



The PAACS Bulletin

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Mission/Vision
- CEO Letter
- PAACS at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt
- Spiritual Retreat at Soddo
- Anesthesiology Research
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Training
- Alumni Travel Fellowship Update
- Stories From the Road
- Allgower Lecture
- ACS Surgical Humanitarian Award
- LLU - Global Surgery Fellowship
- Good News
 - CEML/COSECSA
 - IHSS Course
 - Global Surgery Lab - University of British Columbia
 - New Baby at Mbingo
- Prayer Requests/Praises
- Articles on Surgery



PAACS

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,

As we enter the final months of 2024, we approach a critical time for our ministry. The fall months through the end of 2024 is a busy season. There are numerous conferences, educational events, exhibiting, and fundraising taking place. In addition, we are in the process of developing several publications that will be sent prior to the end of the year, including the PAACS 2023-24 Annual Report. This report is a comprehensive review of the PAACS ministry from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Annual Report will be mailed and emailed to all supporters in October and will also be available on our website. The PAACS Highlights publication and Alumni Newsletter filled with testimonies and stories of PAACS surgeons will be available by November. Finally, we will be distributing our 2025 PAACS Prayer Guide by December with the prayer requests and photos of our residents, faculty, and programs. The Prayer Guide will also be available on the PAACS website.

One of the most exciting aspects of this season has been following the journey of our 2024 Alumni Travel Fellow, Dr. Philadelphie Dembele. He is a PAACS general surgery graduate from Bongolo Hospital in Gabon, now serving as the Medical Director at Christian Missionary Alliance's Women's and Children's Hospital in Mali. Throughout the past few weeks, he has been traveling across the United States, learning clinically and sharing his testimony as a PAACS graduate. His story of transformation, both as a surgeon and a disciple of Christ, has touched the hearts of many—whether through speaking at churches, connecting with PAACS supporters, or inspiring new partnerships. Inside this issue of the PAACS Bulletin, you can learn more about his time in the U.S. as the 2024 Alumni Travel Fellow and the impact he's had along the way.

Dr. Dembele will conclude his time in the U.S. by joining us at the PAACS Conference in Chicago, October 10-12, 2024. The PAACS Conference, along with the Board of Directors meeting, provides a valuable opportunity for PAACS leaders and others interested in the ministry to come together for fellowship, encouragement, and prayer. During this time, we also hear from partners, programs, faculty, and graduates, all while strengthening our commitment to the mission and vision of PAACS and to the Lord.

I ask for your continued prayers for this ministry our residents, faculty, graduates and programs. Your prayers are a source of strength and encouragement, enabling us to fulfill God's calling to train and disciple surgeons and related specialists.

Blessings,

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

PAACS AT HARPUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN EGYPT

Rosemary MacFadyen

PAACS' only surgical residency in North Africa began at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt, in 2014 with the goal of training greatly-needed surgeons for the Christian hospitals in the Middle East and North Africa.

This program was launched by Dr. David Thompson and Dr. Sherif Hanna and has four graduates all serving in Egypt. Two additional surgeons will graduate this year. Dr. Randall Owen is the acting program director of the five-year surgical residency. Short-term general and sub-specialty surgeons are welcome and are needed to teach in the PAACS program. They would be a valuable asset and would be blessed by their time at Harpur with the residents.

Harpur Memorial Hospital was founded by Dr. Frank Harpur, a missionary physician from Ireland who sailed up the Nile River into the Delta. His boat served as a floating hospital receiving patients and treating them both physically and spiritually. In 1910, he opened a permanent hospital in Menouf, and since then under the leadership of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, it has continued to grow and develop. In 2014, a sister hospital, Harpur Sadat, was opened in Sadat City, a newer city developing in the desert between Cairo and Alexandria, one with numerous industries and growing infrastructure and employing many Egyptians.

In addition, the entire hospital staff had the privilege of attending a retreat which gave Egyptian and ex-pat families the opportunity to spend quality time together. This fall, there will be a retreat for all the doctors serving at both hospitals in all specialties. It will be another opportunity for all the doctors to deepen their relationship with God and with each other and to strengthen their call to the mission of the hospital.

Many other developments at Harpur have been stimulated by the development of the surgical residency. Under the leadership of Becky Thompson, the nursing school was established. There are now many well-trained nurses to serve at Harpur and at other hospitals. Harpur now has a residency in internal medicine known as CAPPS, which is also functioning very well, and there is vision for adding a residency in pediatrics.

All of the growth has stimulated additional developments. Dr. Ian Frankish has established a well-equipped neonatal intensive care unit. He is also leading in the construction of a pediatric department as part of the new hospital building. There are also plans for a new surgery suite and operating rooms.

Please pray for the surgical residency at Harpur as it trains additional surgeons for Christian hospitals in Egypt and in North Africa and the Middle East and pray for Harpur Menouf and Harpur Sadat as they seek to work together to fulfill the mission God has given them, "to strive to be a distinguished place of holistic healing and a beacon of light to all for God's glory." Their prayer is that "with God's help they will offer loving healthcare and hope to all people."

At present, PAACS has five surgical residents, and the four PAACS graduates are serving in Harpur Menouf and Harpur Sadat. Recently, Dr. Owen and his wife led a spiritual life retreat for all the surgical residents, their spouses, and their children. It was a wonderful time of fellowship in which relationships with each other could deepen, and they as a department could seek God's presence and guidance.



SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT SODDO

Tim Love, MD
Program Director, General Surgery
Soddo Christian Hospital



This year the PAACS Ethiopia team enjoyed an extra special spiritual retreat where we were finally able to welcome our Spiritual Dean, Pastor Ed, to Ethiopia! After numerous years of planning, Ed and Lea Scarce joined us at Lake Babogaya for several wonderful days of fellowship, rest, and encouragement from Romans 12. We had a total of 74 people in attendance including residents, faculty, and their families. We typically invite our alumni and their families to join us for the spiritual retreats, but as our programs continue to grow, we have also outgrown a good number of venues that we previously used.

Praise the Lord for this wonderful time together as we studied **The Beauty of Transformational Living** from Romans 12.

After each time of teaching from Pastor Ed, the residents had opportunities to teach each other from what they had just studied. It was a great time of learning from each other.

Join us in praying that the Lord would continue to bless these important retreats in the future.



CONFERENCES



ANESTHESIOLOGY RESEARCH

Matt Kynes, MD, Program Director, Anesthesiology Program, Kijabe

PAACS had 4 residents present at the 2024 Kenya Society of Anesthesiologists meeting in Mombasa in August. PAACS is very proud of the high-quality research and poised presenting skills these residents demonstrated at the conference.

Cynthia Odhiambo (MCA2)



made an oral presentation on 'Phenylephrine vs. Ephedrine for Post-CS Hypotension.'

Betelhem Belda (MCA2)



made a poster presentation on 'Comparison of Regional Techniques for Post-Operative Pain in Patients Undergoing ACL Reconstruction: A Pilot Study.'

Eunice Kageha (FCA1)



presented a poster entitled 'Starting an Infant Spinal Anesthesia Service: Early Experience from Kijabe Hospital.'

Rebecca Dufe (FCA1)



won 2nd place for her poster presentation on 'Combined Spinal-Epidural for Caesarean Section in a Patient with Severe Kyphoscoliosis.'

ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT (ATLS) TRAINING

Britney Grayson, MD, Faculty, Pediatric Surgery Program, BethanyKids

Five of the nine instructors, including the course director at the ATLS training, were PAACS graduates- Drs. Ivan Seno and John Kanyi from Tenwek Hospital and Drs. Norbert Kipkoech, Eva Langat, and Shelmith Muthee from Kijabe Hospital. Three course participants were also affiliated with PAACS including Dr. Wycklife, a general surgery resident at Litein, Dr. Eric Irungu, Kijabe graduate, and Dr. Britney Grayson, Kijabe faculty. In addition to the learning and certifications that took place, a wonderful time of reunion was had. It was exciting to see PAACS at the forefront of this most important training.



ALUMNI TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP UPDATE



Deborah Pedziwol
Senior Director of Partnership Development (PAACS)



The 2024 PAACS Alumni Travel Fellowship is in full swing with clinical experiences and fundraising events scheduled in seven states from August 28th - October 13th. Dr. Philadelphie Dembele, a 2012 PAACS graduate from the Bongolo Hospital training program, has been an incredible ambassador for the ministry. He has been inspirational in sharing his impact as a PAACS trained surgeon and disciple to the people of Mali. In a country with a population which is 95% non-Christian, he has seen 304 people come to know Christ over the last ten years! Dr. David Thompson, PAACS founder, joined Dr. Dembele for fundraising events in Redding, CA and various parts of New York. Dr. Dembele has participated in clinical experiences at the University of Southern California, and Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, with more scheduled in the coming weeks. Midway through the travel fellowship, we have presented PAACS at six churches and two fundraising events! Thank you to all of our supporters who held fundraisers for PAACS and hosted Dr. Dembele at various clinical and educational events! Please continue to pray for Dr. Dembele as he continues his fellowship!





WORK IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

The title of this month's entry derives from a PowerPoint slide in my welcome and introduction of medical students to their surgical clerkship.

The word "surgery" derives from the Greek: ceir (cheir = hand) and ergon (ergon = work). Note the discipline of ergonomics, the unit of work, an erg, which equals a dyne-cm, and the French word for surgeon, *chirurgien*. I ask the students and trainees: "How do you define "surgeon"? Often, they comment on technical procedures, hands-on, like to operate, etc. After their responses I share my definition: "A surgeon is a physician who can operate, when it's indicated, and in the better interest of the patient." We do not operate because it is fun, pays the rent, or because of the RANDO criteria: Resident Ain't Never Done One. As my orthopedic surgeon attending counselled his residents in the mid-1960s: "There ain't no condition that can't be made worse by an operation." One must not just focus on the "hands" part of surgery. Judgement, consideration of the patient's physiologic reserve, co-morbidities, nutritional status, patient's preferences, etc. all enter into whether or not to recommend an operation. Thus, the word "surgery" does not designate a procedure or a place. We do not take a patient to "surgery and "surgerize" them. We perform operations or procedures usually in an operating room or theatre.

On another front, one at times hears that "work" is a curse, ensuing from the "Fall," Adam and Eve's partaking of the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. Prof. Joe Calloway, an Old Testament scholar and renowned archaeologist at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the USA, taught that man was assigned work **before** the "Fall". Gen 2:15 in the RSV: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Thus, man was given tasks - to till and to keep which constitute work. Subsequently, the work was more difficult. Gen 3:17-19 states that the work would be more laborious secondary to the ground being cursed, etc. plus comments about "the sweat of your face."

A key book for me is *A Diary of Private Prayer* by John Baillie.

In his entry for the morning of the 7th he prays for:

"The overworked, who have no joy of leisure:
The unemployed, who have no joy of labour:"

We sing the hymn "Work for The Night is Coming" which enjoins us to follow Jesus's job description in the Logos Hymn of John 1 "to make God known." Jesus also had a three-part job description recorded in Matthew 4:23: teaching, preaching, healing.

Globally, but notably in sub-Saharan Africa, we have two major work-related challenges: unemployment and underemployment. Those of us who have meaningful work should be grateful; we are among the fortunate, the blessed.

I close with several quotes:

- Dr. Charles Mayo, a co-founder of the Mayo Clinic, had a red-and-black sign hanging in his office which read: "There's no fun like work."
- My grandfather, a dirt farmer in Middle Tennessee who never completed high school, taught me: "Nobody ever drowned in sweat."
- Colossians 3:23-24 encourages us "to work as unto the Lord".
- I contend that work is a blessing. Work is a gift.

To be continued...

STORIES FROM THE ROAD

Thomas Robey, MD
Past Chair, PAACS Board of Directors



I have been involved with PAACS since my first trip to Gabon in 2005. I spent two weeks helping train Dr. Thompson's surgical residents in ENT surgical care during that time. That visit opened my eyes to the need to train African surgeons to take care of all the surgical needs in Africa regardless of specialty. Rural surgeons in Africa take care of the skin and all its contents.

Over the last 19 years, I have made numerous trips to serve as a visiting faculty surgeon at many of the PAACS hospitals throughout East and West Africa. It has been a special opportunity to teach ENT surgical care while getting to know the residents' stories, their families, and their dreams. I have watched many of these residents graduate, establish their own mission practices, and continue the cycle of training more surgeons in their home countries. Becoming involved in the administration of these PAACS programs by serving on the Board of Directors for over 15 years has also been an honor. It has been a privilege to be part of PAACS resident education conferences, PAACS faculty development conferences, the opening of new PAACS programs, and graduation festivities over the years.

Along the way, I have met many other otolaryngologists who have served with PAACS. James Smith, MD, was integral in the genesis of PAACS over 25 years ago and continues to serve in multiple capacities with PAACS today. Wayne M. Koch, MD, started the first PAACS head and neck surgical fellowship at Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon and has multiple fellows serving as head and neck surgeons today throughout the continent. Nathaniel Peterson, MD, is an otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon serving at Kijabe Hospital alongside Bryce R. Noblitt, MD, and they are currently in the process of starting a second PAACS head and neck fellowship in Kenya. Chege Macharia, MBChB, FCS, Dr. Koch's first head and neck fellow, is also part of the ENT team at Kijabe Hospital where he also serves as the CEO of the hospital. Numerous other otolaryngologists, including Alan Johnson, MD, Michael Frederick Spafford, MD, and Jewel D. Greywoode, MD, have also volunteered as teaching faculty at PAACS programs across Africa and serve on the PAACS Head and Neck Council, which helps govern the PAACS head and neck fellowships. (excerpt from - <https://bulletin.entnet.org> published on 9/16/24)



ALLGOWER LECTURE - MALAYSIA

Congratulations to Dr. John Tarpley, PAACS Academic Dean, on being awarded the Martin Allgower Lecture that he presented at the International Surgical Week 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His dedication to global surgery and medical education continues to inspire us all.



ACS SURGICAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Dr. Jason Fader will be honored for his work at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi, where he transformed a small mission hospital into a major medical center, conducting more than 3,700 operations annually.

His efforts have not only enhanced healthcare delivery but have also fostered a new generation of medical professionals through a robust surgical residency program. He will be formally recognized at the ACS Clinical Congress 2024 in San Francisco, California.



www.facs.org

ONE-YEAR GLOBAL SURGERY FELLOWSHIP - LLU AND MALAMULO ADVENTIST HOSPITAL



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

The Loma Linda University Department of Surgery in Loma Linda, California has a one year non-ACGME accredited clinically focused Global Surgery Fellowship (GSF) and is looking to find its next fellow to start August 1, 2025. 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 (LMIC). The Global Surgery Fellowship furthers the Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) goal 'to make man whole' physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually by continuing Christ's healing and teaching ministry. It aims to address the overwhelming surgical needs throughout the developing world by enabling an increase in access to safe surgery globally.

In 2015, the World Health Organization recognized that the lack of access to safe surgical care results in 3x more deaths than HIV, TB, and Malaria combined and the WHO made Global Surgery a priority in public health. There are approximately five billion people around the globe who lack access to safe and affordable surgical and anesthesia care with a vast majority of those people living in the low-resource settings of LMIC. It is estimated that each year 143 million additional surgical procedures need to be done in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. The LLUH GSF will directly address surgery's indispensable part of health care in underserved areas and will positively affect the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by training surgeons to be capable and competent in surgery in rural, low-resource environments.

The Global Surgery Fellowship (GSF) is a one-year training program for American Board of Surgery eligible or certified general surgeons. It consists of nine months training at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) in Loma Linda, California and three months of guidance and experience at Malamulo Adventist Hospital (MAH) in Malawi, Africa. The fellowship training at LLUH will consist of rotations and case log completion in Obstetrics, Gynecology, Urology, Orthopedics, and Trauma, as well as Anesthesia, Neurosurgery, Pediatric Surgery, ENT, Plastic Surgery, Wound Care, Dentistry, Preventative Medicine, Tropical Disease, Public Health, financial literacy for organizations, and leadership in health administration. The fellow will complete at least one research paper focusing on a topic in Global Surgery.

LLUH is uniquely equipped for the GSF with its strong history of international service and its direct connection to a wide network of hospitals in low- and middle-income countries. This modus operandi of mission focus is evident in the multidisciplinary enthusiasm and support for the Department of Surgery's Global Surgery Fellowship.

The fellowship program director, Dr. Ryan Hayton has a continued interest in meeting the global needs of surgery based on their real experience in providing surgical care in low-resource environments.

Applicants must have completed an ACGME approved general surgery residency by July 31, 2025 and be American Board of Surgery certified or eligible.

If interested, applicants must provide the following documents via e-mail to Alana Symons, program coordinator at asymons@llu.edu:

- A letter of reference from the department chairman
- A letter of reference from the program director
- A person statement about surgical global health
- Current CV

Thank you and God Bless,

Ryan Hayton, MD FACS FCS (ECSA)
Program Director

Fellowship Timeline for 2025

Interviews November 2024
Type of Interview: Virtual – Zoom
Begin Fellowship: 08/01/2025

11th Annual International Humanitarian Surgical Skills Course

This CME activity will help prepare the International Humanitarian volunteer for delivering surgical care in a low resource setting for treatment of common surgical and obstetric conditions. In developing and in-crisis countries, the surgical volunteer must truly be a “generalist” and able to handle an array of surgical conditions. Through a variety of techniques including skill stations and simulation, participants will familiarize themselves with several relevant procedures, as well as the essential elements of surgical safety, ethics, and cultural considerations required for such settings. Specific skill areas that will be taught are orthopedic dislocations and fracture management with traction pins and external fixation, cesarean sections, post-partum hemorrhage, obstructive uropathy, wound and burn management, hand cutting of skin grafts and basic skin flaps, emergency burr holes, hysterectomy, uterine evacuations, tendon repairs, tropical medicine for surgical diseases, and low resource anesthetic techniques.

This course is intended for physicians and advanced practice providers with pre-existing surgical/procedural skills: surgery, emergency medicine, family medicine, and OBGYN.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

CEML / COSECSA

In a letter dated August 29th of the current year, Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML) was informed by the COSECSA Chief Executive Officer that CEML has been approved for MCS and FCS general surgery program, valid for five years. We praise God for His provision and the seemingly smooth process of accreditation.



Global Surgery Lab - University of British Columbia

Sam Fabiano, Program Co-Director of PAACS' CEML General Surgery program in Angola and graduate of the Bongolo program in Gabon, presented on the work and training being accomplished at CEML at a special presentation of the Global Surgery Lab at the University of British Columbia's Branch for Global Surgical Care in Vancouver on Sept 18, 2024.

Also present in the audience was Moses Kasumba, former Program Director of PAACS' Malamulo Adventist Hospital General Surgery program in Malawi and graduate of the Mbingo Baptist Hospital General Surgery program in Cameroon.



Greetings! From Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon

Kebe Faith (3rd year resident) and husband Teboh Franklin were blessed with a baby boy.

Teboh Franklin-Cayden Junior Mbah

Date of birth: 25/7/24 | Birth weigh: 2.54kg



[Click here to explore the PAACS Store at Lands' End](#)

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs, that they will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray for the upcoming PAACS Conference October 10-12, 2024. 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, leadership, and administrative staff 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:

- Eric Ngoran
- Blessing Ngam
- Roger Tankombo
- Foletia Guillaume
- Tchinde Ngueping Marius Jordan
- John Tanyi
- Misori Glory Masango
- Paul Shu Chinonso
- Faith BIH Irene Keba
- Neville Alemnju Telesen
- Djomo Ginette
- Keja Esmond
- Tiba Dongmo Janelle Lavinia
- Gildas Placide Tadjoua Konde
- Elvis Sonfack



PARTNER WITH PAACS

GIVE (U.S.)

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GIVE (OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA)

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in the Operating Room: A Scoping Review](#)
- [The Current State of International Academic Partnerships in Orthopaedic Surgery Between High-Income and Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review](#)
- [Learn Who Was Honored for Volunteerism and Humanitarian Efforts--ACS](#)
- [Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections: A Review](#)
- [Online yoga programme for resident physicians in Québec: an evaluation of feasibility and impact on mental health](#)
- [Hospitalization Trends for Airway Infections and In-Hospital Complications in Cleft Lip and Palate](#)
- [Vascular Surgery Initiatives in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Zambia](#)
- [Predictive factors for intrathoracic anastomotic leakage and postoperative mortality after esophageal cancer resection](#)
- [PAM50 breast cancer subtypes and survival of patients in rural Ethiopia without adjuvant treatment: a prospective observational study](#)
- [The East and Central African Journal of Surgery: A Narrative of Four Decades at the Forefront of Fostering Surgical Research in Africa](#)
- [Using Implementation Science in Surgical Care: A Scoping Review](#)

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