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Letter of Endorsements

Surgery has become an integral part of health care, and as the volume of surgery has grown rapidly worldwide, ensuring its safety has emerged as a major public health concern. The *New European Surgical Academy* (NESAC) therefore welcomes the creation of the Safe Surgery Saves Lives project by the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety. With this initiative the improvement of surgical care safety will be targeted for the first time as a matter of global importance.

We consider the improvement of surgical safety essential to public health and endorse the concept of a "WHO Safe Surgery Checklist" as a tool for teams everywhere to better ensure that patients receive the correct operation at the correct site with safe anaesthesia, known infection-prevention measures, and effective teamwork for safe care. We also support the establishment of "Surgical Vital Statistics" asking countries to track surgical volume and in-hospital surgical death rates. Together, this kind of work could be effective in preventing hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths and complications globally.

We therefore strongly support this initiative and congratulate WHO for making it possible for all stakeholders to move in this direction. As an international, interdisciplinary surgical academy with members in 36 countries, we will promote this initiative and distribute information.

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