



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter

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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



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

I want to take a moment and thank you for your prayers last month! God is so faithful, and He provided both a new Chief Financial Officer and a second Director of Partnership Development to join the PAACS administration team.

Next month, we are excited to welcome Amanda Woods as our second Director of Partnership Development. Amanda comes from the Chicago area and brings with her both fundraising and global experience. She will be focused on the Midwest and West Coast areas of the United States. We are looking forward to her expertise and new ideas for the fundraising side of the PAACS ministry.

In June, we will be welcoming Renee Fink as our new CFO. She lives in Nebraska and is a CPA who will bring her financial experience and skills to PAACS. We are thrilled to have her join our team and excited about her financial expertise. She will help PAACS remain a good financial steward while fulfilling its mission.



Amanda Woods
Director of Partnership Development



Renee Fink
Chief Financial Officer



Dr. Peter Nthumba (left)
PAACS New Plastic Surgery Program Director
AIC Kijabe Hospital

I am also delighted to announce the opening of a new PAACS training program! AIC Kijabe was able to welcome their first resident to begin training in the Plastic Surgery program this month. This brings PAACS to 24 training programs, and we praise God for His continued blessings!

This month we also held our Spring Board of Directors Meeting. It was a great opportunity for so many within the PAACS family to join together and share God's work through this ministry. I am thankful for the 81 in-person and 40 Zoom attendees this year. Please mark your calendars for the Fall Board of Directors Meeting, which will be held October 12-14, 2023. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for PAACS.

Blessings,

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

SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

A Global Gathering



The PAACS Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting was a remarkable event that brought together participants from across the world. This hybrid meeting, held in Chicago, was attended by 81 individuals in-person and 40 virtually, making it a truly global gathering. The meeting provided a unique opportunity for people to learn about the inner workings of PAACS, and it was exciting to see an increase in the participation of PAACS graduates and faculty members at the in-person meeting. This year we were expecting three PAACS graduates to attend, but visa challenges and security clearance delays resulted in only one graduate, Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka attending. However, Dr. Jacques Ebhele was able to make it the day after the meeting.

The PAACS Board of Directors Open Session Meeting, which took place on April 14th, was the highlight of the event. It was attended by members of the PAACS Board of Directors, leadership, faculty, administration, and guests. The session was packed with information. PAACS graduate Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka presented about advancing surgical care in sub-Saharan Africa and the impact of PAACS. Also, in-person were PAACS Faculty, Dr. Moselle Stark, Dr. Britney Grayson, and Dr. Jens Vaylann, and they presented on the OB/Gyn program, Pediatric Surgery program, and the new General Surgery program at Nkhoma Mission Hospital, respectively. Many PAACS program presentations were given virtually, including Dr. Paul Lim from Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, and Drs. Phillip Blasto and Valentine Mbithi at AIC Litein Hospital in Kenya. PAACS graduate Dr. Emmanuel Lema spoke from a graduate's perspective about PAACS. He is now serving as faculty at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Tanzania.

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Dr. Mike Chupp
CMDA CEO



Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka
Graduate Representative
PAACS Board of Directors



Dr. Jens Vaylann
PAACS Program Director
Nkhoma Mission Hospital

Additionally, there were special presentations by speakers such as Dr. Mike Chupp, CEO of CMDA, Greg Seager, CEO of Christian Health Service Corps, Dr. Douglas Lungu, CMO of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, and Dr. Jonathan Saxe of the Christian Surgeons Fellowship. Also, the African Representative of the PAACS Board of Directors, Professor King David Yawe, presented on the collaboration of WACS and PAACS. The session included a feature presentation from ALL-SAFE (Drs. Grace Kim and David Jeffcoach) as the grand prize winners of the Global Surgery Training Challenge. They were awarded a grant of \$700,000 to advance their goal of creating an open-source simulation platform to teach laparoscopy in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). All PAACS councils and committees provided an update, including the status of our current Strategic Plan, given by Dr. Doug Lundy. A fellowship dinner was held in the evening and included a time of prayer and worship.

PAACS truly relies on prayer within this ministry, and it was woven throughout the meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity for many who are a part of our mission to stand united in prayer before our God, praising and thanking Him for all He has done. Together, we covered all our programs, partners, and graduates in prayer and will seek to continue following God's will for the future of this ministry.

The Closed Session Meeting, which was held the following day, April 15th, was limited to the voting members of the PAACS Board of Directors, ex-officio members, and PAACS staff. The Board discussed a range of topics including a financial update of revenues and expenditures to-date, approving new PAACS faculty for programs, discussing the status of projects under the five-year strategic plan, and talking about the growth of the ministry. The Board made significant progress during the meeting, and much was accomplished in a short period of time.

Overall, the PAACS Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting was a great success, and it demonstrated the commitment of PAACS to its mission of training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to provide excellent care.



Dr. Moselle Stark
PAACS Assistant Program Director
Tenwek Hospital



Professor King David Yawe
African Representative
PAACS Board of Directors



Prayer for PAACS Graduates

The next Board of Directors Meeting will take place in October, and we look forward to an increase in attendance. If you missed out on this year's event, mark your calendar, and join us for the Fall PAACS Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago on October 12-14, 2023.

White Coat Ceremony

Moses Kasumba, MD
PAACS Program Director
Malamulo Adventist Hospital

at Malamulo Adventist Hospital

We are very proud of Dr. Estifanos Babulo and his wife Linda Tamrat for choosing the PAACS General Surgery program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi as part of the five-year journey to becoming a Christian surgeon.

Dr. Babulo, congratulations on earning your white coat and entrance into humble life-long service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

PAACS Family, please pray for Dr. Babulo and his wife as they transition into their new environment. Pray for improvement in the English language, growth in patient care and skills, and for spiritual growth.



If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

John 13:14-15





Women in Surgery Gathering

Laurie Elit, MD
 PAACS Faculty
 Mbingo Baptist Hospital



Mbingo Baptist Hospital on Facebook

The ladies involved with PAACS Programs at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya highlighted the unique needs of women, both single and married surgical residents. Inspired by their gathering, we discussed this with some of the women surgical residents at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon and they really wanted opportunities to meet together. This was our first attempt for 2023.

Last year we met for International Women's Day, had a meal, and watched the Disney movie "Encanto." On this 2023 occasion, we started the evening recording an Easter song "Celebrate" in conjunction with the PAACS wives for the side by side international ministries. This was followed by a meal and discussion.



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14



THE SURGEON AS A LEADER: Leading Your Team in the Clinical Arena and Beyond

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

At the annual WACS meeting held in Lomé, Togo March 20-23, 2023, a leadership symposium Tuesday morning was entitled: “The Surgeon as a Leader: Leading Your Team in the Clinical Arena and Beyond.”

- King David Yawe, a past president of WACS (2017-2019) and the current African Representative on the PAACS Board, opened the session with “The Development of Surgical Trainees – An Ever Present Imperative.” **Tarp comment:** Leaders are not “born;” they acquire skills both intentionally and unintentionally abetted by reflection and curiosity.
- Dean Afua Hesse, one of the first female surgical faculty at Korle Bu in Accra, spoke on “Shattering Ceilings in Leadership in Surgery.” She advised “tough skin and blinkers” for women in her era pursuing surgery. Additionally she advised: “Put money into developing yourself” and “play to your strengths.” She observed: “The ‘Old Boys Club’ is still very much alive.” In addition to being a professor of surgery, she and her physician/pastor husband started a medical school where she is the dean. **Tarp comment:** In PAACS, 38 of our 151 current trainees are women, a quarter, and the percent is climbing. We encourage our female trainees to learn about WiSA (Women in Surgery Africa) and their national Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) equivalent.
- Dr. Peter Ekeh, US representative for WACS and the prior African Representative to the PAACS Board, presented on “Creating a Culture of Patient Safety and Quality – Why Surgeons Should Care.” **Tarp comment:** Access, safety, quality, and affordability are four major challenges we face not only in sub-Saharan Africa but also in the USA and elsewhere.
- Dr. Jonathan Laryea, a vascular surgeon at the University of Arkansas in the USA, spoke on “Mentorship in Surgical Specialties – Establishing the Next Generation.” **JLT comment:** I value the acronym for MENTORS contributed by Wiley Souba on “Mentoring young academic surgeons, our most precious assets:” Motivate, Empower and encourage, Nurture self-confidence, Teach by example, Offer wise counsel, Raise the performance bar, and Shine in the reflected light. (J Surg Res 82:113-120, 1999).
- I spoke on “Leadership in Surgery – Some Lessons Learned Over 50 Years.” If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint set and/or the recording, email me at tarp@paacs.net.
- Prof A Omigbodan, Past President of WACS in 2015-2017, the moderator, kept all the speakers to time and adroitly led a robust discussion session.

West African College of Surgeons
Collège Ouest-Africain des Chirurgiens

63^e CONGRÈS SCIENTIFIQUE
ANNUAL MEETING

LOME, 20-23 Mars 2023

PROGRAMME

THÈME

L'ÉDUCATION ET LA FORMATION CHIRURGICALE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST	SURGICAL EDUCATION TRAINING IN WEST AFRICA
SOUS-THÈME Impact du Covid-19 sur l'éducation chirurgicale	SUBTHEME Impact of covid-19 on surgical education

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Palais de Congès

**Leadership is a learned skill and vital in our hospitals and teaching institutions
as well as for our churches and denominations.**

Welcoming New Life in Burundi and Cameroon



Dr. Levis Ndayishimiye with baby girl Keren Joanna



Keren Joanna Ndayishimiye

Congratulations to PAACS Resident Dr. Levis Ndayishimiye and his wife, Florine, on the birth of their first child.

"After 22 months of marriage, God made us smile. Welcome our eldest daughter Keren Joanna Ndayishimiye, born on March 26th, 2023 and weighing 3800g."

Dr. Ndayishimiye is a first year resident at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.



Foletia Daniel

Dr. Foletia, a third year resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, and his wife, Elodie, delivered their fourth child and first son on the 4th of April. His name is Foletia Daniel, weighing in at 4030g.

PAACS Leaders Featured in American College of Surgeons Article



PAACS Leaders were featured in an article written by Dr. Daniel Chase and published on the American College of Surgeons Website: "ACS, COSECSA Join Forces to Bring Quality Surgical Care to Patients in Sub-Saharan Africa". [Click here to read more.](#)



LAPS FOR PAACS – FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT



We are excited to announce the PAACS Fall Fundraising Event: LAPS FOR PAACS which is scheduled for Saturday, September 30th, 2023, at Cresson MotorSport Ranch in Cresson, TX (outside Ft Worth).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and join us in Texas on Saturday, September 30th!

As the major fundraising event for 2023, LAPS FOR PAACS will feature a PAACS presentation during lunch, followed by an auction. We are planning a great day of experiences for our guests, which will include a private car show (Exotic Cars), Movie Car Museum, rides in racing cars, and Texas award-winning BBQ for lunch!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your help to secure luxury items for the auction. Proceeds from the auction will directly support resident scholarships.

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU

Help us raise funding to support the growth of PAACS in 2024, as we expand into new countries, open new sites, add new programs, and anticipate welcoming our largest class of new residents next January.

WHAT CAN I DONATE?

Do you have a time-share or vacation home, major league football, baseball, or basketball tickets, jewelry, artwork, or racing memorabilia that you would donate for auction? This is a small list of suggested auction items. We would love to hear from you with your suggestions and commitments for the auction. PAACS will provide an In-Kind donation receipt and tax form for 2023 tax purposes.

Please contact Deb Pedziwol, deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net or (423) 612-1045 to discuss your auction donation item(s).

PRAY

- Pray that PAACS will honor God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray for wisdom and God's guidance for the PAACS Board, leadership, and administration.
- May God sustain, protect, and provide His grace to all PAACS residents, faculty, and their families.
- May the Lord bless all the PAACS graduates and help them and their families as they serve God. May He provide for them and keep them in good health. May the Lord provide for the education of their children.
- Pray for unity and solidarity for all the PAACS programs and within the PAACS organization.
- Pray for blessings on all PAACS partnering organizations, supporters, and prayer warriors.

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

- Rebecca Wangari Dufe
- Eunice Kageha
- Betelhem Belda
- Cynthia Achola Odhiambo
- Ruth Talaam
- Wycklife Ooko
- Peter Ouma Opondo
- John Blasto Ngili
- Peter Paul Opiro
- Admire Munjeri
- Gracious Magombo

GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [The History and Evolution of the West African College of Surgeons/Jos University Teaching Hospital Trauma Management Course.](#)
- [ACS, COSECSA Join Forces to Bring Quality Surgical Care to Patients in Sub-Saharan Africa.](#)
- [Global Neurosurgery: Progress and Resolutions at the 75th World Health Assembly.](#)
- [Reusable gowns and drapes in surgery could reduce carbon footprint, Coffee administration to promote return of bowel function after small bowel resection: A randomized, controlled trial.](#)
- [Winning the Cancer War in Sub-Saharan Africa. Analysis shows.](#)
- [Awake Craniotomy in Africa: A Scoping Review of Literature and Proposed Solutions to Tackle Challenges.](#)
- [Partnering to build surgical capacity in low-resource settings: a qualitative study of Canadian global surgeons.](#)
- ['Low Value Surgical Care', the idea of 'Choosing Wisely'](#)
- [Academic Global Surgery: Creating Opportunities, Equity, and Diversity.](#)
- [Faith Leaders Improve Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy: Results of Operations Research on the Channels of Hope Methodology in Kenya and Ghana.](#)
- [Read more articles compiled by Maggie Tarpley here!](#)

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