SURGIL CONFERENCE 2025

The Surgical Interest Group Lagos (SURGIL) Conference 2025 (SURGIL'CON 25) was successfully held on Wednesday, 25th June 2025 at the New Great Hall, College of Medicine, University of Lagos (CMUL), Lagos.

Building on the success of its maiden edition in 2024, SURGIL'CON 25 was organized on a much larger scale, attracting over 500 in-person attendees from more than 10 medical schools across Nigeria, alongside over 400 virtual participants. The conference also received notable media coverage from Arise TV, further amplifying its reach and impact.

The event brought together distinguished surgeons, medical professionals, and students for a day of learning, mentorship, networking, and professional development.

The conference was themed:

"The Wholesome Surgeon"

This theme was carefully selected to emphasize the importance of developing not just technical surgical skills, but also intellectual depth, emotional intelligence, ethical grounding, research capacity, and global awareness.

It aimed to remind medical students of the true essence of surgery, bridging the gap between suffering and healing, while contributing meaningfully to improving healthcare delivery in Nigeria and beyond.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Julius Kunle Oni, an accomplished Orthopaedic Surgeon and Founder of O.N.I Clinic.

In his inspiring and thought-provoking presentation, he emphasized the importance of becoming surgeons who heal not only with their hands, but also with their minds and hearts. He highlighted:

- The need for excellence and innovation in surgical practice
- The importance of giving back to society and improving healthcare systems in Nigeria
- The value of purpose-driven careers in medicine

A highly engaging and insightful panel discussion moderated by Oluwadarasimi Adeboyeku(President, SURGIL) and Tobiloba Lawal (Financial Secretary, SURGIL) followed, featuring:

- Dr. Julius Kunle Oni – Orthopaedic Surgeon, Founder O.N.I Clinic
- Dr. Ayo Shonibare – Chief Medical Officer, Evercare Hospital

- Prof. Omolara Williams – Head of Department of Surgery, LASUCOM
- Prof. Christopher Bode – Former Chief Medical Director, LUTH

The panel session provided a platform for candid discussions on:

1. Career progression in surgery
2. Challenges faced in surgical practice in Nigeria
3. Work-life balance and personal development
4. Leadership and excellence in medicine

Panelists shared personal experiences, lessons learned, and practical advice, giving students invaluable insight into the realities of a surgical career.

One of the highlights of the conference was the interactive breakout sessions, where participants were divided into smaller groups for closer, one-on-one engagement with consultants across different surgical career pathways.

The sessions were organized into four key tracks:

1. Academia: Focused on academic surgery, teaching, and career development within university systems.

- Prof. Femi Bankole – Neurosurgeon, LUTH
- Dr. Ngozi Eke – General Surgeon, LASUTH
- Dr. Omotayo Ojo – Neurosurgeon, LUTH

2. Research: Centered on research opportunities, academic publishing, and innovation in surgery.

- Dr. Balogun – General Surgeon, LUTH
- Dr. Olumide Elebute – Paediatric Surgeon, LUTH

3. Global Surgery: Explored global health, surgical access disparities, and opportunities for international collaboration.

- Prof. Omolara Williams - Paediatric Surgeon, LASUTH
- Dr. Felix Alakaloko – Paediatric Surgeon, LUTH

4. Private Practice: Focused on entrepreneurship, private healthcare systems, and building sustainable surgical practices.

- Dr. Julius Kunle Oni
- Dr. Ayo Shonibare
- Prof. Jeje – Urologist, LUTH

These sessions allowed students to ask personalized questions and gain deeper insights into specific career paths.

The conference also featured three abstract presentations, highlighting innovative and relevant topics in modern surgical practice:

- The role of telemedicine and artificial intelligence in improving surgical care
- Strategies for enhancing surgical care in low- and middle-income countries
- A comparative study of high-dose versus low-dose radiotherapy in the treatment of glioblastoma

The session encouraged academic engagement and critical thinking among students.

The highlight of this segment was the presentation of the Prof. Adesoji Ademuyiwa Abstract Award, given to the best abstract presenter in recognition of excellence in surgical research.

SURGIL'CON 25 was a resounding success, achieving its aim of inspiring and equipping the next generation of surgeons.

Through insightful discussions, mentorship opportunities, and interactive sessions, the conference reinforced the importance of becoming wholesome surgeons, professionals who are not only clinically skilled but also compassionate, innovative, and socially responsible.

The conference has set a new standard for future editions and reaffirmed SURGIL's commitment to shaping the future of surgery in Nigeria.