. Dr. Der earned her PhD from the University of Navarra and also holds advanced training in audiology and public health.

Previously, she served as Associate Professor at Universidad del Desarrollo and led the Hearing Implants Program at Dr. Luis Calvo Mackenna Public Hospital in Chile. Her work focuses on cochlear implantation, hearing rehabilitation, pediatric otology, and the development of public health strategies to improve hearing care worldwide. Dr. Der is widely recognized for her leadership in global hearing health policy and her commitment to expanding equitable access to ear and hearing care.



Dr. Carolina Der, MD, PhD
Speaking at 8:30 AM

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Dr. Joyce Sagun, MD
Speaking at 8:50 AM

Dr. Joyce Rodvie Sagun, MD, MBA, MCIAud is a Filipino otolaryngologist (ENT specialist), clinical audiologist, and hearing-health advocate with expertise in ear and hearing disorders, tinnitus management, and adult auditory processing disorders. She practices otolaryngology-head and neck surgery with a subspecialty focus on audiology and hearing rehabilitation.

She serves as faculty in the Master of Clinical Audiology Program at the University of Santo Tomas, where she contributes to training future audiologists and advancing hearing-health education. She is also active internationally as a committee member in global audiology and otolaryngology initiatives, helping strengthen hearing-care systems across the Asia-Pacific region

Mary Jue Xu, MD, is a head and neck oncology and microvascular surgeon at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Her work focuses on interventions to improve access to quality cancer care in resource-constrained health systems. As a medical student, she spent a year at Butaro Cancer Center in Rwanda studying clinical outcomes of pediatric malignancies.

During her otolaryngology-head and neck surgery residency at UCSF, she worked with Dr. Aslam Nkya, a head and neck surgeon in Tanzania, on projects assessing rates of human papillomavirus-associated head and neck cancers in Tanzania. She co-founded the Global Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Initiative, an international research collaboration, and has worked on projects including a global otolaryngology-head and neck surgery workforce assessment. Her ongoing research is focused on improving access to head and neck cancer care both domestically and internationally.



Dr. Mary Xu, MD
Speaking at 9:30 AM

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Dr. Samuel Okerosi, MD
Speaking at 9:50 AM

Dr. Samuel Ndemo Okerosi is a consultant Ear Nose Throat Head and Neck surgeon based at the Kenyatta National hospital. He completed his Medicine and ENT head and neck training at the University of Nairobi and further sub-specialized in head and neck surgery at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse cancer centre in Sydney, Australia.

He is an honorary lecturer at the University of Nairobi Faculty of Medicine. He joined the Kenya Ear Nose and Throat Society (KENTS) Executive Committee in 2023 and is currently the CME convenor. Dr Okerosi also serves as the President of the Global Otolaryngology Head and Neck Initiative. He is the co Lead Editor of the Global ENT guidelines. He has multiple publications focusing on management of ENT conditions and equitable access to care for those with ENT conditions.

Graduated at the Medical School in 1978, specialized in Otorhinolaryngology (1979-81)

at Clinics Hospital of University of Sao Paulo (FMUSP)- Brazil, fellowship in Neurotology at the University Hospital - Zurich University – Swiss (Prof. Ugo Fish), PhD in Science at FMUSP (1986).

Currently, he is the Chairman and Professor of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of Medicine School of University of Sao Paulo-Brazil, President of the Societas Otorhinolaryngologica Latina President of Brazilian Otorhinolaryngology Society and coordinates the research projects Stem Cells for Inner Ear Regeneration and Auditory implantable prosthesis.

Author of the book Treatise of Otolaryngology, member of the American Otological Society, member of the Collegium ORL Amicitiae Sacrum, Chairman of Otolaryngology and Neurotology Committee of International Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (IFOS), more than 400 papers published in Medical Journals, more than 500 conferences in 45 countries.

General Secretary of the World Congress of Otorhinolaryngology of IFOS International Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies. Former editor of the Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology and Former President of the Brazilian Otological Society. 10. Researcher in Otolaryngology in Latin America (Schimago Ranking)



Dr. Richard Bento, MD
Speaking at 10:10 AM

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Dr. Taseer Din, MD
Speaking at 10:50 AM

Dr. Taseer Feroze Din has been a Consultant Pediatric Otolaryngologist and head-neck surgeon at Sidra Medicine since 2023, joining after completing a Fellowship and working at Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, USA.

He treats all medical and surgical diseases of the ear, nose, and throat and particularly specializes in complex airway and ear pathologies. He has a keen interest in clinical and global health research and has published multiple original research articles within the highest-impact journals in his field.

Having had the privilege to train and practice medicine in both low and high-resource settings, he has gained holistic perspectives in the arena of global health, education, and clinical care. As such, he enjoys teaching medical students and trainees within otolaryngology and seeks to collaborate globally continually. His ultimate vision is to continually perform clinical medicine at the highest level and promote global otolaryngology that facilitates an equitable and world-class clinical practice.

A qualified ENT Surgeon specialised in Neuro-otology, Otology and cochlear implant Surgery at The University of Cape Town.

Working at Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital in Kenya as the Head of Surgery Department. I am an advocate of ear and hearing care focusing on Policy making and research, clinical practice, public health approaches and in the championing of individuals with hearing impairments and disabilities.



Dr. Lilian Mokoh, MD
Speaking at 11:10 AM

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Dr. Zaher Sahloul, MD
Speaking at 11:30 AM

Dr. Zaher Sahloul is a critical care physician and humanitarian leader dedicated to expanding medical care for vulnerable communities worldwide. He is the President of MedGlobal and former President of the Syrian American Medical Society, leading medical missions to areas affected by war, poverty, and natural disasters, including Syria, Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, and Bangladesh.

He is also a leading global health advocate for protecting healthcare workers and improving medical relief in crisis settings. Professionally, he serves at Advocate Christ Medical Center and Saint Anthony Hospital and is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Sahloul has received numerous humanitarian awards, including the 2020 Gandhi Award for Peace.



Thank you for Joining Us!