August 1st, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to be considered for the 2018 ASC International Research Travel Award for the 14th Annual Academic Surgical Congress in Houston Texas.

In 2017, during my final year of medical school at the University of Buea in Cameroon, I was provided with an opportunity to collaborate with the University of California San Francisco’s Center for Global Surgical Studies (CGSS) on a community based study that aimed to estimate the prevalence of injury in the Southwest region of Cameroon. This study fills the gap in knowledge on the burden of various surgical diseases and care-seeking behaviors at the population level.

The research team on this project was comprised of individuals with expertise in global surgery and epidemiology. Dr. Catherine Juillard and Dr. Ariane Christie designed the study and oversaw its implementation. Melissa Carvalho, a program manager at CGSS, supported data analysis and manuscript preparation. Dr. Theophile Nana and Dr. Emerson Wepngong participated in data collection efforts - which yielded information on over 8000 people living in the Southwest region of Cameroon. Finally, as faculty members at their respective institution, Dr. Rochelle Dicker and Dr. Alain Chichom-Mefire provided mentorship on all aspects of the study development and implementation, including the conception and data collection process.

Financing the complete cost of travel to the United States is not financially feasible for me at this time, thus this award would be a valuable contribution to support my participation at the Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Chendjou

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