



COSESCA exam December 2023 – Addis Ababa

Suzie Venn

I travelled to Addis Ababa to examine in the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSESCA) Fellowship exam in urology on Sunday the 3rd of December. I've been examining now since 2016 and watched the exam expand from six to 14 candidates this year. In addition, there are now many more COSESCA Fellows examining, with a small group of American and European urological surgeons assisting the process.

The examiner's meeting followed its familiar pattern, with visits after to the Black Lion Hospital in Addis to meet the patients chosen for the exam by our local host Dr Andulem Beyede. On the Monday morning we left our hotel at 6am! 16 of us examined six clinical stations in the morning, with two vivas for each candidate in the afternoon. Professor Emile Rwamasirabo, who has been the chief examiner for urology since at least 2016, is now retired from clinical practice and has handed the reins of running the urological exam to Charles Mabedi. The Examiner's meeting finished at 8:00 PM, a long but fruitful day.

Overall, the standard of the candidates has improved year on year. 13 candidates passed, and to everyone's great delight, the gold medal was awarded to Linda Kayange, who is training in Lilongwe with Charles Mabedi and will be joining him as a consultant shortly. Over the years the gold medal for the best performance in the urological exam has been awarded to 5 urologists, and all have been associated with Urolink, something I think we can be justly proud of.

Year	Winner	Country
2017	Dr Charles Mabedi	Malawi
2018	Dr Mumba Kaja	Zambia
2019	Dr Nico Ngowi	Tanzania
2020	Remote	
2021	Remote	
2022	Dr Martha Monicah	Uganda
2023	Dr Linda Kayange	Malawi



The 2023 COSECSA FCS Examiner panel



Linda Kayange and Charles Mabedi with representatives from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland