



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #215
June 2022



*Participants at the First PAACS
Faculty Development Conference in Kenya*



*A New PAACS Program Is Planned to Open at
Hospital of Hope in Togo*



*Steven Curtis Chapman Performs at the
PAACS Benefit Concert in Indianapolis*

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From the Desk of the CEO



By Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family:

PAACS had its first Benefit Concert on June 18th in Zionsville, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis. What a GLORIOUS event. We had none other than five-time Grammy award winning singer/songwriter **Steven Curtis Chapman** perform. This concert was made possible because of the generosity of PAACS supporters who sponsored the event.

We had approximately 130 attendees who enjoyed a night under the stars and listened to the inspirational music of Steven Curtis Chapman. In addition, Dr. David Thompson, Dr. Keir Thelander, and I spoke to the attendees about the work and impact of PAACS. The theme of the evening was "Here Am I, Send Me." Making the evening even more exceptional, a special guest speaker, **Dr. Sam Fabiano, PAACS Graduate** from the Bongolo program in Gabon gave his testimony about the impact of PAACS on his life and practice at CEML Hospital in Angola.

God was glorified through the course of the evening, and we are grateful for all who participated.

Blessings,

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



Steven Curtis Chapman Performs at the
PAACS Benefit Concert in Zionsville



PAACS Graduate, Dr. Sam Fabiano, sharing about PAACS





FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

By Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President

During the week of June 12th-18th, PAACS and the Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP) joined to host a faculty development conference at the CORAT conference center in Nairobi, Kenya. While PAACS has always tried to take advantage of opportunities for faculty development at events where faculty was present, this was the first conference fully devoted to it. Over 30 PAACS faculty attended throughout the week.

Each morning started at 8 AM with worship and a message from Rev. Ed Searce on 2 Timothy. The day continued with four 1½ hour sessions, ending at 5:30 pm each evening. The first three days combined PAACS and CAAP attendees and small groups would consist of both family medicine physicians and surgeons. On Thursday and Friday, they separated, and PAACS faculty attended courses led by COSECSA faculty – Dr. Mathenge Nduhiu, Dr. Rich Davis (Kijabe), and Dr. Wendy Willmore (Arusha) with Train the Trainer sessions.

In attendance from PAACS administration was Dr. Keir Thelander (Executive Vice President), Dr. John Tarpley (Academic Dean), Dr. Ed Searce (Spiritual Dean), Dr. Walt Johnson (Associate Vice President for Academic Programs), and Dr. Jim Smith (Professional Development Committee Chair). Leadership from CAAP included Dr. Susan Radecky (Faculty Development Team) and Dr. Bruce Dahlman (Executive Team). Overall, the conference was very well received by attendees, and it is under consideration to be held every few years moving forward.

Here's what was said about the conference:

"I was pleasantly surprised at the level of engagement and fun in the course."

"The talk from Walt Johnson, and the talks on moral failure / burnout were extremely useful."

"Fantastic quality interactive sessions that Dr. Wendy Willmore gave."

"Brilliant structure, especially on teamwork."





PAACS ANNUAL IN-SERVICE EXAMS



*By Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

Annual General Surgery In-Service Exams

On June 3rd and 4th, PAACS General Surgery In-Service Exams were administered at eleven different PAACS sites. Thirty first-year and twenty-four second-year trainees sat the exams, the largest number ever. This junior exam is more heavily weighted towards basic science questions. The overall statistics included an average of 69% with a very respectable KR20 of 0.88.

Congratulations to second-year Mbingo resident, **Dr. Paul Shu**, who scored the highest overall. Additional congratulations to 1st-year trainee, **Dr. Kalkidan** from Soddo, who scored the greatest above passing. A curve of 0.5% was implemented resulting in forty-four trainees being successful and ten trainees who will be required to sit the remediation exam at the end of July.

The senior exam was taken by forty trainees, another record high. One question was thrown out. The average was 69.3% with an acceptable KR20 of 0.70. Congratulations to **Dr. Armia Samuel**, previously from Harpur and now of Mbingo, who scored the highest on the exam. Congratulations to **Dr. Yves Yankunze** from Tenwek Hospital who scored the highest above passing. A curve of 2.5% was implemented this year. Five trainees were not successful on the exam and will be required to sit the remediation exam.

Another successful year of exams is on the record. Congratulations to all who passed, and prayers and encouragement to those who were not able to at this time. We thank the Lord for the hard work and dedication of these ninety-four men and women who sat the exams. We also appreciate the dedication and time taken to prepare the exams by Drs. Carl Haisch and Steve Doane. An additional thanks to all who reviewed the exams for suitability and fairness.

Annual Neurosurgery Exams

The PAACS Neurosurgery exams took place on June 8th at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. Three residents sat the 200-question exam. Thanks to PAACS Neurosurgery Program Director, Dr. Will Copeland, who assembled the exam. Special thanks to Christopher Gross for his participation in preparing the question format and technical aspects.



Dr. Paul Shu



*Dr. Kalkidan Gulilat
Taddesse*



Dr. Armia Samuel



Dr. Yves Yankunze



NEED FOR SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES

*By Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

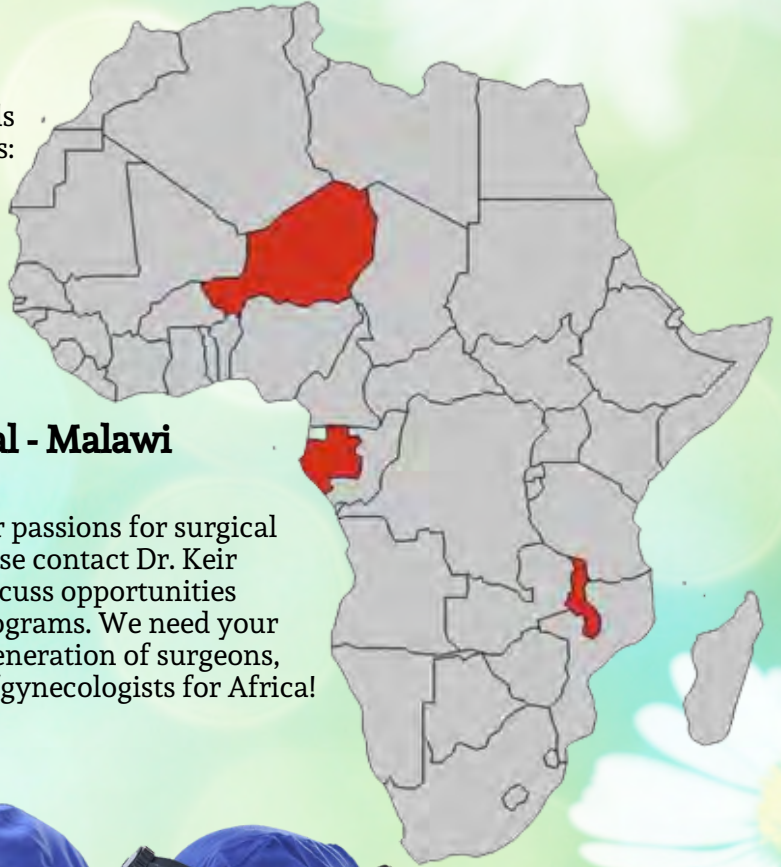
PAACS is always looking for short-term faculty to serve in our training programs. This summer we are specifically looking for willing hands and hearts in the following locations:

SIM Galmi Hospital – Niger

Bongolo Hospital – Gabon

Malamulo Adventist Hospital - Malawi

If you have a desire to combine your passions for surgical care and for sharing the gospel, please contact Dr. Keir Thelander (at info@paacs.net) to discuss opportunities available within PAACS training programs. We need your help to continue training the next generation of surgeons, anesthesiologists, and obstetricians/gynecologists for Africa!



[LEARN MORE](#)





PAACS

Reaches into Togo

At the last PAACS Board of Directors meeting in April 2022, a new PAACS General Surgery program at the Hospital of Hope (HoH) in Togo was approved to start in 2023. This will extend the reach of PAACS into a tenth country in Africa since it started in Gabon in 1996. The start of this program has been a subject of much prayer and generosity for several years, with Dr. Bob Cropsey leading the way.

Hospital of Hope, which is a part of ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism), is located in the northern region of Togo on the north side of the city of Mango with a population of about 5,000. It opened in March 2015. The hospital is a 66-bed major medical, surgical, and acute care facility and regional trauma center for the northern half of Togo and adjoining countries. The bulk of the patients are Togolese, but many come from neighboring Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Benin. Their sister hospital, Hôpital Baptiste Biblique, located on the southwest side of Togo, hopes to also house a PAACS training program in the future.

The staff is composed of missionary physicians and other volunteers as well as Togolese physician assistants, nurses, and support staff. The Togolese staff is made up of a mix of Christians and non-Christians. Annually, they provide care to over 2,500 medical inpatients and have approximately 1,000 surgical cases. The hospital outpatient clinic is open four days per week, and averages 100-150 patients (depending on number of providers available) per day. The outpatient clinic contains several exam rooms and a treatment room. The hospital also holds immunization and prenatal clinics. In all of their services offered, their main goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they provide compassionate healthcare in His name. Hospital of Hope has a strong chaplaincy program that is considered the cornerstone of what they do. The chaplaincy staff includes both missionaries and Togolese believers. All volunteers are encouraged to witness to patients.



Some of Hospital of Hope's future plans and needs include:

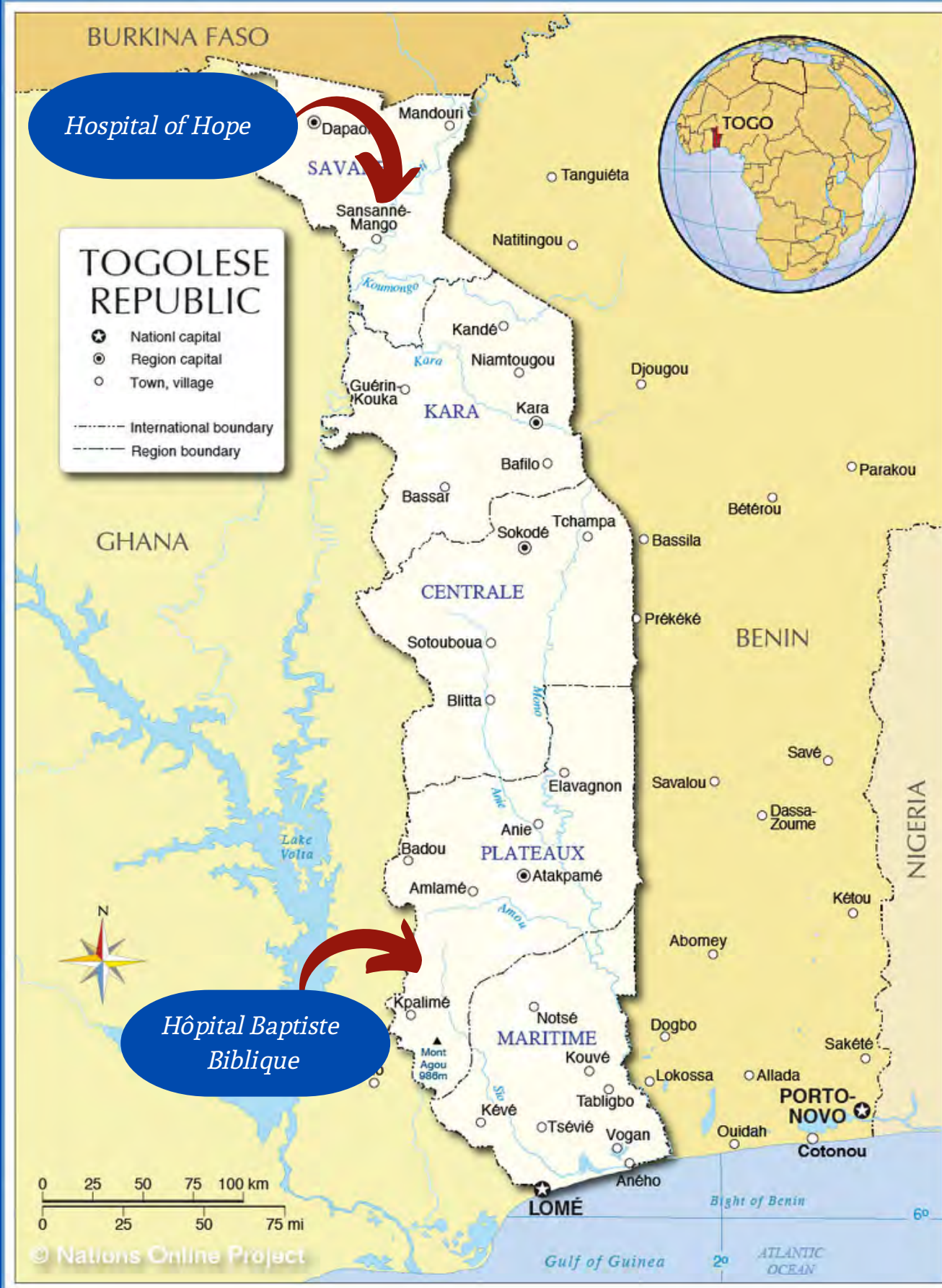
- Obstetrics, pediatrics, and neonatal service expansion
- Surgical expansion for PAACS
- Isolation facility for Lassa Fever, meningitis, etc.
- Nursing education faculty recruitment
- Chaplaincy development

Please join us in prayer that God will continue to pave the way for PAACS to train surgeons at Hospital of Hope starting next year.



PAACS *Reaches into Togo*

FUTURE PROGRAM





Impacting Surgical Education Globally

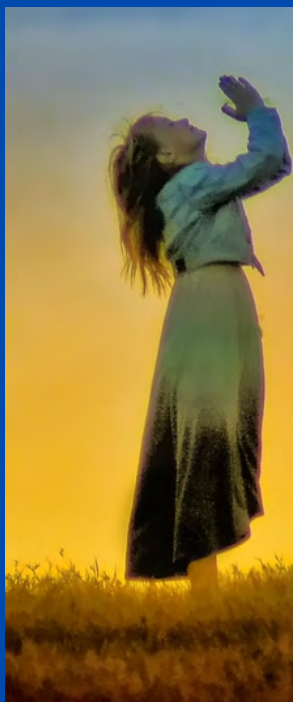
Dr. Andrea Parker, PAACS Assistant Program Director at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, has published an article about her work in global surgical education.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Meet the Anesthesia Faculty at Kijabe

PAACS Academic Dean, Dr. John Tarpley, recently paid a visit to the new PAACS Anesthesia Program at AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya.

Pictured from left to right:
Dr. Matt Kynes (Program Director)
Mary Mungai (Kijabe College of Health Sciences Faculty)
Dr. John Tarpley (Academic Dean)
Dr. Rodger Barnette (Anesthesia Council Chair)
Dr. Greg Sund (Assistant Program Director)



The PAACS Global Day of Fasting and Prayer was held on Monday, June 6, 2022, via Zoom.

Fifty-six prayer partners from around the world participated in a blessed time of praise, thanksgiving, and petition for the needs of the PAACS ministry.

The next Global Day of Fasting and Prayer will take place in October.

PREVENTING MORAL INJURY

By John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

The first PAACS Faculty Development Conference was held this month in Kenya, and Mr. Gabriel Okombo, Deputy Principal of the Kijabe College of Health Sciences, presented on “Moral Distress and Moral Injury.” He emphasized **the importance of identifying “moral distress” in individuals, nurses, physicians, surgeons, care providers of all cadres and doing something about it, providing support, so that it does not progress to “moral injury.”** As one interested in surgical oncology, I likened it to identifying *in situ* cancer before it progresses to invasive cancer.

We as surgeons knowingly “inflict harm” with a greater good in mind, regardless of the injunction “*primum non nocere*” or “first, do no harm.” In line with last month’s column sharing aphorisms, proverbs, and tarpisms, two were highlighted in the session devoted to “Staying Above Water: Dealing with Depression, Burnout, and Moral Injury.” My residents all know the phrase: “The only way not to spill water is not to carry water.” If one is to operate or perform a procedure, complications may ensue, regardless of the care, knowledge, preparation of the surgeon. “Stuff happens” whether related to the patient’s co-morbidities, their anatomy, medications they are on, or any number of reasons. Complications are devastating to the patient and to the “second victim,” the surgeon or provider who performed the procedure or elected not to recommend intervention.

Drs. H.A. Lillemoe and S.K. Geevarghese provide the following genesis and comments on moral injury:

“Moral injury was first described by Vietnam War veterans who felt their morality had been threatened by psychological trauma they had endured. This was felt to differ from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but rather an insult to their own morality. For surgeons, moral injury may occur when we observe or fail to avert an act that breaches the deeply held moral belief of putting patients first.” *Ann Surg* 274:e643-e645, 2021

René Leriche, one of The Two Lions of Lyons and a leading vascular surgeon of the 20th century (Leriche’s syndrome) provides expression for all of us:

“Every surgeon carries within himself a small cemetery, where from time to time he goes to pray – a place of bitterness and regret, where he must look for an explanation for his failures.”⁴ (*La philosophie de la chirurgie*, 1951)

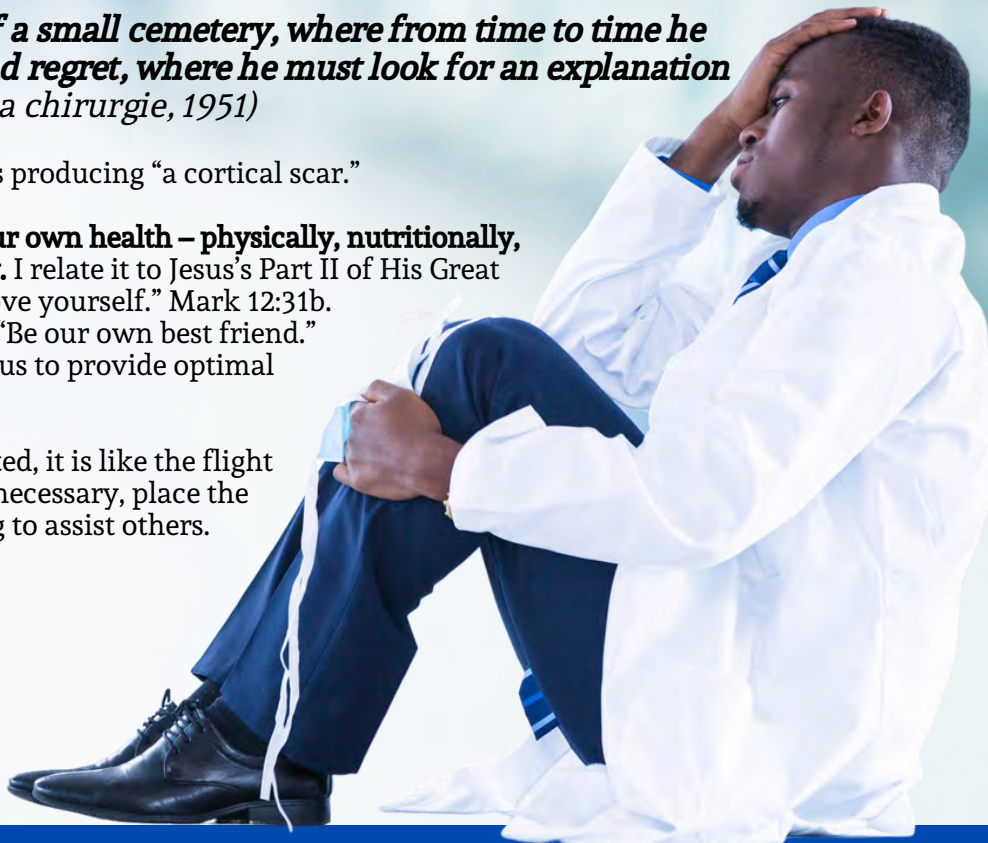
A surgical colleague describes such events as producing “a cortical scar.”

We as surgeons especially need to address our own health – physically, nutritionally, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. I relate it to Jesus’s Part II of His Great Commandment: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Mark 12:31b. I read this to mean we are to love ourselves, “Be our own best friend.” This is not selfish; it is therapeutic to enable us to provide optimal care for our patients.

As Dr. Ed Scarce, PAACS Spiritual Dean stated, it is like the flight attendant informing passengers that, when necessary, place the oxygen mask on your own face before trying to assist others.

Go well this month.

Go with God.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the future PAACS General Surgery Program at Hospital of Hope in Togo. Pray that God will continue to open doors for the gospel in Togo and pave the way for the PAACS program to open smoothly.
- Pray for the new PAACS Anesthesia Program at AIC Kijabe Hospital, for the faculty, and for the residents.
- Pray for Dr. Sherif Hanna, previous Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, as he recovers from bone marrow transplant surgery.
- Pray that God will lay the need for short-term surgeons to assist the programs on the hearts of those who are willing to respond.
- Pray for peace and stability in the PAACS countries, especially for the ongoing tribal unrest and famine in Ethiopia and the recurrent civil unrest in Cameroon.
- Pray for the continued rollout of the Saline Process throughout all the PAACS training sites.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Pray that many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- Pray for PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's grace, protection, provision, strength, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.

**Look to the LORD
and His strength;
Seek His face always.**

1 Chronicles 16:11



SURGERY UPDATES

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- **Academic mentors wield great power. We need to feel safe talking about abuses.**
- **Positioning on Endotracheal Intubation in Patients With COVID-19 and Acute Respiratory Failure. A Randomized Clinical Trial.**
- **Surgical Simulation Training for Medical Students: Strategies and Implications in Botswana.**
- **A Journey Undertaken by Families to Access General Surgical Care for their Children at Muhimbili National Hospital, Tanzania; Prospective Observational Cohort Study.**
- **Who should consume high-dose folic acid supplements before and during early pregnancy for the prevention of neural tube defects?**
- **Low back pain and associated factors among obstetrics care providers in public hospitals of Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study.**
- **Primary motivations for and experiences with paediatric minimally invasive tissue sampling (MITS) participation in Malawi: a qualitative study.**
- **Disparities in Access to Trauma Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: a Narrative Review.**
- **'Helicopter research' comes under fire at Cape Town conference. Statement presses for equity when scientists from wealthy nations do research in poorer ones.**
- **Enablers and barriers to post-discharge follow-up among women who have undergone a caesarean section: experiences from a prospective cohort in rural Rwanda.**
- **Effect of Intraoperative Handovers of Anesthesia Care on Mortality, Readmission, or Postoperative Complications Among Adults. The HandiCAP Randomized Clinical Trial. Among adults undergoing extended surgical procedures (This was a parallel-group, randomized clinical trial conducted in 12 German centers with patients enrolled between June 2019 and June 2021), there was no significant difference between handover of anesthesia care compared with no handover of care in the risk of postoperative morbidity and mortality.**
- **New guidance on initial antimicrobial treatment of sepsis.**