Statement for application to the International Research Travel Award for the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress.

My name is Alain CHICHOM-MEFIRE. I am a lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Buea in Cameroon. This young faculty has existed for less than ten years. To face the burden of unmet surgical needs in our environment, our challenge is to train Medical Doctors who are able to independently perform basic surgical and obstetrical procedures, especially in remote areas with limited technical background. We designed a curriculum accordingly and have been applying it for the past 7 years. We taught it was time to assess how successful we are in implementing this strategy and share our experience with academic surgeons from other areas of the world. The abstract accepted for ASC 2019 congress reports a study assessing the acquisition of basic surgical skills by the final year medical students.

We designed this study and assigned one of our final year students to collect data from all his colleagues from the four state owned medical schools in the country, including the mother school which has existed for over 40 years now and which served as a metric. This work involved the administration of the faculty and most members of the department of surgery and obstetrics/gynecology.

Unfortunately, this study was not funded. All applications for institutional support by the presenting author have been rejected because of lack of budgetary provisions and in the absence of an external support we will certainly miss the opportunity of sharing this experience.

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