



PAACS

PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

Highlights 2025



*Stories of Compassionate Care
and Lasting Hope*





Learning Today, Healing Tomorrow

At PAACS, surgical training is more than textbooks and theory. It is intentionally hands-on, designed to equip residents with skills they can apply immediately for the sake of their patients.

Dr. Efuetlateh John Paul, a first-year PAACS resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, attended the PAACS Junior Bootcamp Conference in Kenya this past year. “My first impression of the Junior Bootcamp was the amazing sense of community among the residents. Even though we all came from different cultural backgrounds, it felt like we had known each other much longer than a few days. The humility and generosity of the faculty members was another aspect that stood out for me. They were willing to share their experiences, answer our endless questions, and still make us feel encouraged.”

Among the techniques he learned at Junior Bootcamp was the SIGN Nail procedure, a surgical method that has transformed fracture care in resource-limited settings. For patients with broken femurs or tibias, it can mean the difference between months of immobility or walking again within days.

Just recently, Dr. Efuetlateh found himself in the operating room performing this very procedure. “I was both nervous and excited,” he admitted. “Fortunately, the faculty member I was operating with helped calm my nerves and guided me step by step through the process. His reassurance allowed me to focus, gain confidence, and appreciate the transition from learning in bootcamp to applying the skills in real surgery.”

He also shared of another patient, a 35-year-old farmer who had fractured his femur. It had been managed traditionally, resulting in the inability to use his leg. He had been living for months unable to walk or work. After receiving the SIGN Nail procedure, he regained full use of his leg and returned to his fields. “The joy on his face during his follow-up visit was unforgettable,” Dr. Efuetlateh said. The patient’s prolonged immobility had begun to shake his faith, but during his hospital stay, Dr. Efuetlateh and the PAACS team encouraged him to keep trusting Christ. When he finally returned to his farm, his gratitude to God was profound. It was a testimony not only of physical recovery but of renewed faith.

Today, the SIGN Nail is performed regularly at Mbingo, with two to three cases each week. Patients travel from across Cameroon to access this surgery. Without it, many would face dangerous complications like blood clots, bedsores, or lifelong disability. With it, they return to their families, jobs, and communities with renewed strength.

Dr. Efuetlateh put it simply: it is PAACS training, and the generosity of its supporters, that makes this possible. “Your support empowers residents like me to acquire critical skills that save lives and transform communities. This training doesn’t just shape our careers, it restores hope for patients and families across Africa.”

Yes, You Can Do Both

Some say surgical training leaves no room for discipleship. But at PAACS programs across Africa, residents are proving that you can do both, and do them well. At Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi, this reality shines through as faculty and residents integrate excellent surgical training with intentional spiritual growth. The program's three attending surgeons and chaplain pour into residents as mentors, equipping them to care for both body and soul.

In Malawi, many identify as Christians but lack a personal relationship with Jesus. In the south, where Malamulo is located, broken families are common. Many children are raised by single mothers with little or no involvement from fathers. Without that foundation, they often struggle to imagine a heavenly Father who loves them. Animistic beliefs also weigh heavily, leaving patients convinced their illness is a curse. Fear paralyzes them, and faith feels uncertain. In these moments, PAACS residents and faculty gently remind them that Jesus' death on the cross is more powerful than any curse, and that God's love is not distant or conditional, but personal and enduring.

Tools like the Saline Process evangelism training have improved these opportunities. After PAACS introduced the training, nearly 50 staff members, including nurses, doctors, guards, and the chaplain joined in. Even the quietest voices found courage to participate. Today, the hospital culture is more cohesive, prayerful, and intentional about pointing patients to Christ. A patient may not connect with every person that comes to their side, but one conversation, one prayer, can make all the difference.

Weekly Bible studies at an attending's home further strengthen this culture. In the intensity of surgical residency, these evenings allow residents to refocus, reminding them why they answered God's call. Conflicts are softened, discouragement is lifted, and God's Word unites them as a family.

The difference is evident outside the hospital as well. Program Director, Dr. Brent Sherwin pointed out that at the COSECSA exams, PAACS residents stood out not just for their knowledge but for their peace. While others began unravelling under the pressure, the PAACS team prayed together, walked in calm assurance, and showed that excellent education and deep faith can thrive side by side.



Malamulo PAACS Residents

One patient's story captures this discipleship in action. A man arrived with devastating infections, underwent multiple amputations, and saw his life collapse. Abandoned by his wife (who sold all of his possessions) then robbed of his motorcycle, he was at rock bottom. For at least 30 days so far, a PAACS resident and the chaplain walked alongside him. Slowly, through prayer and steady witness, hopelessness gave way to a glimmer of faith. Recently, he was seen walking on crutches with a smile. His body may or may not fully heal, but his heart has been transformed.

Even in palliative care, where surgery can do no more, PAACS residents provide something greater, the eternal hope of Christ. Surrounded daily by suffering, it would be easy to lose heart. Yet when families return to express gratitude, not for physical healing, but for the comfort and peace they received, it reminds the team that their labor is not in vain. PAACS residents face complex medical challenges with a perspective the world cannot offer. They are pointing patients and families to the true Healer.

As one patient traveling over 50 kilometers put it: "I chose Malamulo because I know Jesus is here."



Saline Process Training Group at Malamulo

The Power of Working Together

Dr. Aaron Kokulol, a 2021 graduate of the PAACS program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi, is now serving in his home country of Liberia. He first heard about PAACS through Dr. Jerry Brown, a 2012 graduate of the PAACS Mbingo program in Cameroon. Dr. Brown was not just a skilled surgeon, he prayed with patients, treated them with dignity, and pointed them to Christ. That left a lasting impression.

At the time, Liberia had just two or three certified surgeons serving a population of over five million. The need was overwhelming, and from the moment Dr. Kokulol was accepted into PAACS, he knew he would return home to serve. That calling only deepened during his training. As his skills developed, so did his confidence. He knew that what he was learning was not just for him, but it was for Liberia.

When he returned, Dr. Kokulol joined Dr. Brown, then CEO of JFK Memorial Hospital. In addition, Dr. Tresor Mabanza, another PAACS graduate, had begun serving there, too. Their shared training allowed them to collaborate on complex cases, divide responsibilities, and serve more patients than would ever be possible alone. They began laying the foundation for a Christ-centered, sustainable surgical system in Liberia.

Still, the challenges are great. Most surgeons are based in the capital and many rural areas still have no access to surgery. JFK, the main referral hospital, continues to face infrastructure gaps. There is no working endoscope, and plans for laparoscopy are stalled without proper tools. But for Dr. Kokulol, the greatest need is people. "We need more surgeons," he says. "Human resources will make the biggest difference."

Thanks to PAACS, that is changing. Eight PAACS graduates are already serving in Liberia, and more are currently in training with hopes to return to their home country. Dr. Kokulol is also mentoring nearly 15 residents, passing along not just technique, but the spiritual foundation he received. "One of the most important things I learned through PAACS is that surgery is not about me, it is about Christ and the patient. Every case begins with prayer and God has the final say."

That mindset changes lives.

One of Dr. Kokulol's patients came to JFK after a hysterectomy done elsewhere. Her ureter had been severed, and when he met her, she was losing hope. Dr. Kokulol introduced himself, shared how he was trained, and gently opened a conversation about Christ. He then performed a successful bilateral ureteral reimplantation. As she healed and their conversations continued, her hope returned. She went back to church. One day she invited Dr. Kokulol and his wife to join her for a church service. There, she joyfully shared her testimony: God had given her a second chance and she was going to use it well.

These are the moments PAACS makes possible. Through your faithful support, surgeons like Dr. Kokulol are returning to serve where they are needed most, bringing healing to bodies and hope to hearts through Jesus Christ. As more graduates return, the ripple effect will continue to grow.



Dr. Jim Brown, Dr. Aaron Kokulol, Dr. Jerry Brown, Dr. Tresor Mabanza



PO Box 735262
Dallas, TX 75373-5262
www.paacs.net