

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **RCEM Awarded ALSG's Inaugural Charitable Funding Award Introduces APLS in Ghana**

Earlier in the year, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) was named as the sole recipient of the Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG) Inaugural Charitable Funding Award, supporting a transformative initiative to introduce the Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) course in Ghana, with the first phase now completed.

Delivered in partnership with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS), the national body responsible for postgraduate medical training, in the year-long programme will strengthen paediatric emergency care nationwide. GCPS is actively advancing Paediatric Emergency Medicine as a subspecialty within Emergency Medicine, and this collaboration will embed APLS within national training pathways.

The first phase was completed between 13-23 May, successfully delivering APLS and marks a significant milestone in the development of paediatric emergency medicine education in Ghana.

A total of 31 Ghanaian clinicians successfully completed the APLS course, and 23 candidates were identified as having Instructor Potential (IP) building on long-term sustainability and the future transition of APLS delivery by a Ghanaian led faculty over the coming years.

Child mortality remains a significant public health challenge in Ghana. Introducing APLS will directly enhance the skills of healthcare professionals managing paediatric trauma and emergencies, aligning with national health priorities and the World Health Organisation's agenda on child survival and emergency care.

This initiative supports ALSG's strategic goal of promoting equality in accessing high-quality emergency care training and improving patient outcomes globally. By extending evidence-based paediatric life support training to healthcare professionals in Ghana, the programme aims to reduce disparities in training opportunities and contribute to more equitable emergency care for children, wherever they live.

A core focus of the project is sustainability. The programme will develop a self-sustaining cohort of Ghanaian APLS instructors, enabling independent delivery of APLS training to doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals across the country. Evidence shows that improved training in paediatric emergency care is associated with reductions in in-hospital child mortality, supporting the long-term impact of this initiative.

Through this award, ALSG supports RCEM and GCPS in building enduring local capacity, strengthening health systems, and improving outcomes for children and families in Ghana.

Sinead Kay, ALSG CEO said: "We are delighted RCEM has taken APLS to Ghana and not only will the training help to reduce infant and child mortality but by implementing train-the-trainer, this ensures APLS will be expanded into many other areas across Ghana."

Andrew Fryer, Head of International at RCEM, said: "We are proud to work alongside the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and ALSG, to introduce Advanced Paediatric Life Support training in Ghana. This programme represents a significant investment in the future of paediatric emergency care, equipping clinicians with vital skills to recognise and manage seriously ill and injured children. By developing a new generation of

Ghanaian APLS instructors, we are helping to create a sustainable model that will strengthen emergency care capacity and improve healthcare outcomes across the country for years to come.”

ALSG looks forward to working closely with colleagues at RCEM and GCPS as the initiative continues to be rolled out and wishes the team every success.

## **ENDS**

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