



*The Right to Heal* is a troubling film that exposes the enduring absence of surgery from current global health priorities and puts forth a strategy for closing the global surgical divide. An estimated 2 billion people lack access to surgical services when needed. Health system inertia is incompatible with today's epidemiological shift: we can no longer afford not to treat conditions such as traumatic, obstetric, or abdominal emergencies, cancer, and congenital malformations.

The film addresses access versus quality; quick fixes versus long term solutions; humanitarian assistance versus health system strengthening. With these perspectives in mind, *The Right to Heal* is timely and engages the public and policy makers in the issues at hand revealing the poverty traps and devastating