



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #229
August 2023



Graduation celebration at Mbingo Baptist Hospital



Cision PR Newswire

Dr. Tim Nunn, left, recipient of the Gerson L'Chaim Prize for Outstanding Christian Medical Missionary Service



Drs. Jacques Ebhele, Drew Huang, Justin Danga, and Sammy Nigo at CME Bunia Hospital

IN THIS ISSUE:

- From the Desk of the CEO
- Updates from the Executive Vice President:
 - PAACS General Surgery Remediation Exam
 - Update on SIM Galmi Hospital
- Laps for PAACS Auction
- Coming in 2024: PAACS General Surgery Program at CEML Angola
- Mbingo Baptist Hospital Graduation
- Resident Profile: Dr. Matthew Kolleh
- Visiting PAACS Graduates in the DRC
- African Surgeons to Under-Served Communities
- Global Surgery Fellowship at LLU for American-Trained Surgeons
- "Know Thyself," Proverbs, and Emotional Intelligence: Part II
- Prayer Requests
- Articles on Surgery



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

PAACS MISSION

PAACS' mission is to glorify God by training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to become Christ-like leaders and servants providing excellent and compassionate care to those most in need.

PAACS VISION

PAACS envisions a growing number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



Dear PAACS Family,

As we publish the PAACS Bulletin this month, our hearts are called to fervent prayer. Let us lift up the conflict in Niger before our Almighty God. We pray for the Lord to intervene and bring about a peaceful resolution to this crisis. May His wisdom and grace guide the leaders of the region, revealing the right decisions and leading them towards a future of peace.

*Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer*



SIM Galmi Hospital, Niger

Amid this conflict, let us also pray for the PAACS program at SIM Galmi Hospital in Niger. With residents away undergoing rotations at various locations and others celebrating new marriages, the program has encountered a staff shortage. The uncertain airspace causes further complications for smooth operations and accessibility. We ask God to protect the program, the hospital, and all who serve there. Provide them with strength, resilience, and the resources needed to overcome these obstacles and serve their community. May the dedication and determination of those involved continue to shine brightly in the region.

And now let us turn to praise. We want to extend our sincere congratulations to Dr. Tim Nunn, the PAACS Program Director of the Orthopaedic Program at Soddo/CURE-Addis. We rejoice in the news of his well-deserved recognition—the Gerson L’Chaim Prize for Outstanding Christian Medical Missionary Service. This prestigious award is a testament to the impact of selfless service and unwavering dedication to patient care. Dr. Nunn’s commitment resonates deeply with the values of PAACS. His achievement inspires us all to continue striving for excellence in our mission to care for and uplift those in need.

As each of us navigate the challenges and triumphs around us, may our hearts remain steadfast in prayer and resounding in praise. Let us lean on each other and lift one another as we carry forward the mission that unites us—a mission filled with healing, compassion, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with Africa.

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)



CURE International

Dr. Tim Nunn, recipient of
the Gerson L’Chaim Prize



UPDATES FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

PAACS GENERAL SURGERY REMEDIATION EXAM

Fifty-six trainees sat for the remediation exam on the weekend of July 28th. This was completed 100% electronically on Examssoft just like the initial exam in June. Thirty-one trainees were required to take the remediation exam based on previous exam performance. Twenty-five trainees chose to take the exam for practice. Overall, the performance was good. A curve was set to 7.5%. The KR20 of 0.94 implies the exam was valid with reproducible results. Two trainees failed the exam after the curve. Please be in prayer for those trainees and their program directors as decisions are made about their future options and plans.

UPDATE ON SIM GALMI HOSPITAL

The PAACS program at SIM Galmi Hospital in Niger has been under significant strain since the coup earlier this month. Some trainees were away when it happened and are currently unable to return to their training and their families. We are thankful that the area around Galmi remains calm and that travel within Niamey is possible, even if international travel is not reliable at this time. Please join us in prayer for a peaceful resolution to the situation and that the trainees will be able to return to Galmi to continue their training.

LAPS FOR PAACS AUCTION

*Amanda Woods
Director of Partnership Development*

EXCITING NEWS! If you are unable to attend the Laps for PAACS event in Texas on September 30th but want to support this ministry fundraiser, you can still make an impact. There are two ways to participate in the Laps for PAACS auction: in person at the event or on our special online auction.

We invite you to participate in the online fundraising auction with incredible auction items to benefit PAACS. These items include such things as tickets to:

- **Championship Weekend at the Masters**
- **Tickets to the Super Bowl**
- **7 Nights in Tuscany for 6 People**
- **Indy 500 Tickets**
- **Daytona 500 Tickets**
- **And more!**



FUNDRAISER

The profits from this online auction will go directly to support the PAACS ministry of training and discipling African Christian surgeons and specialists for Africa. This special online auction will open Monday, September 11, and close Friday, September 15. Watch your email or contact Amanda Woods at Amanda.woods@paacs.net.

All amounts paid over the cost to PAACS of an item may be viewed as a tax deduction. Please speak with your accountant for more information.

FUTURE PROGRAM

COMING IN 2024: PAACS GENERAL SURGERY PROGRAM AT CEML ANGOLA

*Bruce MacFadyen, MD, and Rosemary MacFadyen
PAACS Leadership*

In 2024, a PAACS General Surgery Program in the country of Angola will commence at CEML (Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango). Three excellent surgeons will launch the residency: Dr. Steve Foster, who has been a surgeon there for many years, Dr. Sam Fabiano, a PAACS graduate from Bongolo Hospital in Gabon who has been serving in Angola, and Dr. Annelise Olson, a World Medical Missions post-resident who has been a surgeon at CEML for several years.

This strategic residency has long been a vision of Dr. Foster, who had previously established a family practice internship at CEML. That internship has provided many excellent doctors for Angola. Dr. Fabiano was one of those interns. Dr. Fabiano learned about PAACS during his internship and followed God to Bongolo Hospital where he completed his general surgery residency. Upon graduation, he returned to serve at CEML.

Many patients will benefit from this PAACS General Surgery Program. The city of Lubango has one million residents and CEML provides healthcare to an immediate catchment of over 2.5 million people. Patients come from other cities and two smaller bush hospitals, one of which treats many TB cases, typhoid fever, and sequelae of leprosy. CEML is thankful that Mission Aviation Fellowship Angola can transport many emergency patients to the hospital.

Because of the growth of the surgery department, two new operating rooms are being added as well as twelve ICU beds, an emergency room, a chapel with a conference room, and an administrative office. We pray an increasing number of patients will be cared for and blessed by the new PAACS General Surgery Program at CEML in the years to come.

Check out this [video](#) of Dr. Fabiano at CEML.

Prayer requests: Please pray for provision and protection over the new program. Pray for the candidate selection process. Pray for Angola as a whole. Pray for the poor/disadvantaged as the economy goes through a rough patch.



GRADUATION

Mbingo Baptist Hospital

Sama Akanyun, MD

Program Director, Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon

On August 4th, we held a graduation dinner honoring two graduates. PAACS General Surgery Resident Dr. Armia Samuel Fathy Kamel began his residency in Egypt and completed it at Mbingo. PAACS Head and Neck Fellow Dr. Penngan Keafon Nchifor completed her two-year Head & Neck Fellowship at Mbingo.

Congratulations, Drs. Armia and Keafon!



Drs. Chukwuemeka (GS faculty), Wayne Koch (H&N Program Director), Dr. Penngan Keafon, Dr. Armia Samuel, Dr. Sama Akanyun (GS Program Director), Dr. Nwang Prosper (GS faculty)





RESIDENT PROFILE

DR. MATTHEW KOLLEH

General Surgery Resident
Malamulo Adventist Hospital
Malawi

Born into a Christian home, Dr. Matthew Kolleh did not truly embrace faith in Christ until a severe illness brought him to the brink of despair. Despite growing up surrounded by daily prayers, he participated in church out of fear rather than a genuine interest in the Lord. However, everything changed when he fell gravely ill, and his journey towards healing revealed the power of God's intervention.

In 2003 his mother passed away. Two months later, at only 13 years old, he began battling anorexia, nausea, and intermittent fevers. His health rapidly deteriorated. Without access to medical facilities or a pharmacy, he relied on ineffective herbal remedies. He eventually started seeking treatment at hospitals that were far from his village. A traditional healer even accused him of being a wizard which further isolated him from his loved ones. Abandoned by friends and family, he felt utterly hopeless.

Yet, in the depths of despair, he clung to the memory of a pastor's prayer during one of his hospital visits, "Matthew, you will not die; keep trusting in God." Faced with dire circumstances, he chose to trust in the Lord knowing that His name surpasses all others, and He is the greatest Physician.

In April 2004, bedridden and reaching his weakest point, he fasted and prayed, pleading for healing and fully committing his life to the Lord. He asked God to transform a piece of bread and a cup of water into his only medication. As he consumed them, he was overcome with sweat and renewed strength. Within an hour he knew he had been miraculously healed and it was indeed the end of his illness.

From that moment forward, he dedicated his life to Christ. Defying expectations, he achieved academic success and vowed to live a pure and faithful life. Currently training as a general surgeon with PAACS at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi, he carries with him the personal experience of Christ's healing power. His goal is to be an instrument of God's love, offering hope and inspiring patients to turn to Jesus for complete healing. At PAACS, he appreciates that after every successful surgery, patients are told it's God's doing and the glory should be given to Him alone.

May Dr. Kolleh's testimony serve as a reminder of the impact from a simple prayer leading to an eternal difference and show the transformative power of faith in Christ Jesus.

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VISITING PAACS GRADUATES IN THE DRC

*Drew Huang, MD
Associate Director of Education*

In mid-August, I had the pleasure of visiting two Congolese PAACS graduates working in their home country: Dr. Jacques Ebhele (graduate of the PAACS General Surgery Program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon, 2015) and Dr. Sammy Nigo (graduate of the PAACS General Surgery Program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, 2018). Since graduation, Sammy has been working at the Centre Médical Evangélique (CME) in Bunia, the capital city of the Ituri Province in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Jacques moved back more recently to Bunia after first serving as PAACS faculty at Mbingo and later as a surgeon at the Daeyang Luke Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi. Both Sammy and Jacques spend time lecturing at Université Shalom de Bunia, a private Christian university with a relatively new medical school that will see its first graduates later this academic year.

Sammy’s clinical practice at CME-Bunia (one of three sister hospitals under the CME banner) keeps him busy, but the association of CME-Bunia with Université Shalom has allowed the university’s medical school to withstand recent accreditation challenges from the Ministry of Higher and University Education. His commitment to the education of medical students is genuinely stalwart, and he interacts collaboratively with Congolese and Western physicians on a regular basis, both at the university and at the hospital.

Jacques is currently raising funds to finish his planned surgery center, Mercy Surgical Polyclinic, which sits on a small plot of land within the Bunia city limits. He plans to offer much needed surgical services to the city, including endoscopy, which is currently not offered anywhere within city limits.

Bunia itself is a rapidly expanding city with rough population estimates greater than 2 million people. Its precipitous growth is mostly related to significant conflict in the surrounding towns and provinces, causing many internally displaced persons to relocate to the relative safety of the city, where one of the largest UN peacekeeping forces (MONUSCO) resides, and where daily UN patrols are seen on the streets. The city’s surgical capacity is widely overstretched, and fully trained specialists – surgical or otherwise – are a relatively rare commodity. The presence of two PAACS-trained surgeons in the city is a good example of the impact and outreach that PAACS can bring, as both Sammy and Jacques are held in high regard for their witness and surgical skills alike.



Drs. Jacques Ebhele, Drew Huang, Justin Danga (Congolese pediatric surgeon) and Sammy Nigo, at CME Bunia Hospital where Sammy works



Drs. Drew Huang and Jacques Ebhele at the building site of Jacques’ future clinic

AFRICAN SURGEONS TO UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITIES

*Deborah Eisenhut, MD
Faculty, Mbingo Baptist Hospital*

Throughout Africa, there are many mission hospitals in areas of great medical and spiritual need that do not currently have the ability to fund much-needed surgical care. The global mission organization, SIM, and PAACS have started a partnership to help place highly-trained Christian African surgeons and related specialists in mission hospitals in under-served locations across Africa through a program entitled 'African Surgeons to Under-Served Communities' (ASUC). PAACS has long been training African surgeons and related specialists through a residency program to help meet the need of thousands of Africans who still have little to no access to affordable, quality surgical, anesthesia, or obstetric care. SIM has been placing African missionaries in ministry locations around the world and has medical ministry workers serving in more than 50 countries.

This partnership will provide African missionary surgeons and related specialists with supplemental missionary support for a period of time so that they can work in these under-served locations. African missionaries often find it challenging to raise financial support and mission hospitals in remote locations often find it difficult to pay adequate salaries to surgeons. The extra time will allow both the African missionary surgeon and the mission hospital time to raise funds so that the surgeon can continue to serve at that location. These surgeons can be members of any mission organization and can serve in any mission hospital in Africa that meets the set criteria for participation.

Applicants must be PAACS graduates who are serving with or who are applying to be part of a sending mission organization. Acceptance into the program (ASUC) will be contingent upon acceptance as a missionary. Sending mission organizations must provide training and on-going member care. Preference will be given to missionary surgeons who will be serving in areas unreached with the Gospel.

PAACS and SIM are excited to announce the opening of the ASUC project for applications beginning October 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023. An application can be obtained by contacting Dr. Deborah Eisenhut at deborah.eisenhut@sim.org. For questions, please contact Dr. Eisenhut via email (preferred) or via phone/WhatsApp at +1 (503)-884-0528. If there is no answer, please leave a detailed message. Hospitals in need of such surgeons can also contact Dr. Eisenhut for more information.

Please pray for generous funding of this initiative and that it will result in both improved surgical care and the making of disciples for Jesus Christ in under-served areas in Africa. To give, visit www.sim.org/donate. Write in 'African Surgeons for Under-Served Communities' or type in the project number: 099771.

GLOBAL SURGERY FELLOWSHIP AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY FOR AMERICAN-TRAINED SURGEONS

The Loma Linda University Department of Surgery in Loma Linda, California has a one year non-ACGME accredited clinically focused Global Surgery Fellowship and is looking to find its next fellow to start August 1, 2024. The goal of the Global Surgery Fellowship is to prepare American-trained general surgeons to be competent and capable of performing the needed surgeries in rural, low-resource environments, and low- and middle-income countries. Applicants must have completed an ACGME approved general surgery residency by July 31, 2024 and be American Board of Surgery certified or eligible. [Click here](#) for more information.



"Know Thyself," Proverbs, and Emotional Intelligence: Part II

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

Today's "paragraph" follows Part I from the July 2023 PAACS Bulletin and presents ideas from Proverbs 13-17. Concerns and instructions for what we now label "emotional intelligence" and "emotional quotient" have been around for millennia and not confined to one historical tradition. Verses are from The Good News Bible, The Bible in Today's English Version, American Bible Society.

13:1 A wise son pays attention when his father corrects him, but an arrogant person never admits he is wrong.

13:13 If you refuse good advice, you are asking for trouble; follow it and you are safe.

13:16 Sensible people always think before they act, but stupid people advertise their ignorance.

13:19b Stupid people refuse to turn away from evil.

13:20a Keep company with the wise and you will become wise.

14:16-17 Sensible people are careful to stay out of trouble, but stupid people are careless and act too quickly.

People with a hot temper do foolish things; wiser people remain calm.

14:21 If you want to be happy, be kind to the poor; it is a sin to despise anyone.

14:26 Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security to a man and his family.

14:27b Reverence for the Lord is a fountain of life.

14:32b ... good people are protected by their integrity.

15:1 A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up.

15:14 Intelligent people want to learn; but stupid people are satisfied with ignorance.

15:22 Get all the advice you can, and you will succeed; without it you will fail.

15:23 What a joy it is to find just the right word for the right occasion!

15:28 Good people think before they answer. Evil people have a quick reply, but it causes trouble.

15:31 If you pay attention when you are corrected, you are wise.

15:33 Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself. You must be humble before you can ever receive honors.

16:16 It is better—much better—to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.

16:18 Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall.

16:21 A wise, mature person...The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.

16:22a Wisdom is a fountain of life to the wise.

16:24 Kind words are like honey—sweet to the taste and good for your health.

16:32 It is better to be patient than powerful. It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities.

17:9a If you want people to like you, forgive them when they wrong you.

17:22 Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time.

17:24 An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.

17:27-28 Someone who is sure of himself does not talk all the time. ... even a fool may be thought wise and intelligent if he stays quiet and keeps his mouth shut.

Many verses of instruction from these five chapters were not included in this Part II. I encourage you to read Proverbs 13-17. I hope to follow up with Part III next month.

PRAY

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs across Africa.
- Pray for the PAACS Program at SIM Galmi Hospital and the country of Niger under strain since the coup earlier this month.
- Pray for protection and provision for all the PAACS residents, faculty, graduates, and their families.
- Pray for the success of the "Laps for PAACS" event September 30th and that we meet our financial goal for the fundraiser.
- Pray for the PAACS Conference October 12-14. Pray for travelling mercies for attendees and for meaningful fellowship and prayer time as we gather together.
- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors as they seek to faithfully lead the PAACS ministry.

Each month, we pray for residents by name. Please join us this month by covering these residents in prayer:

- Wotango Abenezer Iyassu
- Yohannis Nigusu
- Ebsa Bekako Duguma
- Jigi Kitessa Naol
- Dereje Hunduma Mullisa
- Dawit Beyore Osebo
- Owino June Akumu
- Mercy Mitei
- Yves Yankunze
- Violet Otoki
- Ian Simel
- George Gasana

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ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

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- [Pediatric procedural sedation in African clinical settings: A mixed methods study of African providers' sedation practices.](#)
- [Innovations in Surgical Communication 4— Present the Downsides of Surgery, Not Just Risks.](#)
- [Cost-effectiveness of neurocritical care in settings with limited resources.](#)
- [Genius is Largely a Matter of Making a Continuous Effort: A Reappraisal of the Contributions of H. William Scott, Jr., MD, A Surgeon Nonpareil.](#)
- ['Through and Through' History: The Management of Gunshot Wounds From the 14th Century to the Present.](#)
- [A "New" Nonmesh Technique for Inguinal Hernia Repair: Revisiting E. Wyllys Andrews and His Imbricating Operation.](#)
- [Help a mother out: The impact of acute care surgeon response in postpartum hemorrhage.](#)
- [Improving the Management of Postdural Puncture Headache—An International Clinical Guideline and Call for Better Evidence.](#)
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