

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO BE A PILOT SITE FOR CSIA SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

The American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS); the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery (EACTS); the Asian Society for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery (ASCVTS); the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and the World Heart Federation (WHF) jointly oversee an alliance that was charged with evaluating, endorsing and working with potential sites in low-income countries to increase access to sustainable cardiac surgery with particular emphasis on rheumatic heart disease.

CSIA will initially select three pilot sites: one in West Africa; one in Southern/East Africa and one in Asia, where local cardiac surgery, independent from fly-in missions has been established but resource constraints severely limit the surgical capacity. CSIA sees itself as a facilitator of a site-specific partnership soliciting donor support as well as staff training with the goal of increasing the delivery of cardiac surgery on the basis of local capacity. CSIA will also facilitate the establishment of a collaborative research partnership with a tertiary institution of a high-income country. Central to such initiatives is a strongly motivated initiator/champion that can be a health professional; a health manager; an institution or a government.

Once local consensus has been obtained, proposals need to include a clear analysis and projection of need supported by the following documents.

1. A ‘project development plan’ that lays out the financial and organizational details of the current cardiac surgical capacity as well as proposed growth curve over the next 5 years (e.g. 50 to 200 cases annually) with clear distinction between existing local commitments and the gap that is sought to be closed by involving CSIA members and institutions.
2. Clear current staff establishment, showing the limits of capacity of the existing team and the needs arising from growth, highlighting the time plan when training needs to commence of further doctors/nurses/perfusionists, and, again, the local contribution to these needs versus the gap requested to be closed with CSIA assistance.
3. A strong letter of intent by the local “initiator” explaining why he/she thinks that the site should qualify for CSIA support, and a statement that he/she will be the person(s)/ organization interacting with the CSIA and driving the process on the ground with passion and commitment.
4. Written commitment by a local authority (local government or city council, ministry of health, etc) that they support the program within the envisaged scope and guarantee their part for sustainability, including specific portions of the program for which they will guarantee support.
5. A written commitment by the institution to be ‘enabling’ regarding hospital space (ICU, ORs, wards) and staff (doctors, nurses, perfusionists etc.).
6. Statement of willingness to participate in a future cardiac surgical registry and database to help improve the gap in data available on cardiac surgery outside high-income countries.

The CSIA will be accepting applications through August 10, 2019, and 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.

Applications and supporting documents should be submitted to World Heart Federation; “CSIA Proposals”; 32 rue de Malatrex; 1201 Geneva; Switzerland. Email [kate.ralston@worldheart.org](mailto:kate.ralston@worldheart.org)

If you have any queries, please contact Chip Bollman at [cbolman46@gmail.com](mailto:cbolman46@gmail.com) more information on CSIA, visit [www.CSIAforRHD.org](http://www.CSIAforRHD.org)

