



Sahlgrenska International Care

Annual and Sustainability Report 2025

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About the Annual and Sustainability report

This is Sahlgrenska International Care's fourth integrated annual and sustainability report. The previous one was published in 2025. Our ambition has been to present a fair and inspiring description of our work and to provide a comprehensive picture of our opportunities and challenges, what we have achieved so far and where we are going.



Photo: Paul Björkman



We have prioritized **4 of the 17 global goals** that Sahlgrenska International Care (SIC) can contribute most to. The sustainability goals are integrated into our business plan and are a guiding tool for Sahlgrenska International Care's operations – where sustainability is a natural part. See our sustainability report on pages 28-39.

Sahlgrenska International Care

Sahlgrenska International Care is Sahlgrenska University Hospital's center for international collaborations contributing to the development of healthcare – both locally and globally.



Highly specialized care for international patients



Exchange programs for healthcare professionals



Specialist training programs for international doctors and dentists



Development cooperation for global health



Medical equipment aid



International partnerships



Vision

Sahlgrenska International Care's vision is for more people around the world to have access to care, the opportunity for good health and a good life.



International partnerships to improve healthcare for patients and staff in Västra Götaland, Sweden and the countries we work with.



Hospital Director Boubou Hallberg.

Photo: Paul Björkman

Shaping the future of healthcare together

More care, cutting-edge research, and responsibility for more patients – all while improving financial performance. We at Sahlgrenska University Hospital have much to be proud of in 2025.

To further strengthen healthcare and research, collaboration is needed. Over the past year, we have increased collaboration within the life science sector through strategic partnerships that connect us globally.

Sahlgrenska University Hospital enters 2026 as a partner to, among others, the National University Health System (NUHS) in Singapore and Oslo University Hospital. In 2025, Sahlgrenska University Hospital deepened its collaboration with Ukraine through a two-year project supported by the National Board of Health and Welfare and Sida, which includes, among other things, the exchange of expertise and

shadowing opportunities for Ukrainian healthcare personnel. This is a way for us to contribute while gaining experience of what it is like to provide healthcare in times of crisis and war.

On the national stage, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, together with the country's other six university hospitals, has joined forces in a joint alliance to strengthen highly specialized care, research, and education in Sweden. By jointly representing Swedish university healthcare in international contexts, Sweden's position globally is also strengthened.

2025 – Innovation in International Partnerships

Sahlgrenska International Care supports international development projects aimed at promoting sustainable development in healthcare, improving global health, and advancing the internationalization of Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Since 2023, all initiatives funded from SIC's investment budget have been evaluated using the same checklist, criteria, and sustainability assessment. In 2025, 19 initiatives were approved.

United Kingdom – Clinical Exchanges

Sahlgrenska International Care has awarded funding for a targeted development project that enables neurology residents to participate in clinical rotations at The Walton Neuro Centre in Liverpool, an internationally renowned neurology centre that collaborates with 18 NHS hospitals. This initiative strengthens knowledge transfer within the neurology department at Sahlgrenska University Hospital (SU) and provides participants with broad clinical exposure, particularly to British practices focused on clinical examination, cost-effectiveness, and the Choosing Wisely methodology.

The project will include four participants during 2025–2026. As part of the collaboration, specialists from the Walton Centre will also give lectures at Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the University of Gothenburg, which further strengthens academic ties and contributes to a more international educational environment.

Canada – AI Delegation and Fellowship

In 2025, Sahlgrenska International Care co-funded a targeted study visit to Toronto and an ongoing collaboration with Unity Health, a leading player in AI research, implementation, and clinical digitalization.

The project aims to deepen the partnership in AI strategy, innovation, and patient data management, as well as to support the development of Sahlgrenska University Hospital's upcoming AI strategy. The investment contributes to a deeper exchange in AI, digitalization, and clinical learning and is part of Sahlgrenska University Hospital's North American initiative, with co-funding from Vinnova. Katarina Lannering, a pediatric cardiologist at DSBS, has been selected for a one-year fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. SickKids is one of the world's leading centres in pediatric cardiology and is more than twice as large as the Swedish pediatric cardiac surgery units in Gothenburg and Lund combined. With SickKids' significantly higher volume of complex patient cases, this provides a unique opportunity for in-depth methodological knowledge, advanced clinical exposure, and international networking. The experience gained from the fellowship will contribute to the continued development of pediatric cardiology in Gothenburg and strengthen future care for patients with heart disease. Costs for registration at the University of Toronto, at the clinic, work permits, and more are funded by Sahlgrenska International Care.

South Africa – Clinical Exchanges

As part of an ongoing collaboration between Sahlgrenska Academy, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, and Stellenbosch University — whose medical school is affiliated with Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town — the Department of Thoracic Medicine at Sahlgrenska University Hospital has hosted a resident for clinical training. Josefin Henrysson, a resident in cardiology at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, completed a rotation at Tygerberg's TIVA unit.

These exchanges serve as a pilot project leading up to the formalization of a unique tripartite agreement for future exchanges involving multiple healthcare professions — not just physicians — while also laying the groundwork for streamlined decision-making processes regarding research collaborations and joint academic activities. The agreement helps strengthen professional development through internationalization, while Sahlgrenska University Hospital contributes to the development of healthcare in a resource-constrained context, in line with the goals of global health and sustainable healthcare.

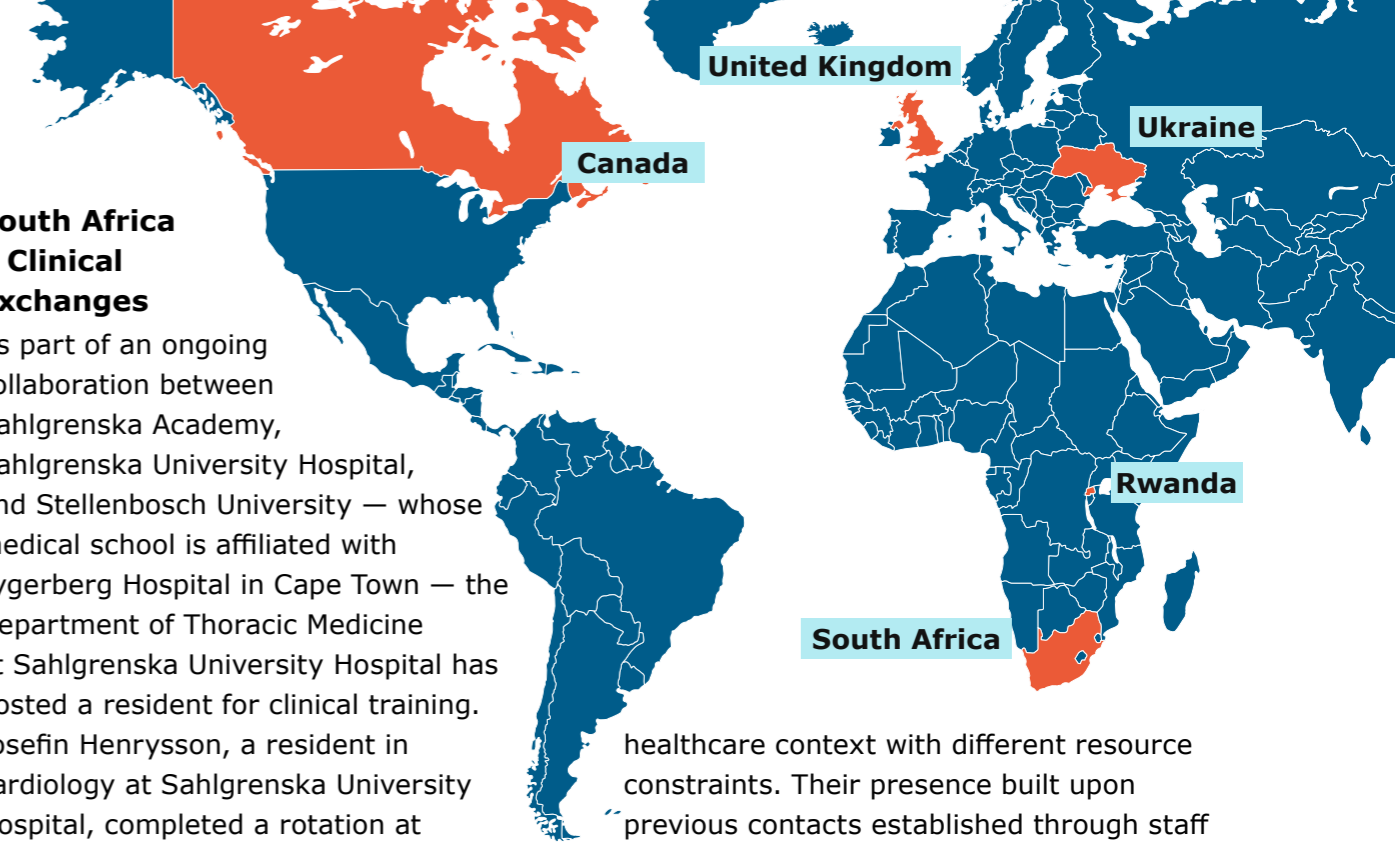
Rwanda – Clinical Exchange

In 2025, several exchanges took place as part of Sahlgrenska University Hospital's collaboration with hospitals in Rwanda, clearly demonstrating how established relationships foster continuity and facilitate new placements. Two dermatology residents from Rwanda completed a two-week clinical exchange at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, where they gained exposure to advanced Swedish dermatological diagnostics and surgery while also contributing insights from a

healthcare context with different resource constraints. Their presence built upon previous contacts established through staff placements in Rwanda. At the same time, Ellinor Lyngfelt, a resident in Pediatrics, completed a clinical placement in Rwanda, which further strengthened the mutual relationships. The combination of these efforts demonstrates how recurring exchanges create a stable framework for future collaborations, broaden international networks, and contribute to professional development for both parties within the context of long-term global health cooperation.

Ukraine – Hospital Day and Auscultations

During the year, Sahlgrenska International Care conducted two exchange programs with Repower, during which Ukrainian military medics visited western Sweden. The first event was hosted by SU, and the second was co-organized by SU while VGR served as the host. Building networks and contributing to Ukraine's ability to maintain healthcare, as well as strengthening Sweden's own preparedness to organize care in conflict environments, has become a major priority for Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Through grants from government funds, recurring training initiatives for Ukrainian doctors in various specialties are planned for 2025–2027.



Care

Collaboration for Safer Neurological Care

Nordic cooperation plays a crucial role in developing and strengthening highly specialized care in our countries. By pooling expertise, experience, and patient volumes, we can offer safer, more effective, and more advanced treatments than any single country could provide on its own. Highly specialised neurosurgery is a great example of Nordic cooperation.

The Epilepsy Center (EPC) at Sahlgrenska University Hospital has, over a long period of time, built a close collaboration with both Denmark and Finland regarding two rare and highly specialized epilepsy surgical treatments: hemispherotomy and lasertreatment of hypothalamic hamartoma. As the only Swedish center performing these procedures, EPC has accumulated extensive experience, and through collaboration with our Nordic neighbors, surgical volumes can be maintained at a level that enables high quality, continuous learning, and medical advancement.

Hemispherectomy

In certain forms of drug-resistant epilepsy in children, one hemisphere of the brain is so damaged that it needs to be disconnected – a procedure known as a hemispherectomy. Since the surgery is rare, with only 2–3 procedures performed per year in Sweden, EPC and Denmark have had an established collaboration for about 20 years. Danish patients in need of a hemispherotomy are

referred to EPC for evaluation and surgery, which allows the team to maintain and further develop its surgical expertise.

Hypothalamic hamartoma (HH) is another very rare brain malformation that can cause intractable epilepsy in children. The most precise and reliable method for treating HH is laser ablation, in which a thin laser probe is inserted with millimeter precision to destroy the hamartoma. This technique is not available in Finland, which has led to close collaboration where Finnish patients are treated at EPC in Gothenburg. Through this exchange, EPC has further strengthened its expertise in HH treatment while simultaneously building a research platform around the method.

This research is essential for further developing the treatment and making it even safer and more effective. The Nordic collaboration in epilepsy surgery clearly demonstrates how shared solutions can lead to better clinical outcomes for patients with highly complex conditions.

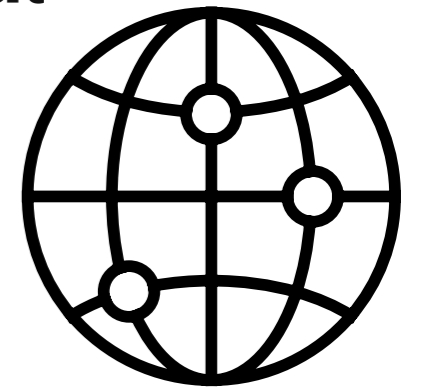
International patient volumes contribute to growth at Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital

In 2025, the Pediatric Cancer Center maintained care at the highest international standards, with the year marked by medical progress and an increasingly strong international commitment.

During the year, both the Pediatric Cancer Center and the Pediatric Heart Center welcomed an increasing number of international patients, reflecting Sahlgrenska University Hospital's strategic focus on internationalisation and a higher share of externally sold care. Through our participation in several European Reference Networks (ERNs), we contribute to – and benefit from – Europe-wide collaboration in highly specialised care. This shared

advancement of knowledge strengthens our teams, broadens our patient base, and enables continued development of treatment methods in areas where each patient case adds critical insight.

Our goal is clear: to ensure that children in Sweden have access to care and expertise that is truly world-class. Through our international engagement, we strengthen both our expertise and our ability to make a real difference for children with the most severe diseases.

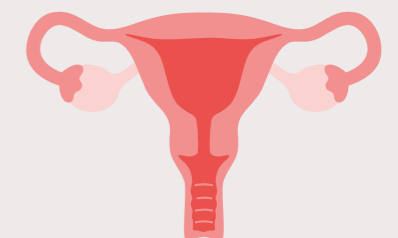


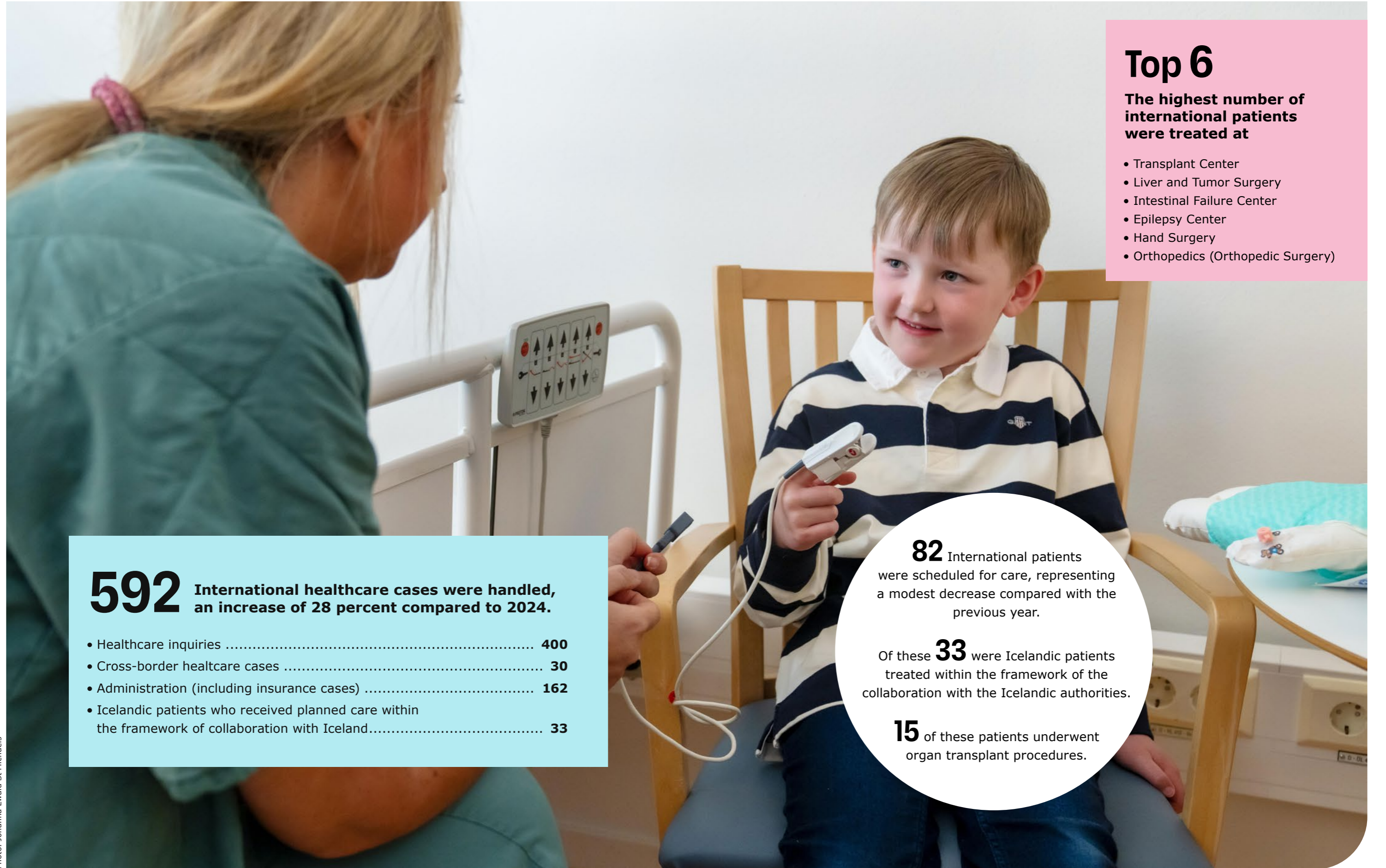
News:

Uterus Transplants

During the year, final preparations were completed to allow uterus transplantation to be offered as part of ordinary clinical care to both national and international patients. From 2026, uterus transplantation will be offered in clinical practice—an important step for patients born without

a uterus or with other forms of uterine infertility who wish to carry a pregnancy. As Sahlgrenska University Hospital strengthens its role as an internationally leading center for advanced transplant surgery, patient referrals are now open. International patient coordination is handled by Sahlgrenska International Care.





Top 6

The highest number of international patients were treated at

- Transplant Center
- Liver and Tumor Surgery
- Intestinal Failure Center
- Epilepsy Center
- Hand Surgery
- Orthopedics (Orthopedic Surgery)

592 International healthcare cases were handled, an increase of 28 percent compared to 2024.

- Healthcare inquiries 400
- Cross-border healthcare cases 30
- Administration (including insurance cases) 162
- Icelandic patients who received planned care within the framework of collaboration with Iceland..... 33

82 International patients were scheduled for care, representing a modest decrease compared with the previous year.

Of these **33** were Icelandic patients treated within the framework of the collaboration with the Icelandic authorities.

15 of these patients underwent organ transplant procedures.

Photo: Johanna Ewald St Michaels

Education

A Changing Market:

Expanding International Education Portfolio

Sahlgrenska University Hospital is expanding its global education portfolio in response to growing demand for shorter training programs and international exchanges.

Demand for longer specialist training programs among international candidates has declined in recent years, largely due to external factors such as reduced purchasing power and the expansion of local training opportunities in markets that were previously dominant. At the same time, interest in post-specialist continuing education has increased. These shorter, targeted training programs appeal to professionals from a wider range of countries worldwide.

Furthermore, interest in global knowledge exchange is increasing among staff at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, alongside a growing willingness to welcome colleagues from other countries.

While some staff members are already well accustomed to international

collaboration, others express a need for additional support and guidance. Several internal surveys have highlighted a strong commitment to international engagement at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, most recently during the development of the hospital's new strategy to strengthen internationalization.

To remain a relevant educational partner and an attractive destination for education, Sahlgrenska International Care and the Education Unit FoUII have actively responded to both external and internal insights. In recent years, they have worked intensively to expand the international education portfolio in close collaboration with the Sahlgrenska Academy.



Resident physicians
Dr. Bank and Dr. Oat
from Ramathibodi
Hospital in Thailand
on a clinical exchange.

Photo: Ingrid Fredriksson

Priority Areas

- Clinical exchanges for residents and other healthcare professionals.
- 1–2-year fellowships, i.e., advanced post graduate training for physicians who have completed their basic and specialist training.
- Knowledge exchange in key areas supporting the sustainable development of healthcare, including AI, production management, and workforce planning.
- Team-based exchange initiatives for healthcare professionals.
- Specialist Medical Training Program 2.0, comprising Basic Clinical Training (BT) and a pathway to Swedish medical licensure.
- Affiliates, medical experts who are formally linked through collaboration agreements, associated practices, or affiliate status.
- Guest lecturers.

Medical students from Asia and Africa

Throughout the year, doctors from South Africa, Thailand, and Rwanda have been visiting Sahlgrenska University Hospital for clinical rotations as part of their specialty training. Sahlgrenska University Hospital has close partnerships with selected university hospitals in these countries, which means that we welcome trainees from there every year – and have staff members who travel there as well.

From Rwanda to Sweden: Sharing experiences with skin diseases

Chantal Mwemayire and Charles Karangwa are part of the first group of resident physicians specializing in dermatology in Rwanda. They recently spent two weeks on an exchange program at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

There are very few dermatologists in Rwanda, about a dozen in the entire country, and the vast majority work in the capital region. That is why Chantal Mwemayire and Charles Karangwa are completing their residency at three different hospitals: Kigali University Teaching Hospital, King Faisal Hospital, and Rwanda Military Referral and Teaching Hospital, where they rotate every three months.

The types of skin conditions that primarily affect the population differ between Sweden and Rwanda. In Sweden, skin cancer is

common. In Rwanda, it is more often a matter of chronic inflammation, eczema, acne, and severe scarring. The reason for this difference has not been established, but according to the residents, it has to do with both the climate and genetic factors linked to melanin-rich skin.

Over the course of two weeks in Sweden, the two resident physicians from Africa were introduced to several core areas of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology, including pediatric and occupational dermatology. They also had the opportunity to observe Mohs micrographic surgery, a highly specialized procedure used to treat advanced or poorly defined skin cancers. Sahlgrenska University Hospital is one of only three hospitals in Sweden that perform this type of surgery.

Inès Naouar, a resident in the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, spent five weeks herself at a university hospital in Rwanda in 2023, and she was the one who told Charles Karangwa and Chantal Mwemayire about the possibility of an exchange with Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

– It has been a goal of mine ever since to increase the exchange of expertise between our countries, says Inès Naouar.

Text: Ingrid Fredriksson



Photo: Ingrid Fredriksson

Enhanced collaboration with Welcome Services



Photo: Welcome Services

Every day, Sahlgrenska University Hospital receives job applications from all over the world. The international recruitment unit HR Welcome Services (WS) is a specialized unit at Sahlgrenska University Hospital that was launched in 2014 with the mission of supporting managers and candidates in international recruitment throughout the entire recruitment, relocation, and onboarding process.

The team provides support in HR processes for other internationally educated professionals seeking employment at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. WS adheres to the WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel to ensure ethical and sustainable recruitment.

In 2025, Sahlgrenska International Care and Welcome Services continued to deepen their collaboration, improving both the processing and support to candidates in the international training programs.

GU Hosts the World's Largest Education Conference

One of the world's largest conferences on international higher education, the European Association for International Education (EAIE), was held in Gothenburg on September 9–12, 2025. Over 7,000 participants from more than 100 countries gathered for a week of knowledge exchange, networking,

and collaboration. The University of Gothenburg co-hosted the event alongside several other Swedish higher education institutions.

Sahlgrenska University Hospital participated in networking activities in collaboration with the Sahlgrenska Academy.

Aid

Volunteered on a surgical ship

For three months, Robert Johansson temporarily swapped his job as head of the medical technology unit at Sahlgrenska University Hospital to serve as a volunteer on a surgical ship in Madagascar.

His interest in volunteering with Mercy Ships was sparked several years ago when he saw an advertisement for the ship. Mercy Ships is an American organization that provides surgical care and surgical training on two different ships in Africa.

– I thought it sounded exciting and contacted Mercy Ships. It was a comprehensive application process that took a long time, but at the same time, I got confirmation that it is a serious organization, says Robert.

“Volunteering in a completely different environment was a very positive experience. It felt meaningful to contribute in a practical way, and I made many friends from diverse cultural backgrounds.

While the process was ongoing, Robert contacted Sahlgrenska International Care, where he received financial support for the trip.

In March 2025, he had the opportunity to take part in a mission aboard one of Mercy Ships' boats, which was then anchored off Madagascar's second-largest city, Toamasina. The patients came from Madagascar and lacked access to healthcare; the operations had been preceded by screening work on the island.

– The procedures range from tumour surgery to reconstructive plastic surgery, orthopaedics and hand surgery. It is modern healthcare, with up-to-date equipment and all the necessary expertise on board to perform these operations,” Robert says.

There are several reasons why healthcare is provided on a ship.

– The advantage is that the infrastructure is in place. Otherwise, it can be difficult in these countries, as there are often power outages, and just six months ago there was a military coup in Madagascar. The boat is a safe place where there is electricity, clean water, and IT.



Photo: Mercy Ships



Robert took care of all the medical equipment, as well as the lab and sterile equipment. – I did preventive maintenance, handover of installations, and was on call every three weeks. I also gave lectures on management and received a week of leadership training, says Robert.

People from all over the world worked on the ship, and the volunteers ranged from specialist doctors to cleaners and engineers.

– I was part of a team of three: a senior supervisor from Mexico. Myself, and a colleague from Nigeria. The most enjoyable part was working closely with so many different professionals and nationalities; it was a completely new experience. I learned a lot of new things that I have taken home with me to my job at Sahlgrenska.

Robert worked regular daytime hours, Monday to Friday. In the evenings and on weekends, he socialized with new friends on board or joined various excursions.

– There was a lot of singing, dancing, and tasty food. We played games, did sports activities, attended lectures – for example those given by the surgeons, Robert says.

He shared a cabin with five other men.

– For me, that was the biggest challenge: living so closely with people you hadn't met before, all with different routines and habits, he explains.

“ People from all over the world worked on the ship, and the volunteers ranged from specialist doctors to cleaners and engineers.

When Robert left the ship in June, after three months on the ship, he had developed a real taste for volunteer work and made valuable new contacts.

Shortly after the interview, he will be heading back to Madagascar. This time, he will be working on the construction of a new operating theatre at one of the island's hospitals.

– My next volunteer assignment will be with an organisation that is a spin-off from Mercy Ships. I'll be helping to build a new operating theatre where they perform fistula repairs on women. We had been

there a couple of times to do maintenance work, and they asked if I would be willing to come back and work. This time, the assignment will last just three weeks. I will be volunteering during my summer leave, while I am off work from my position at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, he says.

He encourages others to take the chance to serve aboard.

– If you want to make a difference and gain a truly unique experience, this is a fantastic opportunity, Robert concludes.

Text: Ebba Strömqvist



Sahlgrenska University Hospital Expands Its Exchange Program with Ukraine

Sahlgrenska University Hospital is now formalizing its support for Ukraine through a two-year project that includes, among other things, the exchange of expertise and mentoring for Ukrainian healthcare professionals.

– Sahlgrenska University Hospital is resilient and ready for the new security situation in the world around us. We have a long history of collaboration with various partners and are actively working to strengthen our preparedness. Now we are strengthening our collaboration with Ukraine, which is a way for us to contribute while gaining experience in providing healthcare during crises and war,” says Hospital Director Boubou Hallberg.

The project that Sahlgrenska University Hospital has now launched is part of a national program to support the reconstruction of Ukraine, which is backed by the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish International Development

Cooperation Agency (Sida). All university hospitals in Sweden have the opportunity to apply for funding for projects within their own operations. Sahlgrenska University Hospital has applied for and received funding for its project, which will run through December 31, 2027.

The various university hospitals’ efforts will be directed toward hospitals in different parts of Ukraine. For Sahlgrenska University Hospital, this involves two hospitals in the Kharkiv region in the northeastern part of the country, and the support is provided in the form of:

- Exchange of expertise
- Auscultation (i.e., clinical observership)
- HTA training (i.e., analysis of evidence-based care)



Hospital Director Boubou Hallberg in conversation with hospital staff from Ukraine.

Photo: Paul Björkman



Sahlgrenska University Hospital is strengthening its collaboration with Ukraine through a new project.

Photo: Johanna Ewald St. Michaels

Up to twelve healthcare workers from Ukraine will be hosted at Sahlgrenska University Hospital during the two years the project runs. In addition, workshops and/or study visits are planned in Gothenburg to give more Ukrainian healthcare workers the opportunity for continuing education and the exchange of experiences.

At this time, the hospital does not plan to send staff from Sweden to hospitals in Ukraine, but if the situation changes, this may be possible within the framework of the project.

– Our project focuses on improving and strengthening human resources within the healthcare system in Ukraine to increase access to qualified personnel and best practices. The project is also strategically important and provides us with the opportunity to gain direct insights from a healthcare sector undergoing enormous pressure, directly from Ukrainian colleagues, says Anders Lygdman, senior advisor at Sahlgrenska International Care, who is coordinating the project on behalf of the hospital.

Text: Ingrid Fredriksson

National Program

The National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked with coordinating Sweden’s support for Ukraine’s reconstruction and reform efforts in the areas of social policy and health care, as part of the country’s efforts to align with the EU.

This mandate involves running a program that facilitates knowledge transfer and capacity building between Swedish and Ukrainian stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels.

The program is funded by Sida. A priority area is to strengthen cooperation between university hospitals in Sweden and hospitals in Ukraine. The work is based on the government’s strategy for cooperation with Ukraine 2023–2027 and a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ukrainian ministries of social affairs and health.

Source: National Board of Health and Welfare



Photo: Paul Björkman

Senior Physician Yurii Naryzhnyi visited Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

A Break from the Front Lines

– 100 Ukrainian military medics visited the hospital

Just over 100 Ukrainian military medics visited Sahlgrenska University Hospital in January 2025 to exchange experiences and take a break from their daily routine on the front lines of the war. It was a day filled with knowledge, camaraderie, and emotion.

The day was part of a ten-day stay in western Sweden for the Ukrainian group. The visit was organized by the Ukrainian volunteer organization Repower, and the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine selected the women and men participating.

– Most of them are coming directly from the front lines. Medical personnel in Ukraine are facing a very difficult situation, and for those on the front lines, this is an opportunity to take a break from their normal reality of constant danger. It also facilitates a bilateral exchange of knowledge between the healthcare systems in Ukraine and Sweden, says Jonas Zimmerman, a resident physician who has been to Ukraine

several times since the war broke out, and one of the organizers of the event at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

The day began with speeches by the chairperson of the hospital's board Cecilia Dalman Eek and hospital director Boubou Hallberg.

– It is an honor to welcome you here and stand before you knowing the incredible work you do every day, said Boubou Hallberg.
– You do not fight with weapons but with your hands, knowledge, and hearts. We welcome you not as guests but as colleagues. You remind us of what it truly means to be human.

In the morning, participants were divided into groups for workshops alongside hospital staff, while the afternoon was devoted to presentations by some of the Ukrainian medical personnel and the work they perform on the front lines.

The main Sahlgrenska auditorium was full and the audience heard powerful stories; about evacuating wounded soldiers in the dark, about cold, and rain across rough terrain and sometimes on water, all the while knowing that the enemy is monitoring them via drones. An evacuation can take anywhere from two hours to many days and can cover distances ranging from two to twelve kilometers. The medics must have several different plans and options because the situation can change very quickly. There is also a shortage of both vehicles and boats for evacuation.

– An evacuation I was involved in took fourteen hours, said Chief Medical Officer Yurii Naryzhnyi.

– The injured soldier's comrades administered first aid in the field, and then we evacuated him on foot using a stretcher. After we found shelter and ensured safety, he received treatment and antibiotics. We

then had to wait for the opportunity to continue the evacuation and transport him by boat to the hospital. During the break, Yurii Naryzhnyi told us that this was his first trip abroad and that he was very happy and excited to be in Sweden and at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

– It's a wonderful country with open and friendly people. Experiencing this kindness gives me goosebumps of happiness.

Toward the end of the day, the Ukrainian visitors were asked a hypothetical question by Jonas Zimmerman: If Sweden were to be invaded by a foreign power in the near future, what do you think is the most important thing we should do?

The responses came quickly and in large numbers: Don't give up. Unite. Stay calm. Don't be afraid; we will help you. Learn from the enemy's mistakes. Use your mountains. Air defense. Fast vehicles. Military training for all healthcare personnel. Civilian first aid knowledge—teach it in school. The army's problems are the whole country's problems. Everything done during the war must be transparent to the public.

Text: Ingrid Fredriksson och Calle Jershed

How Sahlgrenska University Hospital is supporting Ukraine

Sahlgrenska International Care (SIC) has served as the central hub as hospitals in the Västra Götaland region send medical supplies and equipment to Ukraine. This includes advanced medical equipment such as ventilators, infusion pumps, dialysis machines, and oxygen concentrators as well as basic equipment such as hospital beds, assistive devices, and consumables for various types of emergency care. SIC has also, among other things, funded a trauma course for Ukrainian trauma surgeons.

Since 2022, approximately 60 patients from Ukraine have been treated at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. These have sometimes been complex cases requiring long hospital stays, up to five months in a hospital ward.

In addition, these patients often require advanced surgery by orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, and vascular surgeons, as the patients have suffered extensive injuries to their arms and legs.

Increased international cooperation



Sahlgrenska University Hospital has a strong international engagement. Numerous initiatives are underway to increase and better coordinate the hospital's internationalization efforts, under the leadership of the Steering Group for Internationalization. In this section, you will meet some of our employees working around the world.

Internationalization – a part of the hospital's talent development

As part of Sahlgrenska's transformation program for future healthcare – Program 6.0 – efforts are currently underway to enhance coordination and implementation capacity in internationalization, with a clear focus on the needs of clinical operations.

– Internationalization should be an integrated part of Sahlgrenska's operations. It is a prerequisite for remaining a relevant university hospital in the future, in an increasingly globalized world, says Helena Rexus, Operational Project Manager for National Highly Specialized Care (NHSC), Profiling, and Internationalization.

Each year, a large number of connections are established between staff at Sahlgrenska University Hospital and international researchers, healthcare professionals, and other partners. The hospital also receives hundreds of patients from around the world who seek highly specialized care in Gothenburg. These international encounters are already an important part of daily operations. However,



Thorsteinn Gunnarsson.

Photo: Sahlgrenska University Hospital



Stephanie Ko, pictured on the left, is a doctor at the National University Health System (NUHS) in Singapore. She accompanied a primary care team during a visit to Gothenburg.

Photo: Sahlgrenska University Hospital

to achieve the goal of becoming one of Europe's leading university hospitals by 2032, international contact points must be further strengthened and developed.

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, Head of the Pediatric Cancer Center has been actively involved in the program organization's internationalization project. He emphasizes the importance of giving talented employees opportunities to gain exposure to international research environments, working methods, and collaborations.

Through such experiences, staff can develop their expertise, access global research breakthroughs, and bring new knowledge back to Swedish healthcare.

Internationalization is therefore not a separate activity, but a key driving force behind Sahlgrenska University Hospital's ambition to remain at the forefront of research.

It creates the conditions necessary for significant advances in competence and for driving research forward at a pace that would otherwise not be possible. This is evident both in the individual researcher's international journey and in the strategic development of long-term structures for global collaboration.

During 2025, Sahlgrenska made several important strategic decisions in this work, all with the primary aim of offering residents of Sweden healthcare of absolute world-class quality.

Growing interest in international collaboration

A total of 19 international development projects were awarded funding from Sahlgrenska International Care in 2025, an increase compared to the previous year. Meet some of the employees who carried out exchanges. Together, they demonstrate how international exchanges can strengthen healthcare both domestically and abroad, while also contributing to personal professional development.

Strengthened collaboration with Unity Health in Canada

Pontus Pfannenstill

A surgical specialist at SU/Östra Hospital and an AI strategist at the Center for Digital Health, traveled to Toronto in October to further strengthen the partnership with Unity Health, with a focus on AI research, AI implementation, and AI strategy.

"Sahlgrenska University Hospital has for some time maintained a successful and dynamic collaboration with Unity Health in Toronto, with a strong focus on innovation and AI research, implementation, and strategy. The collaboration also includes partners such as AI Sweden, Skåne University Hospital, Karolinska Institutet, and Region Halland, all of which hold strong positions in AI within Sweden. Unity Health is considered a particularly suitable partner for several reasons: its success in AI-research and implementation in healthcare, similarities in healthcare and political systems between Sweden and Canada, and the absence of language barriers.

During the year, several virtual meetings were held for experience exchange, and Sahlgrenska University Hospital's AI Competence Center (AICC) had an employee on site in Toronto during the spring. During this period, Unity Health's AI-implementation strategy was studied and later presented to Sahlgrenska's digitalization unit.

Going forward, together with AICC and, among others, AI researcher, cardiologist, and strategist Araz Rawshani at the Center for Digital Health, I will help develop Sahlgrenska University Hospital's AI strategy."

Roadmap for North America 2024–2032

The North America Roadmap outlines Sahlgrenska University Hospital's priorities for collaboration with North America during the period 2024–2032. The United States and Canada are considered global leaders in AI, innovation, and digital health, as well as in cancer research. These areas represent key focus points for Sahlgrenska's engagement in North America.



Photo: Private



Photo: Private

Toronto, Canada

Katarina Lannering

A physician at the Pediatric Heart Center, is completing a one-year fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto.

"I'm participating in a well-structured training program. I rotate through different units and encounter many complex cases that I rarely see back home. My colleagues come from all over the world, and the care chain here is impressively efficient

– including the extremely short hospital stays following heart surgery. It's intense, challenging, and incredibly rewarding. Being here also means reflecting on how we work in Sweden. I'm grateful for the opportunity and proud that I took it."

Kigali, Rwanda

Ellinor Lyngfelt

A pediatric resident at Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital is completing a clinical rotation at CHUK University Hospital.

"As a pediatric resident, I'm observing the work, learning from my Rwandan colleagues, and sharing experiences. Meeting children and families in a completely different healthcare context is exciting, challenging, and incredibly educational. It provides new perspectives on pediatric care and global health. Here, you work independently with critically ill children, while education remains a central focus. Malaria and malnutrition are common challenges in pediatric care."



Photo: Private



Photo: Private

From Gothenburg to Cape Town: New Perspectives on Healthcare and Education

A long-standing interest in global health work led resident physician Josefin Henrysson to a clinical exchange in South Africa. With support from Sahlgrenska International Care, she spent a month at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town. “Perspective,” Josefin Henrysson replies immediately and without hesitation when asked what she is taking home with her.

– The highlight was when the staff at the Cardiology Department gathered for an hour of teaching every day. Together with professors, the residents discussed various topics and patient cases. Seeing how highly they prioritize teaching and that EVERYONE participates—it was truly wonderful and incredibly educational, says Josefin

Henrysson. It’s not something that could be implemented directly into the residency program as it’s structured in Sweden and at Sahlgrenska University Hospital today, but it was inspiring and made her think about how it might be possible to adapt and weave it into our reality here.

“ One tip is to go at the end of your residency to get the most out of your rotation.

Another memory that has stayed with Josefin is when she met a patient at the cardiology clinic who had had to get up at 2 a.m. to get there.

– The doctor I was working with told me that as a patient, you never get an exact time for a follow-up appointment at the cardiology clinic—just a date. The hospital sends a bus to pick up patients from a very large catchment area, and to make it in time, the route starts at 1 a.m. Then the patients are driven home in the afternoon. It’s fantastic that transportation is offered to people who wouldn’t have been able to get to the hospital otherwise, but it’s hard to accept that a follow-up visit can, as in this patient’s case, take up an entire day, says Josefin Henrysson.

Josefin Henrysson has previously participated in medical missions at rural hospitals in Tanzania and Zambia with the Scandinavian Medical Bank. During an international evening at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, the idea was born to undertake a clinical exchange as part of a rotation within her residency training in Cardiology. Last year, she received funding from Sahlgrenska International Care, which made it possible to conduct clinical rotations at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town. During the first few days, Josefin Henrysson thought that most of what she saw was fantastic. Soon, a more complex picture emerged. “I was at a public hospital. The staff has all the necessary knowledge, follows the same guidelines as in Sweden, and performs virtually all the procedures

we do at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, but with very limited financial resources. For example, they only perform the TAVI procedure (transcatheter aortic valve implantation) twice a month, even though the waiting list is long and the need is at least as great as here in Sweden. We, who also have a waiting list, perform a few of these every week.

The difference between private and public healthcare was particularly evident in the ambulance service. If the ambulance was publicly owned, you had to wait significantly longer, and by no means were all ambulances equipped with ECG machines. In South Africa, resident physicians develop a broader range of skills than in Sweden. There, they do “everything,” unlike in Sweden, where there are more subspecialties. For Josefine, for example, this would mean performing percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) and implanting pacemakers – something that isn’t part of her job duties today.

– I’m really happy with my time at Tygerberg. The care was excellent, and I felt very welcome. One tip is to go at the end of your residency to get the most out of your placement. You should also be well-traveled, as the security situation requires a high level of vigilance, says Josefin Henrysson.



From Cape Town to Gothenburg: "It feels more important than ever to be a global citizen"

The distance from Cape Town to Gothenburg may seem considerable, but for senior resident Stefan Van Der Westhuizen, it felt completely natural to accept when he was asked to participate in a three-week exchange program with Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

– I've always liked the idea of international exchanges. Earlier in my training, I spent a semester at Stanford and a month in Tokyo." It feels good and more important than ever to be a global citizen, he says.

Stefan Van Der Westhuizen is a senior resident (what we call a resident physician) at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town and has a year and a half left in his medical training, specializing in surgery. He is particularly interested in transplant medicine and children with congenital heart defects.

Why did you want to come to Gothenburg and Sahlgrenska University Hospital?

– At my hospital in Cape Town, despite a large population, we don't have a very high volume of cardiac surgery—no more than 300–350 patients per year. At Sahlgrenska University Hospital, approximately 1,200 patients are treated per year—three to four times as many. It's exciting and interesting to see how things work here.

What accounts for the difference?

– Partly, it's probably due to economic reasons. South Africa is a large country with a large population, but healthcare is more divided into private and public sectors. At my hospital, we have waiting lists extending until April 2026 for heart surgery; at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, there are no waiting lists.

How have you been treated at Sahlgrenska University Hospital?

– Surgeons generally have a reputation for not being very welcoming, but that's not the case here at all—I've been given a very warm welcome. There are strong teams here that provide great support. The team surrounding the surgeons has better working conditions and takes turns when the shift is over—that's not always the case back home. There's also no hierarchy like there is in South Africa; seniors and juniors hang out together.



Photo: Ingrid Fredriksson

Stefan Van Der Westhuizen is a so-called senior resident (what we call a resident physician) at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town and has one and a half years left in his medical training, specializing in surgery.

What have you been up to since you came to Sweden?

– I've seen and done a great deal. For example, I've assisted during a lung transplant and been involved in both emergency and non-emergency cases. I've also had the opportunity to see how robotic surgery works in Sweden. We have robots in surgery in South Africa as well, but they're very expensive and aren't used as much as they are here.

What do you think people should keep in mind when going on an exchange program?

– Don't expect everything to be the way you're used to; you have to be flexible. If

you're feeling hesitant—do it anyway! Take the plunge into the unknown; you won't regret it.

Is there anything Sahlgrenska University Hospital can do better when it comes to welcoming exchange students?

– I actually can't think of anything. Everyone involved has done a great job. The bureaucratic process has gone smoothly, and Charlotte Sjöberg Larsson, the Director of International Studies, and Sahlgrenska International Care have been a huge help. Even the weather has been nice.

Text: Ingrid Fredriksson

Gained new insights into the care of children with severe cervical spinal cord injuries

A team consisting of a hand surgeon and occupational therapists from Sahlgrenska University Hospital traveled to the United States to bring back new expertise in the care of children with cervical spinal cord injuries.

The Hand Surgery Clinic and the Center for Advanced Reconstruction of Extremities (CARE) at Sahlgrenska University Hospital have performed surgery on several children with cervical spinal cord injuries in recent years and realized that no one else is operating on these children in Europe.

In the United States, at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, children and adolescents from across the country undergo surgery after sustaining cervical spinal cord injuries. The team from

Sahlgrenska University Hospital, consisting of a hand surgeon and two occupational therapists, was invited on a study visit to Dr. Kozin and his colleagues at Shriners Hospital for Children. The study visit took place March 31–April 3 in conjunction with the IFSSH hand surgery congress in Washington. The aim was to gain tips and advice on the practical aspects surrounding the surgical procedure, with the long-term goal of improving the overall experience for patients and their families.

World Transplant Congress

This fall, global experts gathered in Gothenburg for the world's most important conference on intestinal failure and visceral transplantation. This time, the event had a clear patient focus.

Following events in New York, Paris, Auckland, and Chicago, it was time for experts from around the world to gather in Gothenburg to share research advances and clinical experiences in the field of transplantation, with the goal of improving care for this patient group. Actively involving patients, their families, and patient organizations in this year's event was therefore a natural step.

In Europe, these highly specialized transplants are performed at a handful of university hospitals; Sahlgrenska University Hospital is one of the leading transplant centers both nationally and internationally. The World Congress offers

a unique opportunity for networking, and since Sahlgrenska University Hospital provides nationally highly specialized care (NVH) on behalf of the National Board of Health and Welfare in these areas, there is a responsibility to disseminate knowledge and expand collaboration between university hospitals at the national and Nordic levels, where experience with this highly specialized treatment is still limited. Sahlgrenska University Hospital also has extensive experience treating patients from Nordic clinics in Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

The World Congress was organized in collaboration with Karolinska University Hospital.

Sahlgrenska University Hospital joins two international networks

In 2025, Sahlgrenska University Hospital became a member of two international healthcare networks: the International Hospital Federation and Future of Health.

Sahlgrenska University Hospital coordinates the membership of all hospitals in the Region Västra Götaland in the International Hospital Federation (IHF). The IHF is a global organization with over 160 members representing 30,000 hospitals in more than 75 countries. Within the IHF, healthcare leaders meet to exchange knowledge internationally and to explore opportunities for training and development.

– When it comes to shaping the future of healthcare, we are undeniably stronger together. Although healthcare systems vary from country to country, our problems and challenges are similar, and this gives us the strength to face them together with some of the world's best hospitals, says Boubou Hallberg, hospital director at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Future of Health (FOH) is an international network of hospital directors that is open only by invitation.

Membership is based on demonstrated leadership and a commitment to

transforming healthcare. FOH is a global organization comprising the CEOs of 36 of the world's most prominent university hospitals and hospital systems. The organization was founded in 2019 with the aim of creating an environment where leaders from the world's leading hospitals can share experiences, learn from one another, and thereby influence global policy and development.

– Membership in the International Hospital Federation and Future of Health provides Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the Region Västra Götaland with excellent opportunities for knowledge exchange at the highest management level with the very best hospitals in the world. This provides leverage in our efforts to give patients in western Sweden access to the best care, says Boubou Hallberg, hospital director.

Text: Patrik Centerwall



Sustainability report

Our focus area: Healthcare Development – Locally and Globally


Sahlgrenska International Care (SIC) works to promote the responsible internationalization of healthcare in an increasingly interconnected and changing world. Through international collaborations characterized by reciprocity, a long-term perspective, and sustainable resource management, SIC contributes to the development of healthcare both locally and globally, with clear benefits for patients and employees.









Goals and results




This table outlines the initiatives undertaken by Sahlgrenska International Care (SIC), together with our partners, during the year that contribute to our own sustainability goals, which are aligned with selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and VGR's sustainability goals.





- Green – This year's goal achieved
- Yellow – This year's goal partially achieved
- Red – This year's goal not achieved

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
Contributing to specialist healthcare expertise in other countries	<p>Number of SMTP/SDTP participants who work in their specialty in their home country after having completed training. No aggregate statistics available.</p> <p>Number of doctors and dentists per specialist area Plastic surgery: 1 Neurological care: 1 Child psychiatry: 1 Orthodontics: 4 Endodontics: 1</p>	●	<p>Demand for our longer specialist training programs has declined in recent years, partly due to external factors such as changes in purchasing power and the expansion of training offerings in our primary customer markets, as well as changes in national regulations.</p> <p>Demand for post-specialist training is increasing, and efforts are therefore underway to broaden the international offering with shorter training formats such as clinical exchanges and fellowships.</p> <p>Exit interviews are conducted in connection with completed training programs, but due to limited capacity in 2025, work on developing a systematic follow-up of candidates after they have been working in another country for a few years was paused. Consideration should be given to whether the indicators for monitoring this sustainability goal should be changed next year.</p>	Good health and well-being	SDG 3.8 





Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
An education that attracts candidates from more countries	<p>Number of applicants per country</p> <p>75 % Saudi Arabia</p> <p>25 % The Nordic countries</p>		<p>In 2025, the Dental Medicine Program (SDTP) admitted two new dental students for the 2026 and 2027 cohorts, respectively. A new physician from Saudi Arabia was admitted to the Specialist Training Program (SMTP) in cardiology. The sample size is too small to draw any conclusions about changes in application patterns from different countries.</p> <p>The education market is changing. To strengthen Sahlgrenska University Hospital's international competitiveness, SIC and the Education Unit continue to focus on developing shorter clinical exchange programs, in English, which are expected to attract candidates from more countries.</p>	Equality and human rights	<p>SDG 3</p> 
An SDTP/SMTP training that promotes awareness of equality and human rights	<p>Number of those who have completed their training who feel that it increased their knowledge of equality and human rights in healthcare.</p> <p>Statistics not available.</p>		<p>Exit interviews can capture qualitative responses regarding the selected indicator; however, since the number of SDTP dentists and SMTP physicians has gradually declined since the sustainability goals were introduced (introduced at SIC 2020, but the first report was released in 2021), it is therefore difficult to provide a comprehensive picture. Instead, it is assumed that since equality and human rights are central components of Swedish healthcare education, this has likely increased both dentists' and physicians' knowledge of these topics—within a healthcare context.</p>	Equality and human rights	<p>SDG 4.8</p> 

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
<p>Increase accessibility for international patients</p>	<p>Number of patients by area of care (top 6) Transplant Center: 25 Liver/Oncology Surgery: 7 Bariatric Center: 13 Epilepsy Center: 7 Cardiology/Thoracic Surgery: 3 Intensive Care: 5</p> <p>Number of patients by country Iceland: 33 (53) Norway: 15 (27) Finland: 6 (5) USA: 3 (3) Denmark: 2 (6) Estonia: 2 (1) Other countries: 21 (20)</p> <p>Number of international care cases per processing category 592 (464) See total list on p.10.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Fewer international patients were treated; the 28.7% decline is partly attributed to the fact that the previous year saw a satellite clinic with many patients in Iceland staffed by healthcare personnel from Sahlgrenska University Hospital (SU).</p> <p>The fact that most patients come from neighboring Nordic countries demonstrates the potential of Nordic collaboration to increase access to highly specialized care.</p> <p>Demand is growing for certain unique treatments such as ILP and PHP, and there is capacity to accept more patients. SU's expert team in this field also engages in knowledge exchange with institutions such as Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) to help raise the level of expertise in the method there and, in the long term, make it available to more patients.</p> <p>Care cases: In 2025, SIC's care coordinators handled 592 cases, which is 27.5 percent more cases than the previous year.</p>	<p>Equality and human rights</p>	<p>SDG 3</p> 
<p>Contribute to the strengthening of health systems in low- and middle-income countries</p>	<p>Breakdown by country/continent 50 % Africa 38 % Ukraine 12 % Other countries</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Aid to Ukraine remains substantial. As was the case last year, in 2024, our partners have continued to focus on the country. VGR's aid is also channeled to sub-Saharan Africa, where most of our long-term partnerships are based. Other recipient countries include Romania and Turkey.</p>	<p>Good health and well-being</p>	<p>SDG 3.8, 3.C</p> 

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
<p>Develop new collaborations with healthcare systems in other countries that promote global health</p>	<p>Number of completed projects 4 (4)</p> <p>Number of new agreements containing wording on equal rights and non-discrimination 1 (1)</p> <p>Number of new collaborations per healthcare area 1 (3)</p> <p>Number of international development projects or initiatives funded by SIC's investment budget 19 (15)</p> <p>See the complete list in the statistics section.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Completed projects: South Africa – clinical exchange, one incoming and one outgoing resident in thoracic medicine/cardiology.</p> <p>Rwanda – clinical exchange, two incoming and one outgoing resident in dermatology and pediatrics, respectively.</p> <p>Ukraine – hospital visit in Gothenburg for Ukrainian military medics in collaboration with the nonprofit organization Repower.</p> <p>Gambia – training initiative in collaboration with SANC to improve local knowledge of neurosurgery.</p> <p>Teams from Sahlgrenska University Hospital and other Swedish hospitals train participants on-site.</p> <p>Agreement: The South Africa agreement, expected to be signed during a delegation trip to Cape Town in early 2026, includes provisions that contribute to responsible internationalization (non-discrimination, as well as safety and preparedness).</p> <p>New collaborations: Clinical rotations for Icelandic residents in orthopedics.</p>	<p>Good health and well-being</p> <p>Equality and human rights</p>	<p>SDG 3.8, 3.C</p> <p>SDG 4</p>  
<p>Increased digitalization and secure information sharing</p>	<p>Number of referrals that are processed digitally 90 %*</p> <p>*Receiving referrals from external parties</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>The work to digitize the administrative process around referral management continues.</p> <p>The number of digital consultations has also increased.</p>	<p>Low climate impact</p>	<p>SDG 12.6</p> 

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
Developing digital forms of training to reduce the carbon footprint	Number of completed digital trainings 0		Pending. However, as we develop new partnerships, we try to keep in mind the importance of incorporating digital elements.	Low climate impact	SDG 12.6 
Contribute to a more responsible resource utilization through increased reuse of medical equipment	Donated key products (beds, wheelchairs, ultrasound machines). Beds: 250 (421) Wheelchairs:: 2203 (1009) Ultrasound machines:: 9 (30) Donated products by category Basic equipment: 40 % Advanced equipment: 15 % Aids: 35 % Other: 10 % Number of follow-up trips with partner organizations 0 (2) Prominent donations or contributions 20 anesthesiapparater från SU		We are seeing a steady flow of donations. In 2025, new textile legislation affected several of our partners, which had a negative impact on our collection capacity. In particular, the number of hospital beds collected decreased. At the same time, the collection of wheelchairs and electric wheelchairs doubled. Sahlgrenska University Hospital initiated a major donation of anesthesia equipment. As part of this, 20 units were donated to Ukraine. No follow-up aid missions were conducted.	Resource-efficient and toxinfree	SDG 12.6 

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
<p>Enhance the monitoring of sustainability efforts</p>	<p>Number of sustainability reports. 4 (3)</p> <p>Impact of efforts on healthcare professionals/residents/healthcare locally and globally.</p> <p>See qualitative responses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>2025 marks the fourth year that SIC has reported on its sustainability efforts in an integrated annual and sustainability report. A follow-up visit to Iceland was conducted, building on strategic discussions regarding deeper collaboration between Landspítali University Hospital and Sahlgrenska University Hospital in specific areas. No other follow-up visits were conducted. At the same time, SIC has worked actively to strengthen sustainability monitoring within the framework of existing partnerships as a result of the conclusions drawn following the pandemic. Since Ukraine has been the largest recipient of aid for several years now, a follow-up visit there—or, if security conditions do not permit it, digital follow-up – is a high priority. This is something that will be developed in 2026, including within the framework of the Sida-funded Ukraine project.</p> <p>A training initiative was carried out in The Gambia through SANC, aimed at building local expertise in neurosurgery in West Africa, which will ultimately enable more patients to receive care earlier. More detailed information on the number and types of surgeries performed, as well as the impact on healthcare personnel, residents, and healthcare systems locally and globally, can be found in SANC's report on the initiative. The exchange with Rwanda in dermatology continues; two resident physicians from CHUK were here. There are several ideas for continued collaboration, including joint publications, a book, and digital conferences to raise awareness about melanin-rich skin, as well as knowledge exchange regarding the respective roles of physicians and nurses in the care of dermatology patients. The method for monitoring initiatives carried out through SIC or with funding from SIC needs to be updated in the coming years to gain a clearer picture of the effects and, thereby, the contribution to global health.</p>	<p>Good health and well-being</p> <p>Equality and human rights</p> <p>Resource-efficient and toxinfree</p>	<p>SDG 12.6</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

Goal	Results year 2025	Status	What we have done	Contributes to VGR's goals	Contributes to global goals
Sustainable travel	<p>Carbon offsetting for international flights</p> <p>61 tkr</p> <p>Breakdown of transport modes for business trips within the Nordic region</p> <p>Train: 100 %</p>		<p>SIC applies a carbon offset to all international flights taken by its own employees, other SU staff, and visitors from low- and middle-income countries involved in projects sponsored by SIC. In cases where recipients of SIC funding have not booked through VGR's business travel agency, no carbon offset is applied. All domestic travel was conducted by train.</p>	Low climate impact	<p>SDG 12</p> 
Develop partnerships that promote sustainable development of healthcare internationally	<p>Participation in national and international arenas</p> <p>4</p>		<p>Participation in the Team Sweden – Ukraine Health Meeting.</p> <p>Participation in the National Board of Health and Welfare's reference group meeting for the support program for cooperation with Ukraine in the areas of health, healthcare, and social services.</p> <p>Through funding from SIC, Sahlgrenska University Hospital became a member of two new international networks – the International Hospital Federation and Future of Health.</p>		<p>SDG 17.6</p> 

Sustainability Analysis

In an era marked by geopolitical turmoil and economic uncertainty, the conditions for both the internationalization of healthcare and efforts toward sustainable development are changing. For Sahlgrenska International Care (SIC), 2025 has marked a shift toward a somewhat greater focus on the local area and a need to reevaluate both goals and methods. At the same time, international engagement is growing. More projects than ever are receiving support, and the organization's role in the hospital's globalization efforts is becoming increasingly important.

2025 was yet another year – one of many – marked by geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty. The result is often that the local area takes precedence, with regionalization taking precedence over globalization. This also has implications for SIC's work toward sustainable healthcare and the increased internationalization of Sahlgrenska University Hospital. To give a few examples:

- Canada has been prioritized over the U.S. in the hospital's North American initiative in AI and digitalization, as conditions in that market are currently more stable.
- The single largest initiatives within our areas of operation – aid and healthcare – are in the immediate region: Ukraine and the Nordic countries, respectively.
- Enrollment demand for our longer-term educational programs, which have traditionally been dominated by candidates from the Middle East, is low; the focus is now shifting instead toward shorter educational formats that can attract candidates from more countries.

A total of 19 international development projects were awarded funding from SIC, a significant increase from the 8 projects that received funding during the inaugural year of 2023. This fuels the ongoing

efforts to strengthen internationalization at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, with the goal of becoming an even more relevant hospital that is part of the fight for more sustainable healthcare worldwide. Next year, when SIC funding for international development projects transitions from a pilot to regular operations, the procedures and processes – from application to follow-up—need to be refined and quality-assured to achieve an even more responsible internationalization.

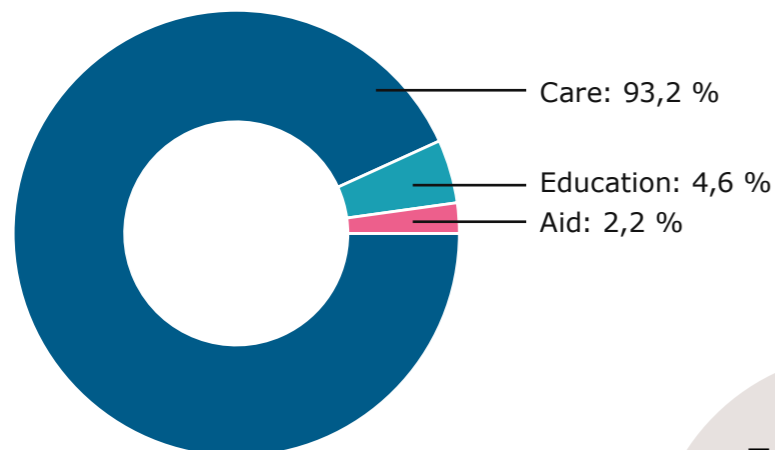
As the global landscape is being reshaped, SIC's areas of operation and mission are changing. Research and international standards in the field of sustainability (e.g., ESRS, GRI, SBTi) share a common principle that goals and indicators should be revised in the event of significant changes in operations. It also became clear in this year's sustainability report that both SIC's sustainability goals and certain indicators need to be revised for the 2026 sustainability report to provide a more accurate picture and meaningful insights into SIC's sustainability work. The timing of an update also seems justified given that VGR's sustainability goals have recently undergone a review and will be decided by policymakers in the spring of 2026.



The year in numbers

Total revenue: 67.3 million | Profit: 5.7 million

Turnover – share of sales



Total number of patient days:
294

Planned care

82 patients received scheduled care on **116** occasions through Sahlgrenska International Care. Of these, 56 received care under agreements and partnerships with Iceland, Norway, and/or Denmark.



SMTP/SDTP – women/men



Women: 4

Men: 4

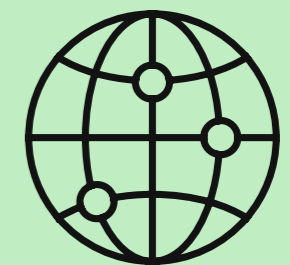
Climate offsetting

Report on climate offsetting for booked international air travel.

Destination	Amount (sek)
Domestic	0
Nordic countries	22 000
Europe	25 000
Rest of the world	14 000
Total	61 000

International projects/activities that received funding from Sahlgrenska International Care in 2025

- Clinical exchange for resident physicians: two incoming (Dermatology) and one outgoing (Pediatrics), Rwanda
- Clinical exchange for resident physicians: one incoming (Thoracic Surgery) and one outgoing (Cardiology), South Africa
- CIIRTA – World Congress on Transplantation, Gothenburg
- Observership for a senior consultant physician (Pulmonology), University Hospital Leuven, Belgium
- Grant for volunteer service for a medical technology engineer, Mercy Ships
- Study trip / conference, Hand Surgery, Philadelphia, USA
- Team based training initiative in Obstetrics, Bugando Medical Centre, Tanzania
- Team based training initiative in Pediatrics, Hemedi Open Pediatric Clinic, Tanzania
- Fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology at SickKids Hospital, Toronto, Canada
- AI delegation, Unity Health, Toronto, Canada
- Clinical exchange, Walton Neuro Centre, United Kingdom
- Conference participation, Sahlgrenska home based delegation, Vienna, Austria
- Team based training initiative in Transplantation at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenya
- International network participation, FOH 2025 Summit
- International network membership, FOH 2025
- International network membership, IHF 2025



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