

Emory University Global Perioperative Health Alliance  
**Inaugural Symposium on Interprofessional Collaboration in Global Surgery**

March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Abstracts due February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Title:** Characteristics of Global Neurosurgery Sessions: A Retrospective Analysis of Major International Neurosurgical Conferences

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**Abstract:**

**Background:** The global burden of neurosurgical disease is substantial, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Medical conferences are important in connecting those from LMICs to those from high income countries (HICs) for support and serve as an educational and networking tool.

**Methods:** A database of major international neurosurgical conferences that had global neurosurgery featured from 2015 to 2020 was created. The database included programs of conferences from a group of nine major neurosurgical societies to standardize the search for conferences from year to year. We then did a retrospective analysis to study quantitative and qualitative characteristics of these conferences ranging from geographic location to number to different components of the conferences.

**Results:** There was an increase in the number of conferences with global neurosurgery since 2015. This, in addition to the occurrence of three wholly global neurosurgery related conferences in recent years, is promising and suggests growth in the field. However, 52.6% of conferences took place in North American or European countries, the majority of which were HICs. Furthermore, a majority of the presence of global neurosurgery was in the form of individual talks (54.5%) as opposed to plenaries or sessions.

**Conclusions:** The preponderance of conferences in North America and Europe can pose barriers for those from LMICs including travel time, expenses, and visa problems. As global neurosurgery becomes an increasing part of the global health movement, we hope that these barriers are addressed. Conferences may become an even stronger tool to promote equity in neurosurgical education and practice.

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