



**Children's Surgery  
International**

SUMMER 2024

Changing lives,

one child at a time.

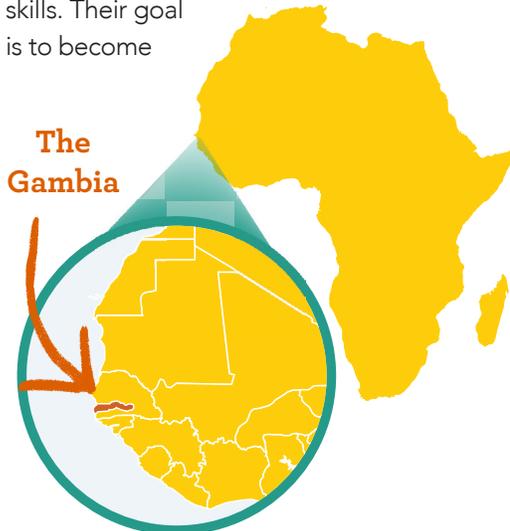
## NEW POSSIBILITIES IN THE GAMBIA

LORA STEGE KOPPEL, RN

We are always on the lookout for new areas in the world that may have a medical community wanting to develop a partnership with CSI. A conversation longtime volunteer Sally Lannin had with an Uber driver last year led to a possible opportunity in The Gambia, a small West African country. Through conversations with potential partners there, CSI learned that The Gambia — with a population of nearly 3 million, 55% of whom are under 25 years of age — has only one pediatric surgeon, Dr. Cherno Jallow. Dr. Jallow currently has a waiting list of hundreds of children desperately in need of craniofacial and urology surgery.

In March, CSI Medical Director Dr. Dave Tetzlaff, Sally Lannin and I were asked by the CSI Board of Directors to visit the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) in The Gambia. Our first question was, "Where is The Gambia and how do we get there?"

During our site visit, we were able to see all parts of the hospital and meet with local health care staff. Providers at EFSTH are eager to expand their knowledge and skills. Their goal is to become



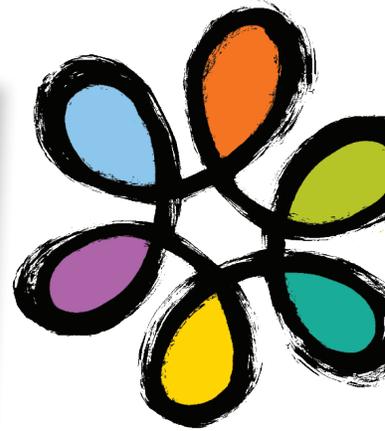
knowledgeable in pediatric surgeries and be able to meet the needs of children in their country. We also explored logistical factors that would influence the success of a surgical trip team of nearly 20 volunteers, including travel options, language, safety, local transportation, and the availability of food and hotels. To comprehensively explore our logistics options, we even flew two different air routes and stayed at two hotels, along with working with a local guide.

**"Any training we can do in this country will have a significant impact on the availability of expertise for their beautiful children."**

—SALLY LANNIN

As we explored, we felt the need was HUGE. The Gambia is one of the poorest countries in the world, and most families struggle to meet basic human needs. However, the faces of the Gambian children and mothers carried hope in their eyes. The hope that guides CSI to our success.

The CSI board officially approved a surgical training trip to The Gambia for this fall. A group of CSI volunteers will travel in November to provide surgery to approximately 40 children, in addition to beginning education and planning that will help our partners at EFSTH realize their goals.



**Executive Director**

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**Medical Director**

Dave Tetzlaff, MD

**Academic Director**

Siva Chinnadurai, MD, MPH

**Operations Manager**

Aisling O'Sullivan Goel

**Communications Manager**

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# CSI GALA 2024

be the light

Thank you for being the light at the 2024 CSI Gala, benefiting the children, families and communities we serve around the world. The event was a huge success, raising more than \$430,000. Your generosity fuels our work to envision a world without barriers to life-changing medical and surgical care for children.



## Interested in helping make the 2025 CSI Gala a success?

Join the planning committee! For more information, email [info@childrenssurgeryintl.org](mailto:info@childrenssurgeryintl.org).

## Sally Lannin

### CSI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

CSI proudly presented the 2024 Volunteer of the Year award to Sally Lannin in recognition of her visionary leadership and innovative thinking. Sally has made a transformative and long-lasting impact on CSI's work and the children and communities we serve.

Sally first learned about CSI 15 years ago when, while at a CSI gala, she bid on and won a chance to join a surgical trip to Peru. From that first trip, Sally became an invaluable logistics and medical records volunteer within our organization.

She has traveled with CSI to Vietnam, Mexico, Liberia, Ethiopia and most recently The Gambia for a site visit.

A conversation Sally had during an Uber ride led to a site visit to Ethiopia and ultimately resulted in our long-term site partnership there.

Sally has served in numerous CSI leadership roles, including six years on the Board of Directors and more than a decade on the Mission and Development Committees of the board. She is also responsible for launching the CSI Partner Program, where donors make a significant financial contribution to underwrite and participate in a CSI trip as a member of the team. Sally personally invited, prepared and accompanied partners on eight CSI trips,



recognizing and cultivating their passion for global health and the desire to change lives. Each of these partners were also outstanding trip volunteers, and each continues to be engaged with CSI to this day.

Thank you, Sally, for all you have done to change lives and communities.

# BOARD UPDATES

## Thank you, Amy and Neal

Amy Fischer and Neal Peterson rotated off the board in June. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and steadfast leadership in support of CSI's mission as well as their leadership within the board. Amy has volunteered with CSI for over a decade, serving as board vice-chair and chair and traveling as a non-medical volunteer to Ethiopia, Liberia and Uganda. Neal has been a CSI supporter for nearly 20 years, providing invaluable legal guidance. Since joining the board in 2017 he has served as board secretary and guided the organization as a member of the finance, governance and executive committees. Thank you, Amy and Neal, for sharing the gifts of your time and talent to help us change lives and strengthen communities!



Amy Fischer



Neal Peterson

## New Operations Manager



Aisling O'Sullivan Goel joined our team in April as CSI's Operations Manager. She is a seasoned nonprofit operations manager with a background

in education and youth work. Her experience includes working for a youth orchestra as well as a Chinese immersion school. Aisling has undergraduate degrees in Music and Asian Studies and a master's degree in French Horn Performance. She looks forward to combining her interests in nonprofit work, children and cultural studies and putting her skills to work for CSI. Aisling is excited to plan CSI's surgical training trips and travel with CSI to change lives.

## Welcome, Ran and Katie



Ran Hanson

The CSI board welcomed two new members this summer. Ran is a senior associate at the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP where he advises clients on a myriad of health care-related and nonprofit corporate governance issues. He grew up in South Dakota and attended school in Michigan and Wisconsin before settling in Minneapolis with his wife. Ran's connection to previous and current board members of CSI provided him great insight into what this organization is capable of and inspired him to become more involved.



Katie Lane

Katie Lane is a Senior Account Manager at McKesson Medical-Surgical. She has over 10 years of experience in health care and medical

supply distribution, focusing on technology and creating workflow efficiencies. Katie became involved with CSI through her mom, Mary Johnson, who was a long-serving board member and OR nurse. She has traveled with CSI to Liberia and Mexico. She lives in Northfield, Minn., with her husband and young son.



## GIVE NOW



Scan the QR code or go to [childrensurgeryintl.org/donate](https://childrensurgeryintl.org/donate) to make a gift today.



CSI exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in financial health, accountability and transparency.

## Sustaining support

I have been involved with CSI for 20 years as a medical team volunteer, and I am a current board member. I've witnessed the evolution of this humanitarian nonprofit organization, whose goal of providing the best possible care to vulnerable children of the world has never wavered.

CSI's approach differs from other organizations as they not only provide free, life-changing surgeries for children in underdeveloped countries,

but also furnish education and training to the host countries' eager medical professionals. CSI's desire is to educate themselves out of a job, training their local partners to become experts in the care of their children and in the training of their colleagues.

It is because of these attributes and too many more to mention here, that my husband, Jeff, and I chose to become sustaining donors.

**DODY BARR, RN**



**BECOME  
A CSI  
SUSTAINER**

With consistent funding, CSI can build its capacity to serve more children and communities, increase our global footprint and improve the overall quality of care that children in our partner countries have access to.

Set up your  
monthly recurring  
donation today.



## Corporate giving

We are always looking for businesses and corporations interested in supporting CSI's mission through in-kind donations, monetary support, sponsorship opportunities and staff team-building volunteer events. Whether you have a connection with a small business or large corporation, please consider sharing our work and helping us build our corporate engagement program. Kindly email your interest or any potential leads to Megan Sparks, Executive Director, at [megan@childrenssurgeryintl.org](mailto:megan@childrenssurgeryintl.org).



# CSI HAPPENINGS



**Tuesday, July 30**

1201 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Enjoy an evening at Bear Cave Brewing as you support CSI. On Tuesday, July 30, from 3-10 p.m., a portion of sales will be donated to CSI. Explore Bear Cave's delicious food and 52 available taps serving beer, wine, cider and cocktails. Consider bringing your pup as Bear Cave's patio is dog-friendly! You **must** mention the CSI fundraiser for your tab to be included when calculating the proceeds that CSI will receive. CSI staff will be present at Bear Cave from 4-7 p.m. We hope to see you there!



**Thursday, September 26**

1341 Pascal St. N., St. Paul

Support CSI by dining out at Bolé Ethiopian Cuisine in St. Paul. On Thursday, September 26, from 4-10 p.m., a portion of dinner sales will be donated to CSI. Reservations and walk-ins available.

## UPCOMING TRIPS/DATES

**Mexico:**

October 4 – 9, 2024

**Ethiopia:**

October 17 – 27, 2024

**The Gambia:**

November 7 – 17, 2024

**Liberia:**

January 16 – 26, 2025

**Ethiopia:**

Spring 2025



## Running to change lives

### Medtronic Twin Cities 10 Mile



**MEDTRONIC TC 10 MILE**

OFFICIAL 2024 CHARITY TEAM

Use your strides to make a positive impact for children and communities in need by running the TC 10 Mile on October 6. As part of Team CSI, you'll receive the coveted TC 10 mile bib, team running shirt, use of a fundraising platform, and other benefits. Only a handful of spots remain. Contact [info@childrenssurgeryintl.org](mailto:info@childrenssurgeryintl.org) to learn more.