



## **Professor Abebe Bekele Joins Lifebox Global Governance Council**

**Kigali/New York/London– December 18, 2024** – [Lifebox](#), the global safe surgery and anesthesia nonprofit, is excited to announce the election of [Professor Abebe Bekele](#) to its [Global Governance Council](#) (GGC). Prof. Abebe brings a wealth of knowledge in surgical education, research and leadership, significantly enhancing Lifebox’s work.

Prof. Abebe currently serves as the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the [University of Global Health Equity](#) (UGHE) in Rwanda. His distinguished career includes leadership roles as CEO of [Tikur Anbessa \(Black Lion\) Teaching Hospital](#) and Dean of the School of Medicine at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. His expertise in General and Thoracic Surgery and his full Professorship at Addis Ababa University, University of Rwanda and Professor of Global Health at Duke University make him a valuable addition to the Lifebox Global Governance Council.

*“We are ecstatic to have Professor Abebe Bekele join the Lifebox governing council,”* said Dr. Alexander Hannenberg, Interim Chair of the Lifebox Global Governance Council. *“His widely recognized international leadership in promoting equitable access to surgical care aligns with Lifebox’s work and will undoubtedly guide us as we continue our critical work in making safer surgical care a reality for all.”*

Prof. Abebe is a respected member of the Governing Council and Secretary General of [the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa](#) (COSECSA) and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the [East and Central Africa Journal of Surgery](#). With over 120 published articles and book chapters, his contributions to global surgery and medical education have been widely recognized through numerous regional and international awards.

Reflecting on his appointment, Prof. Abebe remarked: *“Joining the Lifebox Global Governance Council is an incredible honor. I have long admired Lifebox’s commitment to safer surgery and anesthesia in low-resource settings. I look forward to contributing my expertise and experience to support Lifebox’s initiatives to drive global surgical and anesthesia safety”*

Kris Torgeson, CEO of Lifebox, added, *“Professor Abebe’s distinguished career and commitment to global health make him an exceptional addition to our Council and will help us further our efforts to ensure that safe surgical care is accessible to everyone, everywhere.”*

Prof. Abebe's appointment reflects Lifebox's unwavering commitment to bringing together global leaders who are passionate about strengthening surgical systems and advancing patient safety globally. Lifebox leadership wishes Prof. Abebe and the entire Global Governance Council all the best as they take Lifebox to greater heights.

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### **About Lifebox:**

Lifebox is a global nonprofit that saves lives through safer surgery and anesthesia. Through tools, training, and partnerships, Lifebox addresses the critical gaps in

surgical systems to make surgery and anesthesia safer worldwide. Lifebox's work focuses on three core areas: anesthesia safety, surgical teamwork, and reducing surgical infection. Co-founded by Dr. Atul Gawande in 2011, Lifebox has worked in 116 countries and trained more than 13,000 healthcare providers to make 248 million surgeries safer. To learn more about Lifebox, visit [lifebox.org](http://lifebox.org)

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