



# THE PAACS BULLETIN

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*Issue #220*  
*November 2022*



*PAACS Graduates Dr. Noël Ndayisenge  
and Dr. Audry Banza*



*Rachel Huth, Joanna and Keir Thelander,  
Susan Koshy, and Margaret Tarpley at GMHC*



*PAACS Resident Brad-Lot Igiraneza  
and his bride, Dr. Martine Dushime*

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# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear PAACS Family,

A.W. Tozer once said, **“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”** You will never lose by giving thanks, and there is much to be gained through a heart of gratitude. During this season of Thanksgiving, in the busyness of daily tasks and preparations for various PAACS events, I have decided to stop, reflect and to give thanks.

**Susan Koshy, JD, MPH**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

At the end of October, we held our Fall Board of Directors meeting in Chicago, IL. Appreciating the opportunity to meet in person, I noticed the faces of many **volunteers** willing to give of their time to further the PAACS ministry. I am thankful for their servant’s hearts.

PAACS then attended the Global Missions Health Conference in mid-November in Louisville, KY. The energy throughout the weekend reinforced the importance of **partnerships** in building God’s kingdom. I am thankful for the collaboration we have with many other organizations throughout the world.

Over both October and November, PAACS Travel Fellow Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno traveled across the country for both educational and fundraising events. He shared his own testimony along with stories in the lives of patients he has served in Guinea. What a beautiful reminder of the reason PAACS exists. Dr. Yaradouno is just one of 126 PAACS graduates, each with their own story. I am thankful for all PAACS **residents** and **graduates** who have stepped forward to follow God’s call on their lives to care for those in the under-resourced areas of Africa.

Making it possible for these surgeons and related specialists to be trained in Africa are the **PAACS Program and Assistant Program Directors, faculty, mission hospital staff, and short-term missionaries**. They have made sacrifices to further God’s work and kingdom. I am thankful for their talents, skills, and wisdom in mentoring and training the next generation of PAACS and forming new leaders for Africa.

Here in the U.S., I have the privilege and honor of working with a group of very talented people every day. God has blessed our **staff** with a multitude of talents, and they give sacrificially to handle the day-to-day operations of PAACS. I am thankful and grateful for their support and hard work.

Lastly, because of the ongoing prayers and generous financial support of the **faithful PAACS family**, we have been able to continue the mission of PAACS for over 26 years. None of this would be possible without **YOU!** As this ministry continues to grow, so will the number of residents that are able to be trained each year. As more surgeons and specialists are trained, the people of Africa benefit from improved access to surgery and better healthcare. Together, we pray that this will also lead to even more people hearing the Good News, bringing great joy to those who hear it.

**I pray God’s blessings pour out upon you. May your Thanksgiving season be full of joy and gratitude.**

Blessings,

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







# Loma Linda University Site Visits to ALMC, Soddo, and CURE-Ethiopia

*Keir Thelander, MD  
Executive Vice President*

The last 'every five-year cycle' site visits took place in 2016. After a Covid delay over the last few years, Loma Linda University (LLU), as an accrediting body for PAACS training sites, was able to restart these accreditation site visits from October 30 – November 6, 2022. An LLU team under the leadership of Dr. Mark Reeves with Dr. Martin Rosenthal and Dr. Jana Davis, evaluated Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC), Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH), and CURE-Ethiopia. Fortunately, the international travel was uneventful and the team, including PAACS Executive Vice President Keir Thelander, arrived at ALMC October 31.

As is the routine of these visits, Tuesday, November 1, began with a meeting with administration, surgical leadership, and the team, followed by a tour of the hospital, wrapping up before lunch with a discussion with the residents. After lunch, a meeting with the Program Director and Assistant Program Director team added to the information provided about the program and its function. Overall, the program has grown much since the last visit and seems to be on a positive trajectory.



*Drs. Mark Reeves, David Jeffcoach, and Tim Love  
at Soddo Christian Hospital*

The next morning included a meeting with ALMC orthopaedic surgeons and the Director of Clinical Services, PAACS Program Director Dr. Frank Madinda, exploring the possibility of commencing a PAACS orthopaedic training program at ALMC. The team then headed to the airport to travel to Addis where the night was spent before visiting CURE-Ethiopia the next morning. One of the PAACS/SCH/CURE trainees in orthopaedics was on rotation at CURE, allowing the team the chance to meet with Dr. Nigusu as well as tour the facility with Program Director Dr. Tim Nunn. The facility has added buildings and has a large expansion planned that will better care for disabled children while seeking to restore them physically.

The afternoon of November 3rd, the team traveled to Hawassa and was received by PAACS General Surgery Program Director Dr. Tim Love, who drove the team through a drizzle, weaving through people and animal carts, finally arriving after dark at Soddo Christian Hospital. This program was discovered to have grown significantly and is on much more stable footing than the last site visit. The administration is obviously supportive of both the General Surgery and Orthopaedic training programs. Having added more housing for trainees as well as almost completing a large OR expansion, this program has had similar improvements in the academic strength of the program. Dr. Tim Love shares the program leadership with Chief of Surgery and previous PAACS Program Director Dr. David Jeffcoach and PAACS Graduate Dr. Gezahegn Tilahun.

On departure, we made a brief visit to the government hospital in Hawassa, meeting with the Chief of Surgery and quickly touring the facility before flying back to Addis and then on to the United States. The visits went well with overall positive initial reports about all three programs (General Surgery ALMC and Soddo and Orthopaedics at Soddo/CURE) from the LLU team. **Please pray for continued growth and development of these programs to maximize training and discipleship.**

# Litein Program Update

Bruce MacFadyen, MD  
PAACS Leadership

We have seen statistics showing PAACS growth: additional countries, hospitals, new subspecialties, new faculty and residents. In the past two to three years, something new has been happening which has not occurred before in PAACS. Three Kenyan surgeons, who were trained at Tenwek, initiated a brand new surgical training program at AIC Litein Hospital in Kenya. Dr. Philip Blasto is the Program Director, and additional surgery faculty include Dr. John Kanyi and Dr. Valentine Mbithi. There are four general surgery residents with the possibility of adding two additional residents in January, 2023.



*Residents: Drs. Ngili, Ooko, Opondo, and Talaam*

The all-national faculty are making a great impact in their region by carrying out the PAACS Mission “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.” The PAACS team is blessed to now include new AIC Litein Hospital faculty, residents, and administration and hopes that others will be inspired to follow their example as God leads.



*Drs. Ooko and Talaam, mother and child/patient, Faith (Clinical Intern), and Dr. Blasto*



*Drs. Thelander, Blasto, Scarce, and Terer (Hospital CEO)*

Prayer requests from Dr. Blasto:

1. That they will have a great medical and spiritual impact in their community
2. Housing for the two new residents coming in January 2023
3. Dr. Valentine as she returns from maternity leave
4. More clinic and theater space for patient management
5. More time to minister, pray, and share God’s love with patients
6. The faculty and the residents and their families as they carry out the demands of the medical care and the training program





# SIM Galmi Celebrates General Surgery Program Graduation

*Dr. Katherine  
PAACS General Surgery Program Director  
SIM Galmi Hospital*



*Dr. Noël Ndayisenge (Burundi)  
and Dr. Audry Banza (DRC)*



*SIM Galmi PAACS residents  
and their families*

On November 5, the SIM Galmi PAACS program held a graduation ceremony for **Dr. Audry Banza** and **Dr. Noël Ndayisenge**. This marks a total of eight graduates since the program was started 10 years ago by Dr. Joe Starke.

The event was marked by speeches from our first graduate and now faculty Dr. Yves Mpongo, Hospital Director Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi, and Samaritan’s Purse post-resident faculty Dr. Drew Avery. Dr. Sanoussi gave the key note message on the importance of seeking Godly wisdom found in Proverbs 24:13-14. The graduates were thanked for their example of servant leadership, hard work, and willingness to learn. The graduates and their wives were prayed over by our hospital leadership, faculty, and fellow residents.

Please pray for Dr. Audry Banza and his wife, Dr. Gloria Kalong. We ask that God would guide their next steps as they continue to serve the Lord.

Please also pray for Dr. Noël Ndayisenge, his wife Edissa, and their two sons. We ask that God would guide their next steps as they also continue to serve the Lord.



*Congratulations, Graduates!*



*Dr. Noël Ndayisenge and wife, Edissa  
and Dr. Audry Banza and wife, Gloria*





# Bongolo General Surgery Graduation

Zachary O'Connor, MD  
 PAACS General Surgery Program Director  
 Bongolo Hospital

**Dr. Solomon Machedmedze** of Zimbabwe received his diploma in General Surgery on September 24th during a graduation ceremony held at Bongolo Church in Gabon.

Hospital, local government, and church leadership were in attendance. The topic of Program Director Dr. Zachary O'Connor's speech was Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house."

Dr. Machedmedze received his medical degree from the University of Algiers in Algeria. He is a member of COSECSA and is preparing to take his oral fellowship exam. During his graduation speech, he thanked many people including staff, resident colleagues, faculty, visiting faculty, PAACS-central, and most importantly, his mom.

Please pray that the Lord would continue to open doors for Dr. Machedmedze and that he would be a light for Christ and serve Him with excellence and joy.



*Dr. Machedmedze receiving his diploma from Program Director Dr. O'Connor*

# Mbingo Baptist Hospital Spiritual Retreat

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

Mbingo held their annual Spiritual Retreat November 11-12. Reverend George Minang returned this year and the timely topic was "Entering God's Rest," drawing mostly from Hebrews, Genesis and Mark. Do you set aside time for your personal rest?



Each year, Mbingo joins with Christian Internal Medicine Specialization and the program is two full days with half of the participants attending on Friday and half attending on Saturday.

I couldn't resist the picture (left) as one of our gardeners was "watching over" the young child. Who is watching whom? It was quite effective though, as this child who is usually quite talkative was quiet as a mouse while watching over the gardener.



# Travel Fellowship Update: Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno

Deborah Pedziwol  
PAACS Director of Partnership Development

PAACS welcomed its first Graduate Travel Fellow to the U.S. this fall. The Alumni Committee selected Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno, a 2010 Bongolo Hospital surgical training program graduate, as the first recipient of the newly organized travel fellowship. As a PAACS graduate surgeon, Dr. Yaradouno returned to his home country of Guinea, where he has served a population of over 300,000 for the last twelve years at Hope Clinic. He remains the only trained surgeon for this hospital, region, and receives surgical referrals from neighboring countries.

The PAACS Graduate Travel Fellowship was a combination of medical education and fundraising opportunities. **From mid-October through mid-November, Dr. Yaradouno visited five states, seven cities, four healthcare systems (hospitals/universities), the PAACS Fall Board of Directors Meeting, and the Global Missions Health Conference.**

We would like to thank hosts Dr. Ken Rutledge, Dr. Jana Davis, Dr. Kevin El-Hayek, Dr. Donna Spratt, Dr. Kelly Agnew, and Dr. Barry Inabnet for providing incredible observation and learning opportunities in their respective healthcare systems. We would also like to thank fundraising partners Dr. Ken Rutledge, Dr. Kevin El-Hayek, Pastor Jonathan Schaffer (Grace Church), Drs. Donna Spratt and Kelly Agnew, Pastor Bryce Goff (ACAC), and Dr. Barry Inabnet for providing opportunities in their communities to connect their personal networks to the mission of PAACS.

Dr. Yaradouno's testimony will continue to bless and inspire those who had the opportunity to meet him. Let's continue to lift God's servant for Guinea in prayer!







# THE GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE: REFLECTIONS, REMINDERS, CHALLENGES

*John Tarpley, MD  
Academic Dean*

For over two decades starting in 1996, the Southeast Christian Church's Blankenbaker Campus in Louisville, Kentucky, has hosted a Missions Conference each November. This year's gathering was my third. Last year, I was on a panel with PAACS colleague Jim Smith and others. This year, I attended mostly to be available to meet and talk with potential PAACS faculty and volunteers.

PAACS had a significant presence including Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno, a PAACS graduate serving in Guinea. Several of us were always available at the PAACS booth to inform attendees about PAACS, our mission, our current and future endeavors. I attended informative breakout sessions and other presentations when not at the PAACS booth.



*Drs. John Tarpley, Jean Faya Yaradouno, and Keir Thelander*

Dr. Carol Spears, former Tenwek General Surgery Program Director, now in the Middle East, delivered the Plenary #3 address entitled: "God of the Desert: Finding Hope and Beauty in Our Trials."



*Dr. Carol Spears delivering Plenary Address*

Dr. Jim Smith led a breakout session on "Transitioning from Expatriate to National Leadership: Past, Present, and Future."

PAACS Board Member Dr. Rebekah Naylor shared twice on "Women on Mission."

Dr. Keir Thelander hosted a PAACS dinner / update session.

Burton Lee, affiliated with AIC Kijabe and now at the NIH, presented on clinical ethics, evidence-based medicine, and supporting global critical care in low-middle-income countries through medical education.

Dr. Mark Topazian, a gastroenterologist based in Addis Ababa with SIM and also on faculty at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, spoke on "Spirit-

uality and Health." For a decade, Mark has worked with Tenwek Program Director Dr. Michael Mwachiro on esophageal cancer research and is a major player as we seek to launch a Surgical Endoscopy fellowship at Tenwek and with COSECSA. Using stories, Mark shared of three missionaries who made significant contributions to medical knowledge and progress in a very interactive address entitled: "Biomedical Research and Faith-Based Healthcare." Some notes from Dr. Topazian's presentation on research follow.

- Science relates to discovering new knowledge while medicine addresses the care of patients.
- Denis Burkitt, born in 1911, went to Uganda in 1946 with the British Colonial Service. He kept good records and was curious. In 1957, noting two children with jaw tumors which he originally labeled "sarcoma," he asked why. He ploughed through records, noting where the children lived, the altitude of their villages and...

*(continued on next page)*



# THE GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE: REFLECTIONS, REMINDERS, CHALLENGES (CONTINUED)

*John Tarpley, MD  
Academic Dean*

discovered and described a “lymphoma belt.” In 1961, he met Michael Epstein at a conference and provided tissue for Epstein and his colleague Barr to study. Subsequently, the Epstein-Barr virus and its relation to Burkitt’s lymphoma was described.

- Dr. Tom Thatcher was a missionary family medicine / general practitioner in northern Nigeria working at a cottage hospital in community health evangelism. He subsequently launched the Family Medicine residency program at the Jos University Teaching Hospital and taught his residents research methods and statistics. They saw many children with genu valgum, genu varum, and “windswept deformity” who carried the diagnosis of rickets. But rickets traditionally was felt secondary to a deficiency of vitamin D. These children spent much of the time in the sun, the boys shirtless. They were exposed to abundant sunshine. He was curious. He took blood samples for his colleague Phil Fisher who ran Vitamin D levels on the specimens and noted the levels were in the normal range. However, digging deeper, they noted that the calcium levels were below normal. The New England Journal of Medicine published this major discovery related to nutrition and endocrinology in 1999.
- Debbie Coats, a family nurse practitioner in rural Cambodia, worked in a village clinic with limited resources and no electric grid. She noted tachypnea in infants who often subsequently died. She was curious and talked with the mothers in what was a “verbal autopsy.” As she encountered more children with dyspnea and having nothing but “a stethoscope and a brain,” she discovered that the symptomatic children were thiamine (vitamin B1) deficient and had beriberi. In time, storing blood samples in a solar-powered refrigerator and utilizing a portable ultrasound for cardiac echo evaluation, she learned these children had congestive heart failure. In time, with support from the Gates Foundation funding, a treatment regimen was discovered to reverse and prevent these heretofore unnecessary deaths.

As Dr. Steve Bickler, a University of California San Diego pediatric surgeon who worked in Gambia and now in Mozambique, encourages: ABCD = Always Be Collecting Data. Ask “Why?” Keep good records. Build a team and include a research coordinator. The “research culture” differs from the “clinical culture.” Research teams are flat and non-hierarchical. Practice research ethics. Obtain consent for studies from your local Ethics Committee or Institutional Research Board. Meet regularly. In clinical care, patients come to us physicians for help; in research, we go to the patients to ask them for help.



*PAACS Booth at GMHC*



*Rachel Huth, Joanna & Keir Thelander,  
Susan Koshy, and Margaret Tarpley*

# MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PAACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **Rebekah Kim, MD, Member-at-Large (General Surgery)**

Dr. Kim is a Colorectal Surgeon in Fairfax, Virginia, with Fairfax Colon and Rectal Surgery.

*"PAACS is an impactful organization and I am privileged to currently serve as chair of the PAACS Spiritual Development Committee. I look forward to further developing the spiritual emphasis in PAACS for the residents that will help them during residency and when they graduate and serve as surgeons in Africa."*



## **Dieudonne Lemfuka, MD, Graduate Representative**

Dr. Lemfuka is a General Surgeon and SIM Missionary at ELWA Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

*"I consider this role as a way to advocate and support the work of PAACS graduates where they serve, to increase the collaboration of the PAACS Board with other individuals or organizations, and to help support the work of PAACS Board and its committees in fulfilling their goals."*



## **King-David Terna Yawe, MD, African Representative**

Dr. Yawe is a Professor of Surgery at the College of Health Sciences in Abuja. He is also the Honorary Consultant General, Breast, and Endocrine Surgeon with the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital in Nigeria.

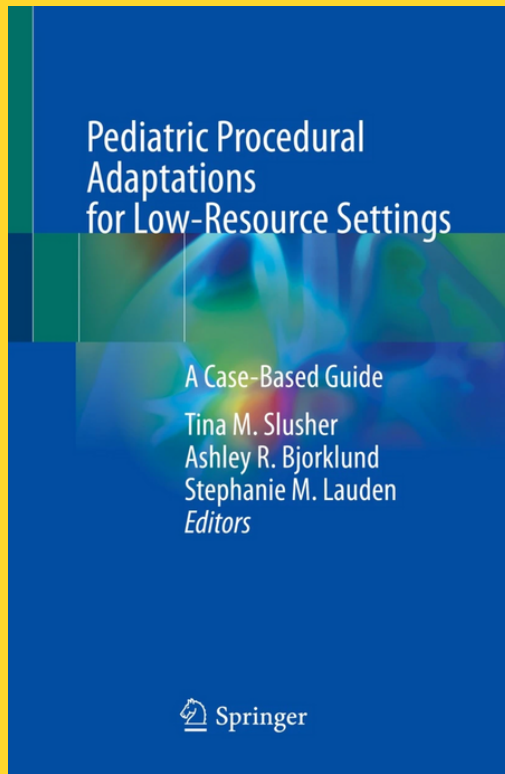
*"Over the years since I received Christ Jesus as my Lord, introducing Him to others has become my way of life. As a Christian surgeon and teacher, I also share the vision and mission of PAACS not only to share Christ with others, but to train Christian surgeons who will deliver a holistic attitude to health as body, soul, and spirit. I am further attracted to contribute in the training of surgeons in Africa and most especially my subregion of West Africa based on my knowledge of the dearth of such manpower having served as President of the West African College of Surgeons."*

[See the full Board of Directors](#)





## Harpur Leadership Published in New Book



Two leaders of the PAACS General Surgery Program at Harpur Memorial Hospital worked together to co-author a chapter in a recently published book.

Assistant Program Director Dr. Shady Fayik and Program Director Dr. Paul Lim were co-authors (2nd and 3rd, respectively) on a chapter titled **"Wound Vacuum-Assisted Closure Therapy in a Low-Resource Setting"** in the newly published book: *Pediatric Procedural Adaptations for Low-Resource Settings*. The book was published online in October and is now available in print as well.

[READ MORE](#)

## Galmi Resident Celebrates Marriage



Congratulations to PAACS Resident Brad-Lot Igiraneza on his recent marriage to Dr. Martine Dushime!

*"We got married on August 13, 2022 at the Evangelical Friends Church of Kamenge in Burundi. We are thankful as God created a way to meet each other and now live together. Pray for us as we wish to serve Him wherever He will want us to be."*

Dr. Igiraneza is a PAACS General Surgery Resident at SIM Galmi Hospital in Niger.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the residents as they prepare for FCS Oral Exams. They will be held in person at Windhoek in Namibia on December 5th and 6th.
- 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 countries with PAACS programs, 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.

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

- Matiko Bethleen Waisiko
- Mehret Enaro
- Muse Frenah Anito
- Stephen Katia Kitheka
- Dimingo Gomez
- Catherine Jackson-Cole
- Asaph Elvam
- Abraham Camara
- Armah Toko Wilson
- Noble Tinashe Kufa

# ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Full-face motorcycle helmets to reduce injury and death: A systematic review, meta-analysis, and practice management guideline from the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.](#)
- [Comment: Changing gloves and switching instruments to decrease surgical site infection in abdominal surgery.](#)
- [Barriers in access to oncology drugs — a global crisis.](#)
- [Efficacy of Single Wound Infiltration With Bupivacaine and Adrenaline During Cesarean Delivery for Reduction of Postoperative Pain. A Randomized Clinical Trial.](#)
- [Comprehensive Policy Recommendations for the Management of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Low-and Middle-income Countries.](#)
- [The costs of complications after emergency gastrointestinal surgery in Kenya.](#)
- [In-Hospital Mortality Following Traumatic Injury in South Africa.](#)
- [Establishing neurosurgery in Malawi – the story of a fruitful collaboration.](#)
- [The Surgical Suite—A Field Laboratory for Sustainability.](#)
- [One century to parity: The need for increased gender equality in academic surgery.](#)
- [Enhancing surgical education for resource-limited settings: open appendectomy cognitive task analysis.](#)
- [A 6-year retrospective clinical review of iatrogenic ureteric injuries repaired in a resource-deprived setting.](#)
- [Postoperative outcomes associated with surgical care for women in Africa: an international risk-adjusted analysis of prospective observational cohorts.](#)
- [Addressing Burnout in Surgery—Where Did the Yabba Dabba Doo Go?](#)
- [Elective surgery system strengthening: development, measurement, and validation of the surgical preparedness index across 1632 hospitals in 119 countries.](#)

