



PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDIC GLOBAL OUTREACH



2024 POGO E-NEWS

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Welcome to the second edition of the POGO E-news. Our first edition was well received and widely circulated. We've been busy over the past year establishing a new POSNA membership category exclusively for prior POGO/COUR Scholars. We're also sharing a POGO Scholar report by Dr. Vikas Basa, some research done by our members, the results of our scholar research survey, a volunteer opportunity, the new POGO/COUR Scholar Alumni category of POSNA membership, and issuing a call for new POGO scholar applicants along with the criteria for selection.

TRAVELLING SCHOLAR REPORTS

Dear POSNA,

The year 2022 began on a very special note for me, with an invitation email from POSNA for attending the annual meeting in person. For which I have been waiting for almost 2 years. I can't thank you enough for this opportunity. The POGO scholarship has always been a dream of mine. Growing up in a developing country where children are deprived of advanced medical help for their complex orthopedic problems, a scholarship program of this kind is really helpful. In my country, I encounter a lot of underprivileged children needing corrective surgery for a disability-free life. Lack of resources, finance, knowledge, and skill make it difficult to get quality medical care. Through the Mandke Foundation, I help children to a certain extent in my institution in Mumbai(India) in treating orthopedic conditions. But the funds are not always sufficient. However, I strongly believe that at least these children should receive appropriate, adequate, and quality treatment. That is when I thought of the COUR / POGO scholarship to educate myself at advanced centres to help these children. With the help of my mentor Dr. Vrisha Madhuri, I could reach out to Dr. William Mackenzie and Dr. Vidyadhar Upasani who supported me in getting this scholarship. The scholarship process has been smooth. Thanks to Karen, Michael & Natalia. My deepest gratitude to all. I wanted to learn and improve my skills in hip preserving surgeries hence I preferred Rady Children's Hospital as my centre for observership. Dr.Upasani has been very kind in accepting my application.

My experience

I was at Rady children's hospital in San Diego between May 1 -May 11 and later attended the POSNA annual meeting from May 11 – May 15 at Vancouver in Canada. Dr.Salil Upasani was my program director. It was a wonderful experience to learn from him. I was engaged in all pediatric orthopedic academic programs. I was actively involved in the morning pre-operative board meeting. Everyone was kind enough to clear my doubts during the case discussion. I attended surgeries involving complex hip cases and a variety of other pediatric cases. I attended clinics of various consultants dealing with the club foot, cerebral palsy, hip dysplasia, upper limb deformities, and sports injuries. I have learnt different method of casting techniques. The team of pediatric orthopedics at Rady children's hospital is excellent.

TRAVELING SCHOLAR REPORTS

The zeal and commitment toward teachings and caring for Pediatric patients have left me in awe. It was very inspiring. Every day I learned new things in pediatric orthopedics from each one of them. The postoperative case discussion was far excellent. During my stay, Dr. Deborah Eastwood from the UK was invited as a visiting professor. We had a one-day conference where fellows presented interesting pediatric cases and discussed them with Dr. Deborah. I could also interact with her. I wish to start such kind of mentorship programs in India. This was also a remarkable day as I could meet stalwarts like Dr. Dennis Wenger and Dr. Scott Mubarak at the visiting Professorship event. I could share and exchange knowledge with each one of them. On that evening had a nice get-together with entire team at Dr. Upasani's residence. One day I accompanied a Pediatric Orthopedic fellow who was on trauma call and learned the way they reduce fractures under conscious sedation in the emergency department. This distresses operating rooms and enables to efficiently manage the routine Pediatric Orthopedic cases.



The host, my mentor :

It's worth mentioning about Dr. Salil Upasani, my host at Rady Children's hospital. He is a kind and dedicated person. He has a special interest in Pediatric and adolescent hip disorders. He is also working to develop a centre at Rady Children's to treat congenital and developmental hip and spine disorders in physiologically young and active adult patients. He received me at the airport and took me on a hospital tour. He provided accommodation close to the hospital area. On day one he introduced me to all his team members and gave me the weekly schedule of operative cases and academics. In the operating rooms, he was polite and answered all my doubts with a patience, and explained the operative steps in detail. His assistant Holly Loffler helped me with a hospital badge so that I could get access to operating rooms, clinics, cafeteria, and educational facilities.



TRAVELING SCHOLAR REPORTS

Everyone was very kind and helpful. Dr.Salil Upasani was very generous and covered throughout my visit in San Diego. I sincerely thank him and wish to see him again for such a great opportunity.

POSNA meet at Vancouver. (May 11 – May 15)

POSNA annual meet was truly an academic feast. I was amazed to know the marvellous research papers presented there. It was well organized. The topics for discussion were intended to the practical challenges and the innovative methods in pediatric orthopaedics. Here I met my co-POGO scholar -Emika, Karen, Michael, Natalia and rest of the convenors of the scholarship program. It was good to interact with them. I also made new friends in this meeting. I believe such kind of meetings would recognize the participation and enable us to invite overseas friends to India as a faculty in our national pediatric orthopaedic conferences to educate and exchange the knowledge.



I thank POSNA and everyone from the bottom of my heart who has been generous in sponsoring such a scholarship program. I left with a tremendous knowledge and experience that would make a huge impact in my practice back in India.

I would like to recommend the POSNA to consider

1. Involving a POGO scholar in all academic virtual meetings.
2. To start a mentorship program in underprivileged countries to encourage the fellows
3. To provide access to Journals like JPO/JCO/JBJS
4. To provide POSNA membership for POGO scholars and involve them in research.

- Thank you,

Dr. VIKAS BASA

Consultant Pediatric Orthopedic surgeon

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Research Centre.

Mumbai. India

POSTERS

POGO committee members and scholars have presented posters relevant to global outreach at recent meetings.

The Impact of Political and Social Unrest on Pediatric Orthopaedics in a Low-Income Nation: Presidential Assassination in Haiti

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Background

Jovenel Moïse, the president of Haiti, was assassinated on July 7, 2021, followed by a dispute in governmental leadership and extensive political unrest. Without clear governance, regular protests began, law and order faltered, gang violence and kidnappings became widespread, and overall public security dwindled. In this setting, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the country (killing over 2,200 people and injuring over 12,000) and the COVID-19 pandemic continued. With regular disruptions to daily life and increasing concerns around safety with travel, healthcare was quickly affected, including orthopaedics.

Our purpose in this review was to:

1) speak with Haitian orthopaedic surgeons and highlight many of the ways musculoskeletal care of children was and is affected by such unrest and 2) demonstrate the compounding negative consequences of sociopolitical instability in low-income nations on the ability to respond to natural disasters.

Delayed care

•Patients delayed in seeking care or arriving at medical facilities. •Surgeons and residents limiting travel to and from the hospital. •Limited night-travel due to security, cases often waiting until morning for management. •Halt to foreign visitors and mission trips.

Gaps and Interruptions to Surgical Education

•Residencies shifting to minimal staffing – clinical care prioritized. •Subsequently over-burdened clinically by earthquake trauma in the setting of unsafe transportation. •Continued virtual education, ongoing limitations in in-person hands-on activities. •Halt to foreign visitors, courses, conferences.

Loss/Exodus of surgeons – Brain Drain

•Exodus of Haitians, including orthopaedic surgeons. •Fueled by kidnappings, personal safety concerns, and worsening economic conditions. •Led to further reduction in access to surgical care, fewer surgeons in an environment already short of surgeons. •Only 2 remaining full-time pediatric orthopaedic surgeons in Haiti.

Conclusion

Social unrest is a strong contributor to the challenges in orthopaedic care in already-constrained environments, making it difficult to maintain standards of care.

More structural progress and institutional support is needed in Haiti to maintain basic surgical care during times of increased environmental or political stress.

Volunteer Opportunities

CURE International has an exciting opportunity for a pediatric orthopedic spine surgeon at its hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. CURE is a faith-based non-profit organization operating a network of eight children's hospitals throughout Africa and the Philippines. We provide world-class surgical care and intentional spiritual care to children living with treatable disabilities, all of which is free of charge to the patients and their families.

The pediatric spine specialist will be charged with starting a first-of-its-kind operative program in Ethiopia that will transform the lives of many children who would otherwise face a lifetime of disability, pain and discrimination. We are seeking a missionally-aligned spine specialist who will embrace this unique opportunity and who possesses a

desire to eventually train the next generation of specialists in Ethiopia.



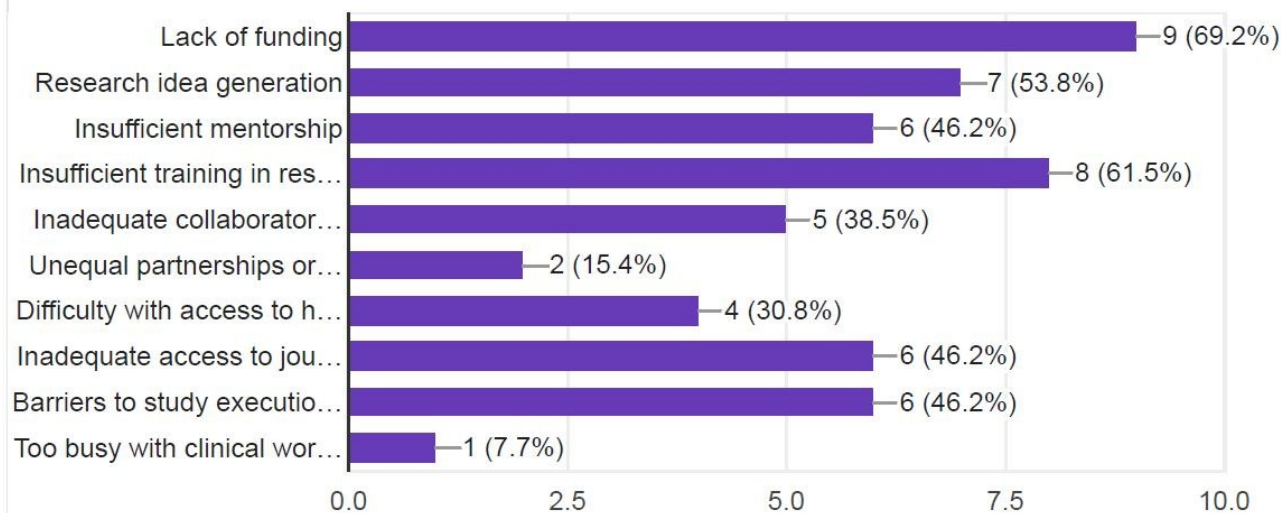
If you are a pediatric orthopedic spine surgeon looking to make a life-changing difference in the lives of children and in future generations of surgeons throughout Ethiopia, apply today to learn more, or contact Emily Gratson (emily.gratson@cure.org)

RESEARCH SURVEY RESULTS

1. What do you perceive to be the biggest barriers to performing academic research for orthopedists in your country? (choose all that apply)



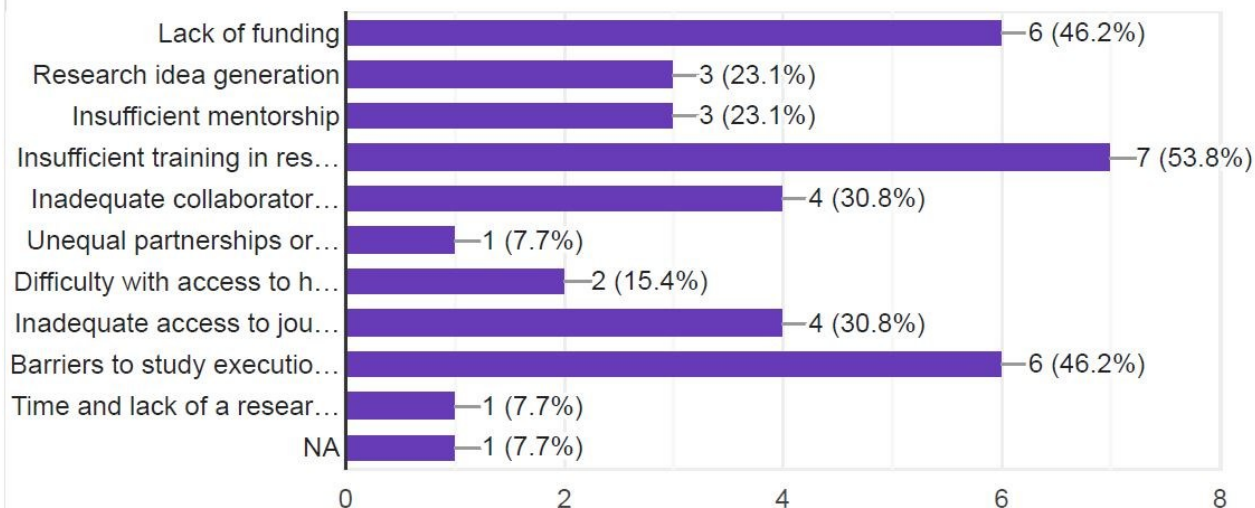
13 responses



2. What do you perceive to be the biggest barriers or challenges for you personally in performing academic research? (choose all that apply)



13 responses

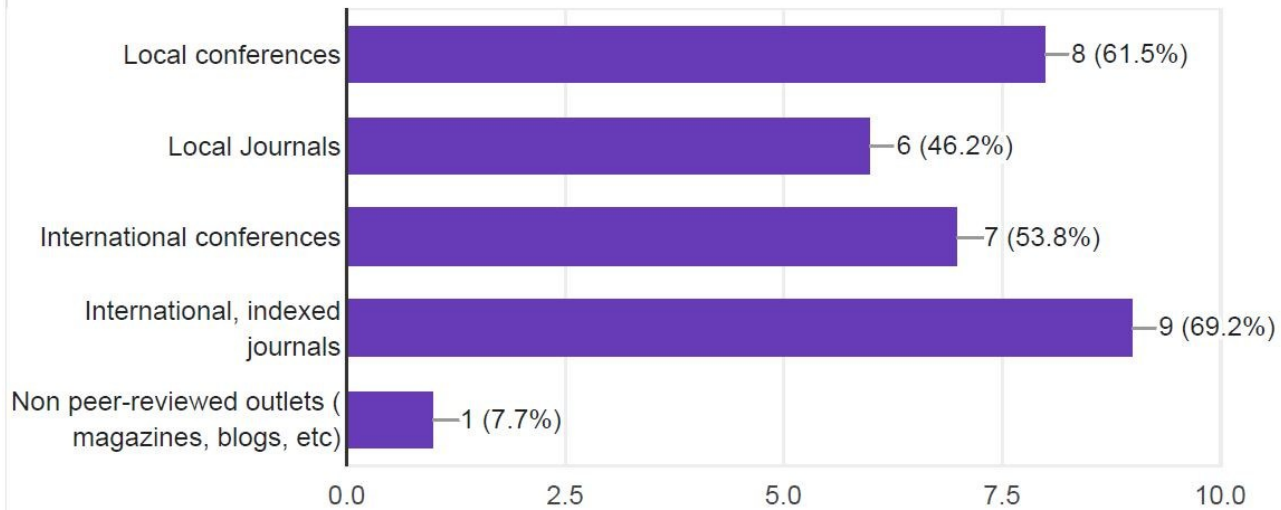


RESEARCH SURVEY RESULTS

3. Where do you hope to publish your research? (choose all that apply)



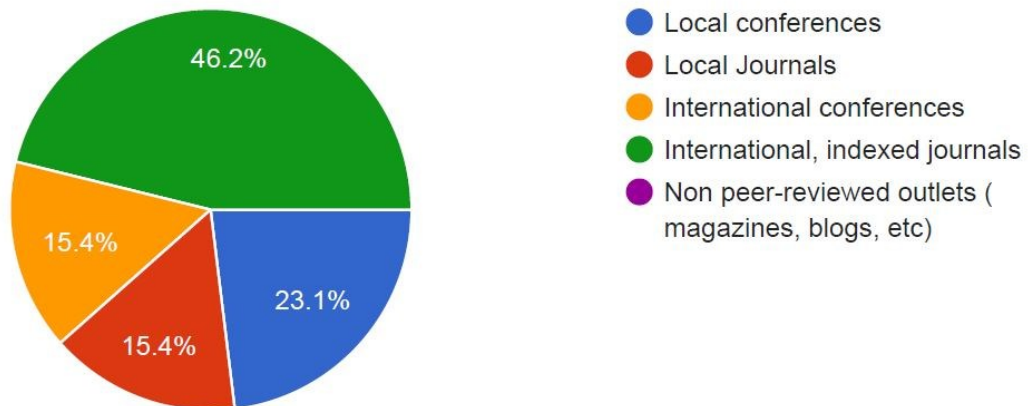
13 responses



4. Of the below options, which do you believe to be the most important for disseminating your research?



13 responses

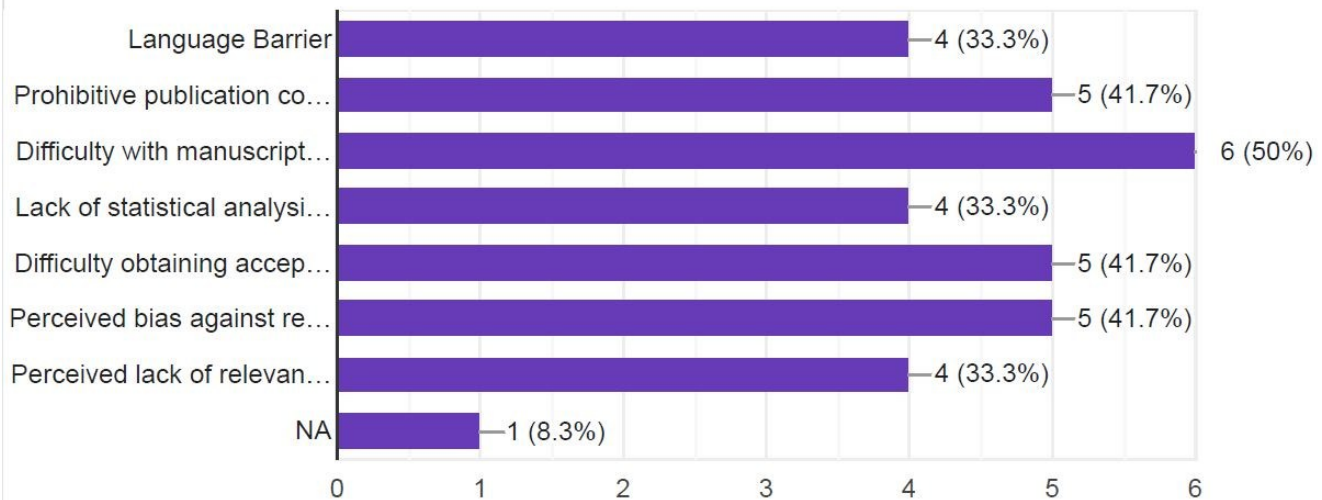


RESEARCH SURVEY RESULTS

5. What do you perceive to be the biggest barriers or challenges for you to publish research? (choose all that apply)



12 responses



SCHOLAR NEEDS SURVEY

POGO is conducting a survey of scholar needs.

Take it on your phone or computer!

The survey can be taken at

<https://bit.ly/POGOScholarsurvey>

You may also scan the QR Code with your mobile device to be taken to the survey site.



1. What do you perceive to be the biggest barriers to performing academic research for orthopedists in your country? (choose all that apply)

- Lack of funding
- Research idea generation
- Insufficient mentorship
- Insufficient training in research methods
- Inadequate collaborator network
- Unequal partnerships or unfair recognition when working with international colleagues
- Difficulty with access to health/patient data
- Inadequate access to journals and primary literature
- Barriers to study execution (logistical delays, lack of support, insufficient time)
- Other:

NEW POSNA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY FOR SCHOLARS

POGO/COUR Scholar Alumni Membership

A POGO/COUR Scholar Alumni member is an orthopaedic surgeon from a country other than the United States or Canada who has been selected as a prior POSNA POGO/COUR Scholar. Scholar alumni members will have previously demonstrated their commitment to pediatric orthopaedics in their selection as COUR/POGO Scholars and will have attended at least one Annual Meeting or IPOS Meeting as part of their scholarship. The member must be board certified by the regulating board of their country if one exists. Candidates for Scholar Alumni membership should be contributors in the field of Pediatric Orthopaedics in their country and demonstrate credentials that are equivalent to those submitted by North American applicants. Scholar Alumni membership will be maintained by compliance with the Society's code of ethics, appropriate board certification, and by at least two of the following every 5 years:

- Attendance of the Annual Meeting of the Society or IPOS in person or by virtual option
- Host a POGO course
- Participate in 1 virtual scholar community event annually
- Participate in a collaborative research project with a POSNA member
-

Requirements for Membership Application:

- Membership Application Form
- Operative Report Form
- Case List
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photo
- Two Sponsor Forms
- Application fee (reduced)

CALL FOR APPLICANTS—POGO SCHOLAR CRITERIA

Score		1	2	3	4
Background		10+ prior scholars	6-9 prior scholars	2-5 prior scholars	0-1 prior scholars
Involvement in education		Though opportunities exist, no involvement in teaching	Some involvement in teaching (medical students/allied health professionals), but not a big part of the current career	Significant involvement in teaching (faculty of the residency program)	Exceptional commitment to teaching (ortho students, residents, courses, workshops)
Involvement in research		Research opportunities exist, but no involvement	Research limited to what is required by the formal education program	Some independent research - 1 to 3 publications - 1 to 3 presentations - interest in pursuing research opportunities	Significant involvement in independent research - 5+ publications - 5+ presentations - leading researcher among residents and peers
Involvement in leadership		Though opportunities exist, no membership in orthopaedic /medical organizations - No examples of leadership	- Occasional presentations at local conferences or community meetings - Membership in one or two orthopaedic or medical organization without elected or committee position	- Participation in the improvement projects of hospital/clinic processes - Membership and elected positions in the orthopaedic/medical organizations	- Initiation and implementation of changes and an excellent position to influence and lead others - High elected positions in the orthopaedic/medical societies (e.g. President, vice-President, etc.)
Personal accomplishments		No additional involvement in volunteer or other community organizations	Minor commitment to volunteering in the community	- Examples of overcoming personal circumstances - Continuous record of volunteering in the community	- Exceptional volunteering in community or abroad - Leader in local, national, or international organizations - Exceptional example of personal qualities (grit, determination, entrepreneurship)
Letters of rec		Negative comments, low potential for success	Minimal relationship with applicant, impersonal	Good rapport with applicant, positive interactions and good potential for success	Exceptional applicant qualities and interactions, longstanding rapport or relationship
Future POSNA involvement		No or little future involvement	Virtual participation without leadership or research role	Virtual participation with increased leadership	- Future research collaboration with POSNA - Heavy involvement in POGO activities - Active in POSNA annual meetings, presentations, or committees
Total score	(7-28)				