



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #221
December 2022



PAACS trainees following their final COSECSA FCS exams in Windhoek, Namibia



Mbingo PAACS family celebrating Dr. James and Carolyn Brown



Dr. Akinniyi Fadipe, PAACS Graduate and now Faculty at Tenwek Hospital

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From the Desk of the CEO



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

I hope all of you had a very blessed Christmas. As the year comes to an end, I am treasuring all that the Lord has done this past year with PAACS. God has been with us through every step, and I have witnessed His faithfulness many times this year.

This was a year of several new beginnings. Three new General Surgery programs started along with two new specialties, Anesthesia and Ob/Gyn. This brought PAACS into 10 countries with 22 total training programs. We expect to be training up to 150 total residents in 2023, our largest class ever!

While we had many things to celebrate, we also remember some challenges and changes this year. We lost two significant members of the PAACS family: Dr. Sherif Hanna, former PAACS Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, and PAACS graduate, Dr. Martin Situma of Uganda, who both passed away this summer. Though we mourn their loss, we know they were welcomed into God's presence as two of His good and faithful servants. This year also marked the retirement of Dr. Jim Brown, former PAACS Program Director at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Dr. Brown served with PAACS at Mbingo since 2011 where he was a dedicated leader and mentor. He has passed the leadership onto Dr. Mark Snell and we look forward to the continued success of the PAACS program in Cameroon.



This was also the first full year of putting our strategic plan into action. We have focused efforts in four areas: spiritual development, opportunities for residents to become PAACS faculty, training and development for our faculty, and expansion of PAACS programs. We've seen great success in our spiritual retreats, with more retreats planned for next year. We held a faculty development conference and a senior resident conference this year. Both were new endeavors for PAACS and were well received among the attendees.

Additionally, a strong foundation has been created through our partnerships with 16 mission hospitals. We thank Loma Linda University, COSECSA, WACS, CANECSA, and ESCACOG for the accreditation of our programs. Though I could never provide an exhaustive list, I would like to thank a few of our partners: CURE International, MedSend, Medical Benevolence Foundation, African Mission Healthcare, World Medical Mission, SIM, Samaritan's Purse, CMDA, IHS Global, and ICMDA. To all of our partners (named and unnamed), thank you for making a difference in the PAACS ministry. Together with God, these organizations and others are reaching the people of Africa with improved healthcare and sharing the gift of eternal life through a Savior that was born as a humble baby in a manger.

You are also an important part of the PAACS family! God is using you to make all of this possible for the people of Africa. Thank you! I pray that you are encouraged during this coming year. May you remember God's past provision for you, recognize His goodness, and have hope for your future in 2023 and beyond. When trials and obstacles come your way, remember that God is faithful. Take today to treasure these things and ponder them in your heart as we begin a new year! Thank you for being part of the PAACS family.

Happy New Year! Thank you for being a blessing to this ministry and to the people in Africa.

Blessings,

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

New PAACS Video Debut

PAACS is very excited to share with you our newest video. The video was filmed at Malamulo Adventist Hospital and Nkhoma Mission Hospital, both in Malawi. This video discusses the need for surgeons and related specialists in Africa, the impact of PAACS, and how PAACS is a unique approach that is changing healthcare and the spiritual landscape across the continent.



Thank you for being a part of training Christian surgeons and related specialists IN Africa and FOR Africa.

Blessings,

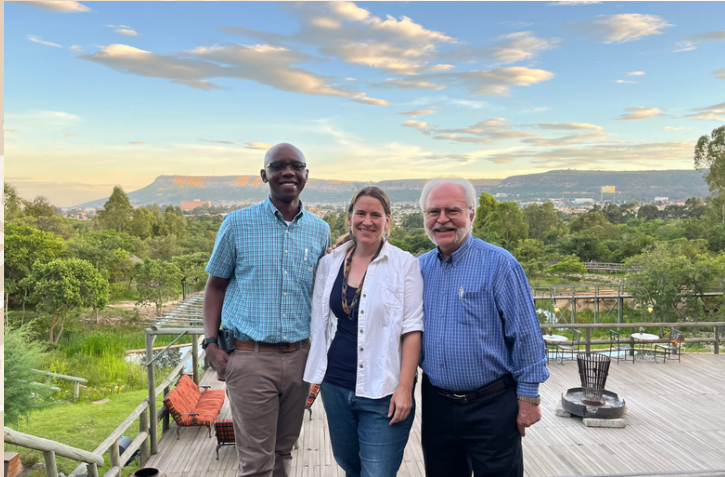
Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)





PAACS Visits CEML in Angola

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*



PAACS Academic Dean John Tarpley, Executive Vice President Keir Thelander, and friend of PAACS Robert Riviello had the privilege of visiting Centro Evangelico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML) in Lubango, Angola, a city of almost 3 million people. The visit was preceded by a wonderful drive through a game park in Namibia with CEML founder and surgeon Dr. Steve Foster, while traveling with PAACS graduate Dr. Samuel Fabiano and his family (Amanda and Bella).

After a long journey, we all had the joy of seeing this 15-year-old facility. Dr. Riviello had actually been present for the opening in 2006. Much has changed. CEML now has three surgeons: Dr. Steve Foster, Dr. Annelise Olson, and Dr. Sam Fabiano. The facility is primarily a surgical hospital with around 50 beds, two well-equipped operating rooms, and appropriate ancillary services. Being in a city of 3 million with a large general hospital, at first glance it seems like the needs may not be great, yet the backdrop is a country of 33 million and less than 100 surgeons of all types.



After a tour of the facility, we had the opportunity to meet with the administration of CEML and each surgeon individually. They universally expressed a desire to begin training and discipling surgeons, as they see it would build on the existing internship program of six to seven trainees.

A visit to Cristo Rei is a must which we took in at the end of the day near sunset. The following morning, we marveled at the Tundaval landscape of beautiful rocks, large ravine, and amazing views, which is part of the Serra da Leba escarpment. On particularly clear days, one may be in awe at seeing the glow of the Atlantic Ocean from such a long distance.



We ended our visit to Lubango by meeting with the director of the General Hospital. We were well-received and found open collaboration to beginning a surgical training program to meet the tremendous need in Angola. After a brief goodbye, we began our long journey back to the US.

In short, CEML seems poised to become a PAACS training site in the near future. Pray with us as we seek the Lord's timing and plan for this collaboration.

COSECSA Exams & Celebration

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

Fourteen PAACS trainees took their final COSECSA FCS exams December 5th and 6th in Windhoek, Namibia. Eleven of the twelve general surgery examinees were successful and both orthopaedic trainees were successful. Praise the Lord! COSECSA had 177 examinees of which 148 were successful, and 199 examiners. For general surgery, the pass rate was around 88% for COSECSA, with PAACS' rate being over 90%.

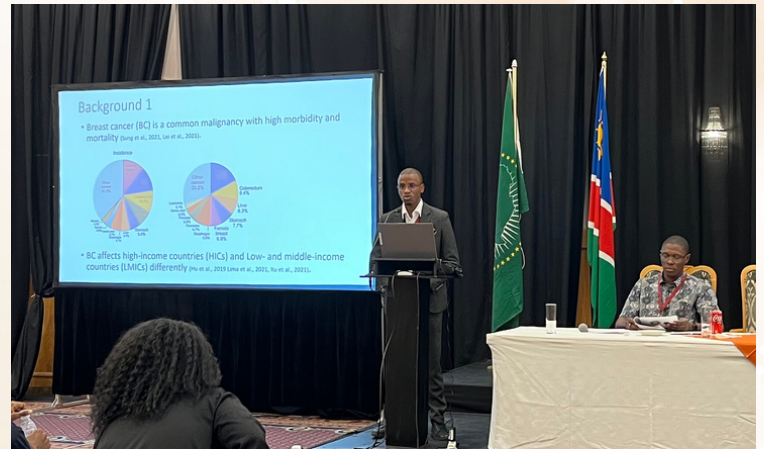
As has been tradition, PAACS had a celebratory meal on Tuesday evening, where all successful trainees and over 40 other PAACS faculty members, graduates, and friends of PAACS attended. It was a wonderful celebration, while recognizing how God sustained each of them through five years of intense training and discipleship.

The graduation ceremony on Wednesday was followed by a robust scientific conference on Thursday and Friday. PAACS was, again, well-represented. The ALL-SAFE project under the Global Surgical Training Challenge had a prominent role.

Congratulations to Dr. Faraja Magwesela, a third year trainee at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre who won a research award from Johnson and Johnson for his research on cancer at ALMC.

Dr. Agneta Odera, a General Surgery and Cardiothoracic graduate of Tenwek and Pediatric Surgery graduate from South Africa, completed her time as the Chair of WiSA (Women in Surgery in Africa). She served faithfully during difficult times of Covid while growing the organization's membership. Dr. Odera was celebrated and thanked during the annual WiSA dinner, which was a time of mutual encouragement that was well-attended by women who have set amazing examples as surgeons and those who will play significant roles in the future of surgery in Africa. Many others from PAACS shared their research from different podiums.

We thank the Lord for this collaboration with COSECSA and encourage many others within PAACS to engage with COSECSA, CANECSA, and ECSACOG.



*Dr. Faraja Magwesela presenting,
PAACS Graduate Dr. Michael Mwachiro moderating*



*Dr. Agneta Odera speaking at
Women in Surgery in Africa*





Spiritual Retreat at Nkhoma and Malamulo

Dr. Ed Searce
PAACS Spiritual Dean

PAACS programs at Nkhoma Mission Hospital and Malamulo Adventist Hospital gathered together for their annual Spiritual Retreat. It was the first retreat for the newly formed PAACS program at Nkhoma.

It was a very fruitful time of ministering to the surgical residents and faculty. The theme for the Spiritual Retreat was “Deepening My Conversation with God.”

Dr. Moses Kasumba, Program Director at Malamulo writes:
“We had a glorious, restful, and a refreshing Spiritual Retreat by Dr. Ed Searce PAACS Spiritual Dean Dr. Ed Searce and Pastor Jon Landis.

Concentrating on deepening and celebrating our conversation with God was really transforming. We learned moving beyond small talk, using the name of Jesus wisely, aligning our hearts with God’s and that we are secure in God’s hands.

It was a great reminder that Christ doesn’t work according to our timetable, and He goes ahead of us in everything we do.”



“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4-7



An Incredible Journey

*Drs. Robert and Andrea Parker
PAACS Faculty
Tenwek Hospital*



Dr. Akinniyi Fadipe

Dr. Akinniyi Fadipe graduated from the Tenwek surgical residency program last December and has stayed on as faculty in the surgery department. Dr. Fadipe has an incredible gift of teaching. He has a passion for music and worship. And, we are grateful for his presence and the gifts he brings to the department.

Fadipe and his wife, Modupe, are Nigerian, and their testimony of how he came to graduate from surgical training in Kenya is nothing short of miraculous. As a medical student in Nigeria in 2014, Fadipe contracted Ebola, during the 2013-2016 outbreak in W. Africa that killed more than 11,000 people. Modupe prayed diligently for his recovery, and God healed him.

Fadipe and Modupe's story moves them from Nigeria to Cameroon to Kenya, truly spanning the continent of Africa.

Fadipe and Modupe have learned to truly trust and rely on God in ways that many of us will never be forced or have the opportunity to learn. At his graduation ceremony in January 2022, Fadipe shared his story.

WATCH DR. FADIPE'S FULL TESTIMONY

We hope that hearing Fadipe and Modupe's story is a source of joy, encouragement, and gratitude for you. Will you pray for their family as God brings them to your mind?

This article was shared with permission from the [Parkers in Kenya Blog](#).



The Fadipe family



After his recovery from Ebola, Dr. Fadipe was able to donate blood, which was used to develop the Ebola vaccine.



Mbingo's Farewell to Dr. & Mrs. James Brown

*Mark Snell, MD
PAACS General Surgery Program Director
Mbingo Baptist Hospital*

The PAACS family gathered together on Saturday, November 19th to celebrate the send off of **Dr. James Brown** and **Mrs. Carolyn Brown** after many faithful years of service at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.

Dr. and Mrs. Brown moved to Cameroon in 2008. During his tenure there, Dr. Brown formed partnerships with universities, surgeons, and hospitals to share resources and provide excellent training.

This gathering was planned by the current and former residents and their spouses. Some of those who were unable to make it to Mbingo joined us by Zoom.

It was a wonderful evening with a great meal seated at a common long table (middle picture), sharing and gifts including the collage of pictures of residents and faculty in the shape of Africa being viewed on the window (bottom picture), all led by our master of ceremonies, Dr. Sama, Assistant Program Director and former resident at Mbingo.

We are so grateful for all the Browns have done and accomplished here. May God bless their next steps and may they have a Godly impact in the lives of their 17 grandchildren (there were only two grandchildren when they came to Cameroon).



PAACS family celebrating James and Carolyn Brown



Dining together



Viewing the picture collage of residents and faculty in the shape of Africa

Thank You



GRADUATIONS

Soddo Christian Hospital

Congratulations to **Dr. Jacques Bake**, Soddo Christian Hospital's newest PAACS general surgery graduate. Dr. Bake came to Soddo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo because the DRC did not have a fully accredited five-year surgical training program. May God bless Dr. Bake and his wife and children as they return to the DRC, where he will be a leader in training surgeons and providing compassionate care in the name of Jesus.



Mbingo Baptist Hospital

Congratulations to **Dr. Chukwuemeka Gerald Nwegbu**, Mbingo Baptist Hospital's first PAACS graduate since 2020. Mbingo holds a combined graduation with the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) the last Saturday of November each year, landing on November 26th this year. Dr Rich Sharpe, who has done many short term trips to Mbingo, gave the commencement address.

Dr. Nwegbu returned to Mbingo following the program's closure in 2019 and didn't lose any time from residency as he was able to get rotations elsewhere during 2019 with the assistance of Dr. Jim Brown. He passed his FCS oral exams and will be returning here as faculty after a much needed break with his family in his home country of Nigeria. He is pictured below receiving his certificate from Program Director Dr. Mark Snell.



GRADUATIONS

Malamulo Adventist Hospital

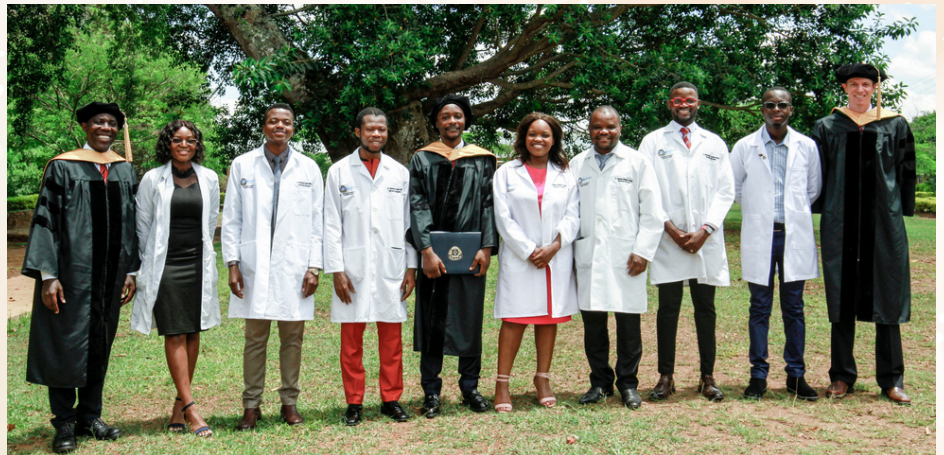
Congratulations to **Dr. Ngwanga Prosper** on his graduation from the PAACS General Surgery Program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital on December 11.

Program Director Dr. Moses Kasumba said, "We recognized the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and gave thanks for this achievement, an event that demonstrated a combination of hard work of Prosper and his family, long and short term faculty, visitors, and staff.

Dr. Prosper completed all the prescribed training requirements and we took great pleasure presenting his certificate as a confirmation of this action.

Thanks to Dr. Snell for presiding as guest of honor and Dr. Ryan for representing Loma Linda University, a major partner with Malamulo."

Dr. Prosper moved back to Mbingo Baptist Hospital following graduation to continue his service to the Lord.



Remembering Dr. Donald Meier



Donald Edward Meier died peacefully on December 16 under hospice care in Dallas, Texas with family by his side. Fulfilling his desire to provide surgical care and to teach others to provide care, Don's medical practice took him to eleven countries. His desire to treat each person as he would want to be treated and to share the good news of God's love was evident. Don volunteered with PAACS for many years.

Don was diagnosed with Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy in 2015. In 2016, he suffered a major cerebral hemorrhage. As part of his rehabilitation therapy, he began typing his life story with his one good hand. He published "[Living the 6B Life: My Story as a Global Surgeon in Africa and Beyond](#)" in 2021. All proceeds will be donated to PAACS.

Alternatively, direct memorials can be made to:

Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons, PO Box 735262, Dallas, TX 75373



Advent

& ALL TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

Advent and Lent are major seasons on the annual calendar amongst many mainline Protestant churches as well as the more liturgically-based, and less so for others. The four Sundays before Christmas comprise Advent while the forty days, excluding Sundays, before Easter comprise Lent. Christmas is celebrated on December 25th by many Christians globally, but Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January the 6th, also known as Epiphany (the revelation of Jesus as the Christ).

Many would encourage us to celebrate the birth of our Savior daily, not just once a year. I celebrate not only the season of Advent, but also the full twelve days of Christmas spanning the time between Dec 25 and Jan 6. Related to this topic, I mention two books that are important to me as one seeks to develop their own daily prayer time. A *Diary of Private Prayer* (1949) by John Baillie (1886-1960) has Morning and Evening prayers that I find helpful, encouraging, centering, and useful. The Sunday Morning entry's final paragraph states:

I pray, O God, for all human hearts that today are lifted up to Thee in earnest desire, and for every group of men and women who are met together to praise and magnify Thy name. Whatever be their mode of worship, be graciously pleased to accept their humble offices of prayer and praise, and lead them unto life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A *Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (1729) by William Law (1686-1761) enjoins us, in the spirit of Eph 6:18, to "pray on every occasion; pray always." He recommends a day with specific themes for one's prayers:

6 am: Praise and Thanksgiving;

9 am: Humility and Piety;

12 noon: Universal love; Intercession;

3 pm: Resignation and Conformity to the Will of God;

6 pm: Self Examination and Confession of the Sins of the Day; and

HS (hora somni, at the hour of sleep): Death.

Learn more:

[Advent](#) - [Lent](#) - [Twelve Days of Christmas](#) - [Epiphany](#) - [John Baillie](#) - [William Law](#)



Soddo Resident Celebrates Marriage

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

On Sunday, December 11, the PAACS program at Soddo Christian Hospital had the opportunity to celebrate the wedding of our second year general surgery resident, **Dr. Natnael Temesgen**, to one of our beloved anesthetists, **Meskerem Abraham**! It was a truly joyous occasion and we praise God not just for bringing this couple together, but for all that He will accomplish in and through their marriage!

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(Praise the Lord!)



Thank you, Dr. Lijalem Garba!

*Ted John, MD
PAACS General Surgery Program Director
Kibuye Hope Hospital*

After completing PAACS surgery training at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi, **Dr. Lijalem Garba** moved to Kibuye, Burundi with his wife Ayantu and daughter Feenaan. Dr. Garba spent the past two years at Kibuye Hope Hospital, providing excellent surgical care and education for many people and also helping to launch the new PAACS general surgery residency program. He was accepted to start a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, for which he and his family left earlier this month. The surgery department hosted a farewell luncheon, during which the staff had the opportunity to share some words of encouragement and to pray for him.



PAACS faculty and residents praying over Dr. Garba



The Garba family

Prayerfully Consider Giving a Gift to PAACS By Decemer 31st



Perhaps you're considering one final gift to PAACS in December. Thank you! Your generosity makes a huge difference in the lives of those who desperately need surgical care in the under-resourced areas of Africa.

While there are a variety of options for giving to PAACS, if you plan to claim your gift on this year's taxes, you'll need to complete your gift by December 31st. The specifics of this deadline vary according to what you plan to give.

- **Gifts of cash or checks** must be mailed in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31st. For last-minute gifts, your best option is to head to your local post office and ensure the envelope is postmarked with today's date. You can also donate online:
 - If you are located in the US, please [click here](#) to donate
 - If you are located in Canada, please [click here](#) to donate
 - If you are located outside of the US and Canada, please [click here](#) to donate
- **Gifts of non-cash assets** (such as appreciated stock, real estate, business interests, and commodities) must be transferred by December 31st. Call ahead for a smooth transfer of stock or other appreciated assets.
- **If you write a check from your IRA account**, that check must be received and processed by December 31st in order to count toward your required minimum distribution. Unlike other checks (including those sent directly from your IRA administrator) it is NOT enough that personal IRA checks are postmarked or even hand-delivered by December 31st. Please alert us when writing an IRA check so we can ensure your gift is processed immediately.
- **Gifts made into a donor-advised fund** must be transferred into the account by December 31st. You can decide later how to recommend these funds to be distributed to PAACS.

Mailing address:

PAACS
PO Box 735262
Dallas, TX 75373-5262

FEIN: 84-2569391

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

**DONATE - OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the PAACS programs in Ethiopia this month. Pray for CURE Ethiopia Hospital and Soddo Christian Hospital and the faculty, residents, and graduates.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray that all the residents and programs that began in 2022 and are beginning in 2023 will be blessed with God's favor and grace.
- Pray for PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's protection, provision, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.
- Pray for unity and solidarity for all the PAACS programs and within the PAACS organization.

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

- Junior Lebanda
- Mamy Fulbert Kpounlah
- Clarisse Girincuti
- Irankunda Sadock
- Emmanuel Ikwutah
- Aminat Fagbenro
- Louisa Nwachukwu Nneka
- Aime Mugisha
- Brad-Lot Igiraneza
- Melance Kabanyegeye

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Surgical treatment and outcome of chronic subdural hematoma: a comparative study between Ethiopia and Norway.](#)
- [Comparison of Male and Female Surgeons' Experiences With Gender Across 5 Qualitative/Quantitative Domains.](#)
- [Queen Bee Phenomenon—Repairing the Hive in Surgery.](#)
- [The Surgical Apgar Score. A Systematic Review of Its Discriminatory Performance.](#)
- [Surgical capacity, productivity and efficiency at the district level in Sub-Saharan Africa: A three-country study.](#)
- [The use of imagery in global health: an analysis of infectious disease documents and a framework to guide practice.](#)
- [Mapping access to care and identification of barriers for traumatic brain injury in a South African township.](#)
- [Oxygen administration during surgery and postoperative organ injury: observational cohort study.](#)
- [Oxygen administration during general anesthesia for surgery.](#)
- [Perioperative oxygen administration: finding the sweet spot.](#)
- [Daytime versus nighttime laparoscopic appendectomy in term of complications and clinical outcomes: A retrospective study of 1001 appendectomies.](#)
- [Assessment of infant position and timing of stylet removal to improve lumbar puncture success in neonates \(NeoCLEAR\): an open-label, 2 × 2 factorial, randomised, controlled trial.](#)
- [Into the Future of Pediatric Trauma and Critical Care Science.](#)

