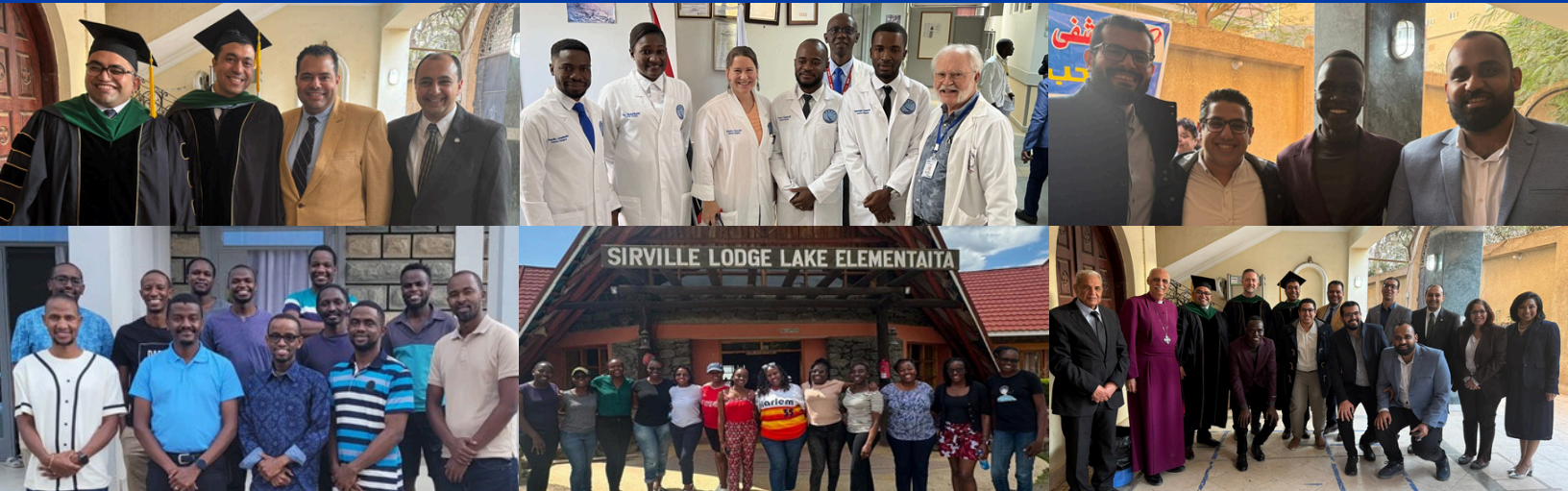




The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 247 • February 2025



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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,

On February 14th, we celebrated 29 years of ministry at PAACS! This milestone is not just a measure of time but a testament to God's incredible work through our commitment to excellence and compassion in surgical and specialty care, and our dedication to sharing the gospel.

This month, in gratitude to our prayer warriors and faithful supporters, we sent out a scriptural bookmark. This small token is a reminder of the significant role you play in this ministry.

We are currently hosting our Junior Bootcamp Conference at the Brackenhurst Conference Centre in Kenya, which started on February 23 and will run until March 6. This event is gathering around 160 attendees, including new first-year residents, PAACS faculty, guest speakers, and families. It marks the beginning of our residents' journeys as tomorrow's Christian surgeons and related specialists.

PAACS is proud to announce Dr. Christopher Moir as our new Academic Dean. We are thankful to Dr. John Tarpley for his years of service and the legacy he leaves behind. We look forward to the continued growth under Dr. Moir's leadership. Additionally, we are inviting passionate individuals to join our Advancement Committee. This specific committee is part of our fundraising efforts. They help with event planning and fostering connections with grants and foundations. If you have a heart for our mission and expertise in these areas, please consider joining this dynamic team. You can reach out to me directly at Susan.Koshy@paacs.net to learn more about how you can contribute.

As we celebrate this 29-year journey, we thank you for your continued support and prayers. Here's to many more years of impact, healing, and expanding God's kingdom across Africa.

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
PAACS

CELEBRATING
29
YEARS IN MINISTRY
1996-2025

A large graphic of the number 29. The digits are filled with various photos of PAACS staff and patients in clinical settings, including surgeons in operating rooms, medical students, and patients being cared for.

PAACS ACADEMIC DEAN – THANK YOU AND WELCOME

*Keir Thelander, MD, FACS, FWACS, FCS (ECSA)
Executive Vice President*



After just over 3 years, Dr. John Tarpley “tarp”’s time as Academic Dean comes to an end. Tarp’s contribution to the growth and recognition of PAACS domestically (USA) and internationally grew significantly during his time overseeing the quality of education. He truly kept the bar high and encouraged all to practice quality medicine in Jesus’ name. Thank you, tarp. You remain an example to us all.



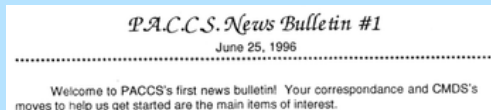
Welcome Dr. Chris Moir

After a lengthy process of consideration, the Lord provided Dr. Chris Moir as PAACS’s next Academic Dean, having begun Feb 24. Dr. Moir trained in general surgery at the University of British Columbia, followed by Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at McGill University. Over more than 30 years, Dr. Moir’s work at Mayo Clinic resulted in him receiving numerous teaching awards, with some time as the Medical Director of the Mayo Clinic Children’s Center. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will use Dr. Moir to advance the work of the Lord through PAACS. Welcome Chris!

REWIND: LOOKING BACK ON THE PAACS BULLETIN

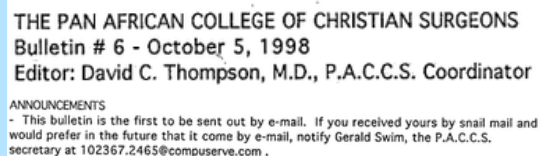
June 1996

First PAACS Bulletin published and mailed.



October 1998

PAACS Bulletin first e-mailed.



January 2007

Pictures first added to the PAACS Bulletin.

Dear Colleagues,

In this Bulletin, you will see pictures for the first time! We hope that it will help you to better see what God is doing. If the pictures cause you problems in opening the file, please let us know. We want you to be able to receive and read these accounts of God’s working.

BULLETIN # 45 January, 2007

September 2012

100th issue published.

Dear Friend,

Can you believe that you are looking at the 100th issue of *The PAACS Bulletin*?

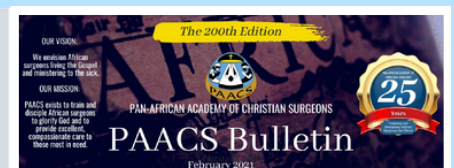


February 2021

200th issue published and 25th anniversary celebrated.

Dear Friends of PAACS:

This 200th edition of the PAACS Bulletin celebrates the 25th anniversary of PAACS. On February 14, 1996, the initial charter for then-named Pan-African College of Christian Surgeons was signed at the Brackenhurst International Conference Centre in Limuru, Kenya. Fast-forward to now – and it is obvious that God has had His hand of blessing on the organization and the hundreds of residents and graduates. This edition of the Bulletin acts as an Ebenezer, a memorial that clearly proclaims “Thus far has the Lord led us.” See the “Announcements” for the link to view the webinar celebrating this milestone with Keir Thelander’s interview of David Thompson and Bruce Steffes.



CELEBRATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND NEW BEGINNINGS AT HARPUR

*Randall Owen, MD
Program Director
Hapur Memorial Hospital*



The Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt celebrated the graduation of two full-fledged PAACS surgeons, Dr. Mina and Dr. Joseph on January 25, 2025. A distinguished group gathered to commemorate the graduates' accomplishments. PAACS CEO Susan Koshy gave a riveting address encouraging all to seek God's kingdom first. Bishop Samy, hospital director Samir, program director Randall Owen, and Mary-Lou Hanna also addressed those gathered. Amanda Woods of the



PAACS development team also attended. Dr. Shady Fayik, the program's first graduate, was honored for his ten years of service at Harpur. Faculty members, Dr. Amgad and Dr. Nayer, were thanked for their hard and persistent work with the graduates and their ongoing teaching of the other remaining residents. Gerges Shokry, our program coordinator, was also thanked for his tireless work with the program and for organizing the entire graduation. Finally, and importantly, the spouses of the PAACS graduates, faculty and residents were also thanked for their sacrifices and the great support they have given which is essential for the success of the program.

It was wonderful to have the families of Dr. Joseph and Dr. Mina join us and to celebrate this huge milestone in their careers. They were quite proud of their graduates and were also thanked for the support and love that they have given over the years. They traveled from great distances to make it to the ceremony and made it a special celebration. In addition, the internal medicine program, the nursing program, as well as many other staff nurses and doctors also attended. A wonderful meal was provided to all afterwards for fellowship and refreshment.

Dr. Joseph has now joined Germania hospital on the southern border of Egypt, adjacent to the country of Sudan. This is a Christian hospital and in an area of great need. Dr. Joseph is excited to join the two other surgeons there to contribute to their work and continue to grow in his skills and knowledge. He and his wife Madonna and son Phillip were also drawn to the close Christian community there and are looking forward to growing with and contributing to that community of faith. Dr. Mina has not yet taken a position as he will be studying for exams in April. We hope and pray that God will provide a wonderful surgical opportunity of Christian service for Dr. Mina.

We welcome new resident Dr. Maad Top who has joined our program and is from South Sudan, our first non-Egyptian. We are excited to diversify the program and have already enjoyed Dr. Maad's engagement with our team. Please pray for his ongoing success and integration with the hospital and the program.

As I write this bulletin, I am at Harpur with four visiting surgeons! Other surgeons are scheduled to visit in April, July, October, and November. This is an answer to prayer and a big help to the education of the residents and furtherance of our program. If you are interested to come to Harpur and contribute your surgical skills we would love to have you! Please email me at randall.owen@paacs.net if you would like to talk it over.



SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD & THE COMMUNITY

*Gezahegn Tilahun, MD, FCS (ECSA), FACS
Assistant Program Director, General Surgery
Soddo Christian Hospital*



On February 8, we joyfully celebrated the 20th anniversary of Soddo Christian Hospital, a testament to God's grace and the dedication of faithful servants. Founded by the visionary missionary Dr. Harold Adolph, the hospital rose from humble beginnings. What was once a grazing field and a hyena-infested forest has been transformed into a beacon of hope, healing, and salvation.

Each year, Soddo Christian Hospital serves nearly 60,000 outpatient visitors and performs 10,000 operations. More importantly, over the past two decades, it has become a place where nearly half a million people have heard the gospel, and thousands have surrendered their lives to Christ Jesus.

On this special occasion, we honored the unwavering service of several extraordinary individuals:



Dr. Duane Anderson, an orthopedic surgeon and a co-founder with Dr. Adolph, has faithfully served these 20 years as an attending physician, a PAACS faculty member, a board member, and a mentor. His wife, Ms. Jacqueline Anderson, has stood by his side, teaching English to many girls in Soddo and preparing Bible study materials for hospital small groups. Their legacy is profound and lasting.



Dr. Mark Karnes, an Obstetrician/Gynecologist, has offered unreserved service as both an attending physician and PAACS faculty member for 16 years. His wife, Ms. Allison Karnes, has empowered village girls to stay in school by providing hygiene products and she is well-known for beautifying the hospital compound with greenery and flowers.

Mr. Ken Amstutz has faithfully and indefatigably served as the board chair of the St. Luke's Health Care Foundation (SLHCF) for 20 years. SLHCF is the US-based 501(c)(3) that supports Soddo Christian Hospital.

These faithful followers of Christ have left a lasting impact not only on the hospital but also on many PAACS graduates and residents who have testified to their Christ-like service. During the celebrations, numerous people shared how these individuals' influence extends even into their families and homes. Their recognition today is a testament to God's grace and their consistent dedication, humility, and commitment to following Jesus. Their lives prompt us to reflect:

- What will people say about you and me in the future?
- Are we kind, faithful, and committed in our calling?
- What witness does our life bear?

One day we will all stand before the throne of Jesus Christ, where our labor in this world will be tested by fire (1 Corinthians 3:13-14). Will our works endure? Will we hear the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord"?

May we be servants whose lives and ministry attract many to His kingdom and bring glory to God through faithful service.

EQUIPPED FOR THE CALLING: A WHITE COAT AND RETREAT STORY

Mercy Mitei, MD

*Assistant Program Director, General Surgery
Tenwek Hospital*



Our year started on a very exciting note at Tenwek. Featuring new and age-old traditions. The inaugural Women in Surgery Weekend Retreat was held at the serene Sirville Lake Elementaita, bringing together five female consultants and eight female residents for a transformative experience.

This landmark event provided a unique space for mentorship, reflection, and strategic goal-setting for the year ahead. Participants engaged in an insightful review of last year's theme book, drawing valuable lessons to guide their professional and personal growth. The retreat fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and empowerment, reinforcing the vital role of women in the surgical field. With renewed motivation and clear objectives, attendees left inspired to make a lasting impact in their careers and the broader medical community.



The men were not left behind. They organized a challenging yet rewarding hike to the scenic Mount Longonot, combining physical endurance with deep intellectual and spiritual engagement. The invited speaker, Dr. Chege Macharia, CEO of Kijabe Hospital, led them in a session focused on the principles of godly parenting and financial stewardship, equipping the participants with wisdom for both their professional and personal lives. The breathtaking views of the crater symbolized the heights they aspire to reach in their roles as fathers, surgeons, and leaders.

The White Coat Ceremony held on the 5th of February, was a deeply moving and symbolic event, embodying both the honor and humility of the medical profession. Faculty members from General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Obstetrics/Gynecology followed the example of Jesus by washing the feet of their first-year residents, a powerful act of servant leadership. This gesture reminded the new doctors that true greatness lies in service to others. The ceremony also included a short sermon on the significance of foot washing, reinforcing the values of humility, compassion, and dedication. The highlight of the event was the moment the first-year residents received their official white coats, marking the beginning of their journey in medicine. Excitement filled the room as they embraced both the privilege and responsibility of their calling, inspired by the example set before them.



FIRST WHITE COAT CEREMONY AT CEML

*Sam Fabiano, MD
Program Co-Director
Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango*



The PAACS general surgery program at CEML held its first white coat ceremony on January 23, 2025. The residents were challenged by the founder of CEML, Dr. Stephen Foster, to care for their patients' physical and spiritual needs. We praise God for these humble beginnings.



WELCOMING DR. GLODI TSHIBUABUA: A NEW PAACS RESIDENT AT BONGOLO HOSPITAL

*Petronella Kufa
Bongolo Hospital*



On January 15, 2025, Bongolo Hospital held a white coat ceremony to welcome its newest PAACS resident, Dr. Glodi Tshibuabua. Born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he completed his medical studies there and grew up in a Christian family, developing a deep passion for both surgery and evangelism. Bongolo Hospital, with its missionary focus became the perfect place for him to pursue his calling.

Driven by a strong desire to help others, Dr. Tshibuabua saw medicine as the best way to relieve pain and provide care to those in need. His first weeks at Bongolo have been intense, pushing him beyond his limits but he is grateful for the support of fellow doctors, nurses and technicians who have made his transition easier.

Determined to make a difference, he hopes to lead by example, improve healthcare systems and highlight the connection between medicine and ministry. For future PAACS residents, his advice is simple: "God calls us to sacrifice and to strive for excellence. Be ready to serve anytime and in any way."

With his white coat now a symbol of his commitment, Dr. Tshibuabua embarks on a journey of healing, faith and service at Bongolo Hospital.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PAACS 2025 DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

John Tarpley, MD
Prior Academic Dean



PAACS was founded and is dependent on prayer.

I recommend and encourage all of us to pray daily for our trainees, faculty, graduates, and the administrative team.

- “God will help PAACS remain focused on educational excellence and evangelism for Christ’s honor and glory.”
- “Pray for the financial stability of the hospitals, ...”
- “Pray for our program and hospital as we face crisis.”
- “... the hospital is facing financial challenges.”
- “Pray I find the right marriage partner.”
- “Bless my sponsors.”
- “Pray for Kenya as the country goes through tumultuous times.”
- “Please ... pray for a life partner to be married.”
- “Pray for peace and understanding and good governance in our country.”
- “Pray for my family’s well-being and the arrival of my future life partner.”
- “Pray that we would grow in love ...and that we would have boldness to share our hope.”
- “Pray for my wife as she continues to seek employment.”
- “Pray for hospital and program financial and personal needs.”
- “Pray for continued safety and peace in the region.”
- “Pray that I would ‘rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.’”
- “Pray for God’s guidance as I transition to senior residency and in my research.”
- “Pray for success in exams.”
- Pray for protection from security concerns in areas to our north.”
- “Pray for our mission and security to the north of Togo.”
- “Pray for ..., a life partner ..., peace and comfort for my friend ...”
- “Pray for ..., for good understanding of and relationship with hospital administration.”
- “Pray for the economic crisis in Burundi.”
- “Pray for upcoming exams, my country’s economy, for the leadership of our hospital, ...”
- “Pray for Burundi’s economic instabilities.”
- “Pray ...for financial stability.”
- “Pray for ... hospital leadership. Pray for wisdom in leading.”
- “Pray for God to provide funding for the upcoming housing project.”
- “Pray for wisdom and discernment, especially about time management.”
- “Pray for peace, harmony, and understanding to prevail within our borders as tax reform debate continues.”
- “Pray for Kenya and other countries with political unrest. Pray for safety and calmness ...”
- “Pray for direction to be a good surgeon and more intimacy with God, ...”
- “Pray I pass my exams ... and successfully submit my research proposal. Pray for my wife to get a good job nearby and for our marriage to flourish.”
- “Pray for our anticipated graduates as they explore post-graduation placements.”
- “Pray that we ... raise up ... Christ-centered anesthesia educators across Africa.”
- “Pray as I prepare for exams. Pray for political stability of Kenya and Ethiopia.”
- “Also pray for my upcoming wedding ...”
- “Pray for work/life balance for me and my wife. Pray for our kids ... thriving in school.”
- “Pray for stability and safety in our countries, that our leaders would lead with compassion, justice, and courage.”
- “Pray that God would protect my parents as they age gracefully.”
- “Pray for peace in Kenya. ... Pray for all the spouses of our residents.”
- “Pray for Kenya amid ongoing protests, for peace, safety, and justice. Pray for my spiritual growth as a surgical resident and for strength, wisdom, and connection with God.”
- “I humbly ask for prayers for peace to spread throughout my homeland of Ethiopia, where many suffer due to political turmoil and conflicts.”
- “We are expecting our third child. Pray for God’s grace.”
- “As riots go on across the country, I pray for peace and quick resolution.”
- “Pray for the salvation of my family, healing for patients, and equipment to be able to do their surgeries.”
- “Pray ... for me to wed this year, for ... my exams, and for growth in material wealth.”

Continued on next page...



2025 Daily Prayer Guide



I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold.
They will call on my name and I will answer them.

Zechariah 13:9 NLT

Note: These excerpts are gathered in order from pages 7-99.

- “Pray for me to reach the Rastafarian in Malawi.”
- “Pray for God’s protection as we serve in an unstable environment.”
- “Pray that God would bring a resolution to the conflict and a sustained peace to anglophone Cameroon. Pray for peace and reconciliation.”
- “Pray for residents in war-torn countries and for ... spouses and children.”
- “Pray God intervenes in our region and country and that the socio-political crises take a turn for the better.”
- “Pray for hospital management.”
- “Pray I overcome depression.”
- “Pray for me to be a better head of the house, husband, and father.”
- “Pray for peace in Ethiopia.”
- “Pray for Kenya and the political unrest.”
- “Pray God protects our children and leads them.”
- “Pray for peace upon Africa and the countries at war in the world.”
- “Pray for the Lord’s guidance in our future and children’s education.”
- “Pray for (the children’s) schooling and transition from French to English system.”
- “Pray for the hospital under huge financial pressure.”
- “Pray for managing the neurosurgery department/team, where we seem to have to replace staff routinely and are overwhelmed by workload.”
- “Pray for Kenya during this tough and radical economic and political season.”
- “Pray for Kenya, for God-fearing leaders.”
- “Pray to undertake more research.”
- “Pray for adaptations and finances for children’s school.”
- “Pray for Kenya as we deal with riots and corruption.”
- “Pray for guidance upon graduation and for improvement of security around Mbingo.”
- “Pray for divine guidance as graduating residents decide what’s next. ...for residents in war-torn countries.”
- “Pray ... for the peace of God to reign in Cameroon.”
- “Pray for peace in Mali.”
- “Pray for my children’s schooling, especially ... as there is no appropriate school ...”
- “Pray for security in Nigeria.”
- “Boldness to share the gospel ... Starting a general surgery program with sharing the love of God at the center of it all.”
- “Pray for future plans in ministry and for peace in South Sudan.”
- “Pray for peace and good leadership in Kenya. Pray for career progression,”
- “Pray for peace and stability in the DRC.”
- “Pray I secure a permanent job so I may support my family.”
- “Pray for peace so that people may fulfill their dreams,” (from Tanzania)
- “Pray for Burundi.”

ENHANCING HEAD & NECK SURGERY SKILLS FOR PAACS GRADUATES

Efeson Thomas, MD
PAACS Board of Directors, Graduate Representative

Steve Doane, MD
PAACS Board of Directors, Member-at-Large (GS)



Three PAACS alumni in Ethiopia are teaming up to facilitate new learning opportunities for their fellow PAACS graduates.

Dr. Mesele Bogale, a graduate of the PAACS Head and Neck fellowship at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, is now working in a high-volume head-and-neck surgery practice near Addis Ababa and is offering a 1-month hands-on rotation for graduates who wish to improve their ENT skills.

Dr. Efeson Thomas, a graduate of Soddo Christian Hospital, has developed a breadth of expertise in laparoscopic cases and is eager to help graduates through a 1-month hands-on rotation in basic laparoscopic procedures.

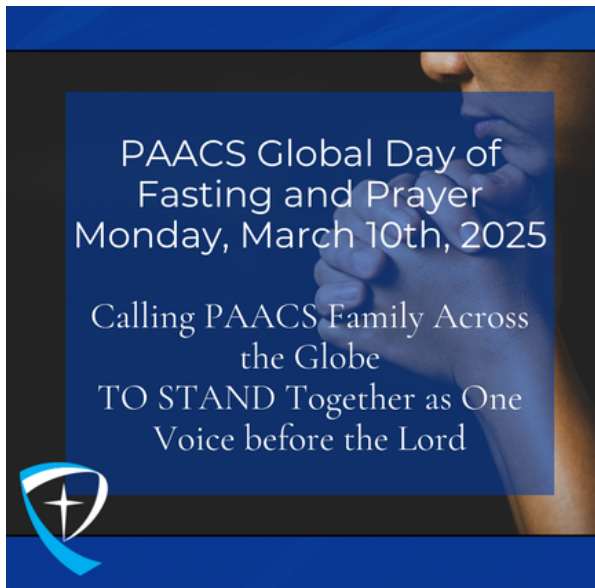
Dr. Dejene Desalegn, another graduate of Soddo Christian Hospital, is involved in supporting airfare expenses for some of these rotations for graduates from other countries who would have significant financial burden otherwise.

These graduates are eager to share with those who are lacking from the skillset that they have been blessed to acquire. They hope this program of short-term rotations will also strengthen a feeling of unity among PAACS graduates.

Surgeons wishing to apply to one of these two programs are encouraged to email Dr. Efeson Thomas at efeson.thomas@gmail.com for more details.

GLOBAL DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

2025 PAACS FALL CONFERENCE



[Click here to register!](#)



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 all the attendees at the Junior Bootcamp Conference in Kenya, including first-year PAACS residents, along with the speakers, facilitators, and families.
- Please join PAACS for our Global Day of Fasting and Prayer on Monday, March 10.

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

- Pitman Mbabazi
- Ivy Barasa
- Ndaro Daniel
- Teresa Nyamora
- Fred Omondi
- Zipporah Muthony Wachira
- Alemu Arja Asango
- Frida Wambui
- Pendo Jefwa
- Charity Wakini Waweru



ARTICLES ON SURGERY, OB/GYN, AND ANESTHESIA

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Clinician perspectives on the perioperative roles and responsibilities of anesthesia, surgery, and primary care](#)
- [Finding Time and Energy to Exercise—5 Tips for Surgeons](#)
- [Sustainability in Surgery—Reinvesting in People Over Things](#)
- [Advancing sustainability in healthcare: A scoping review of global recycling practices in operating rooms](#)
- [“But Why?”: Explanatory Feedback Is a Reliable Marker of High-Quality Narrative Assessment of Surgical Performance](#)
- [Ultrasound outcomes and surgical parameters of the double-layer purse-string uterine closure technique in cesarean delivery: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials](#)
- [Health system governance for injury care in low- and middle-income countries: a survey of policymakers and policy implementors](#)
- [Airway Management in Patients with Maxillofacial Trauma—Part 1](#)
- [Changes in the surgical management of melanoma and measures to implement change](#)
- [Caring for Young Patients With Traumatic Knee Injury: Why Surgery Isn't the Only Option](#)

Read more articles compiled by Margaret Tarpley by [clicking here!](#)

PARTNER WITH PAACS



GIVE (U.S.)

GIVE (Canada)

GIVE (UK)

GIVE (Other)

CONNECT

