

Cardiac surgery for the forgotten millions: The way forward. Cardiac Surgery Intersociety Alliance (CSIA) Site Selection Criteria

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Disclosures: Authors have nothing to disclose with regard to commercial support.

This article has been co-published with permission in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery*, *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, and the *Asian Cardiovascular and Thoracic Annals*.

Cite this article as: Boateng P, Bolman RM III, Zilla P, on behalf of CSIA. Cardiac surgery for the forgotten millions: the way forward. Cardiac Surgery Intersociety Alliance (CSIA) Site Selection Criteria. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2019;158:xxx.

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J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2019; ■:1-2
0022-5223/\$36.00

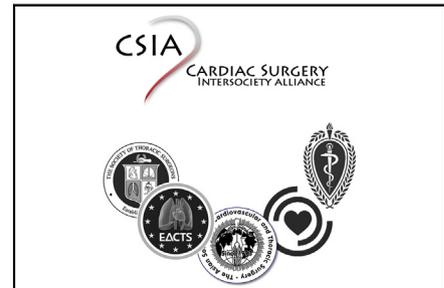
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2019.06.030>

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) affects a disproportionate number of people living in low-to-middle income countries (LMIC) and exacts a heavy toll in terms of morbidity and mortality in those afflicted.¹ RHD is the most common cardiovascular disease in young people worldwide, and a majority of patients with acute rheumatic fever will develop valvular heart disease and/or heart failure.

The Drakensberg declaration,² which focused on primary and secondary prevention, has made a significant impact in RHD; however, there remains a large number of patients who develop structural heart disease for whom surgery is the only effective treatment. Access to cardiac surgery remains woefully limited or absent in the majority of LMIC. Hence the magnitude of the suffering faced by the patients living in these LMIC becomes apparent.

With an understanding that surgery is, and will remain, an integral part of the management of RHD, “The Cape Town declaration on access to cardiac surgery in the developing world”³ was unanimously adopted, signed, and published in all the major cardiothoracic journals. The Cardiac Surgery Intersociety Alliance (CSIA) was created along the guidelines of the first aim of the Cape Town Declaration to be the effector arm of the Cape Town Declaration. The CSIA is comprised of representatives from the major cardiothoracic societies (the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery and Asian



Cardiac Surgery Intersociety Alliance logos.

Central Message

With an understanding that surgery is, and will remain, an integral part of the management of RHD, “The Cape Town declaration on access to cardiac surgery in the developing world” was unanimously adopted, signed, and published in all the major cardiothoracic journals. The Cardiac Surgery Intersociety Alliance (CSIA) was created along the guidelines of the first aim of the Cape Town Declaration to be the effector arm of the Cape Town Declaration.

Society for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery), the World Heart Federation, and an industry representative. The CSIA is charged with evaluating, endorsing, mentoring, and monitoring potential sites in LMIC to increase access to cardiac surgery, as well as training of providers at these sites.

To achieve this goal, a list of criteria for program selection by the CSIA was created and is included in this publication—see Announcement at the end of the issue. This list has been reviewed and ratified by the leadership of all of the societies whose members make up the CSIA. The tenets of the document embody the central message of the Cape Town Declaration. The criteria list was created with the goal of being collaborative with the sites while ensuring commitment, engagement, transparency, and sustainability from the sites that are chosen. Any site chosen will ideally have the 5 pillars of CSIA supported projects, which are The Driver (Champion), The Local Guarantor, The Sponsor, The Training Site, and The Academic Partner.

The initial plan is to select 2-3 pilot sites to initiate the project. Once success and feasibility have been demonstrated, CSIA will expand this project to additional sites. The CSIA is looking for sites that are passionate and

dedicated and determined to establish an enduring successful partnership. The CSIA will be accepting applications through September 10, 2019. All programs are encouraged to apply. If not selected for the initial pilot site, all applications will be entered into a database for consideration at a future date.

See Announcement at the end of the issue.

References

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