



# The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 246 • January 2025



**WELCOME NEW PAACS RESIDENTS!**

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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,

Stepping into the new year, I am thankful for a great 2024. Our mission continues to grow, guided by God's hand and supported by your unwavering commitment.

This January, we welcome our newest cohort of residents into the PAACS family. These talented individuals are beginning their journey with us, ready to become the next generation of Christian leaders in surgery and related specialties. We also began a new general surgery program at AIC Kapsowar in Kenya, and the Ob/Gyn program at AIC Kijabe is now a PAACS program. Finally, our most recent graduates are now preparing to step out into their own surgical and specialty ministries, equipped and eager to serve communities across Africa.

I am also pleased to report that we met our financial goals in the month of December, keeping us on track to fulfill our objectives for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This is a testament to the generosity of our supporters and the grace of God to the mission of our ministry.

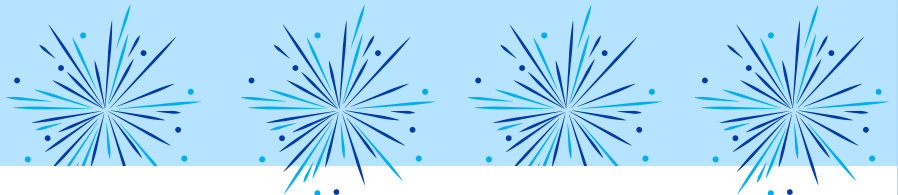
This month I had the honor to travel to Egypt and attend the PAACS graduation ceremony at Harpur, celebrating two of our newest surgeons (Drs. Samy Joseph and Mena Rasmy Armanyous Luka). Prior to arriving in Egypt, I was able to visit the United Kingdom to meet with supporters, medical and mission organizations, and foundations that share our vision. These types of meetings are important as we seek to expand our partnerships and enhance our programs.

Next month, in preparation for their first year with PAACS, our new residents will attend the Junior Bootcamp Conference in Kenya. These lectures and workshops are an introduction to their surgical and spiritual development and integration into the PAACS family. Please pray for our team as they diligently prepare for the conference, and for safe travels and a productive time for all attendees and presenters.

In February, we look forward to celebrating 29 years in ministry. We are thankful for every prayer, every word of encouragement, and every blessing from God that has helped PAACS to reach this milestone.

Blessings,

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



Welcome New  PAACS   
PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY  
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

2025



# 2025 NEW RESIDENTS



**Loveness Rudiaeli  
Kimaro**  
Arusha - General  
Surgery



**John Fidelis Minja**  
Arusha - General  
Surgery



**Sebashoka Fred**  
BethanyKids -  
Pediatric Surgery



**Brian Musyoki  
Musau**  
BethanyKids -  
Pediatric Surgery



**Glodi Tshibuabua**  
Bongolo - General  
Surgery



**Hermenegildo  
Alberta Tchombe**  
CEML - General  
Surgery



**Vasco Kupua**  
CEML - General  
Surgery



**Prince Mongu**  
Galmi - General  
Surgery



**Maad Jal**  
Harpur - General  
Surgery



**Amani Kandokane  
Boniface**  
Kapsowar - General  
Surgery



**Michael  
Drakangba Baraka**  
Kapsowar - General  
Surgery



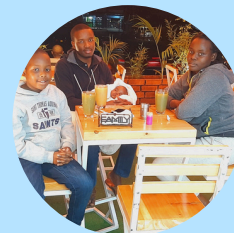
**Olga Leila**  
Kibuye - General  
Surgery



**Ineza N. Fine**  
Kibuye - General  
Surgery



**Faith Cheshari**  
Kijabe - General  
Surgery



**Davis Osano Kenari**  
Kijabe - General  
Surgery



**Teresa Nyansarora  
Nyamora**  
Kijabe - General  
Surgery



**Koome Mutea**  
Kijabe -  
Orthopaedic Sugery



**Lordvick Opondo**  
Kijabe -  
Orthopaedic Sugery



**Betty Mwangi**  
Kijabe -  
Anesthesiology



**Karin Nzau**  
Kijabe -  
Anesthesiology





**Jean de Dieu Igirubuntu**  
Kijabe - Anesthesiology



**Mekdes Tagesse Lambe**  
Kijabe - Plastic Surgery



**Constance Ndum**  
Kijabe - Plastic Surgery



**Veronica Wanjiru Kungu**  
Litein - General Surgery



**Joela Hayibor**  
Malamulo - General Surgery



**Francis Donda**  
Malamulo - General Surgery



**John Paul Efueteleh**  
Mbingo - General Surgery



**Roger Tankombo**  
Mbingo - Head and Neck Surgery



**Romavimbi Nellie Ngwira**  
Nkhoma - General Surgery



**Mallen Machika**  
Nkhoma - General Surgery



**Misgana Gallo Aylate**  
Soddo - General Surgery



**Bantayehu Jifara Negasa**  
Soddo - General Surgery



**Biruk Tafesse Meja**  
Soddo - Orthopaedic Surgery



**Jane Kiplagat Kipsamo**  
Tenwek - General Surgery



**Jean Baptiste Ndayishimiye**  
Tenwek - General Surgery



**Jean Iradukunda**  
Tenwek - Orthopaedic Surgery



**Gideon Kurgat**  
Tenwek - Orthopaedic Surgery



**Charity Wakini Waweru**  
Tenwek - Ob/Gyn



**JB Gusa**  
Tenwek - Cardiothoracic Surgery



**Sama Akanyun**  
Tenwek - Cardiothoracic Surgery

**CURE - Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery**

- Peter Mukisa
- Yohannis Nigusu

**HVMM - General Surgery**

- Lalasoa Randrianjohany
- Desiré Razafindrasara
- Benjamin Amani Unamosi

**HOH - General Surgery**

- Nyaloung Franck
- Jose Drafor

**Kijabe - Ob/Gyn**

- Brenda Nyawira Mukunya
- Elsie Wanjiku Kamau
- Joshua Muhondwa
- Lynette Kimani

## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW BEGINNINGS IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY

*Ken Muma, MD*

*Program Director, Pediatric Surgery, Bethany Kids*



The Bethany Kids at Kijabe Pediatric Surgical program continues to grow in leaps and bounds. Currently, the program has nine trainees, the highest number since the program began in 2009. We are thrilled to celebrate the addition of two pediatric surgeons to serve in the region. These are Dr. Bethleen and Dr. Dimingo, who recently completed rigorous training and passed their exit exams. As they enter their new roles as fully qualified pediatric surgeons, we celebrate their unwavering commitment to excellence and compassionate care.

In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates, we are delighted to welcome two new team members, Drs. Brian Musau and Isaac Wekesa, who have successfully passed their MCS exams. Their addition to the Bethany Kids Pediatric Surgery Fellowship team signifies a bright future for surgical care in the region. With their passion and determination, they are poised to make meaningful contributions to the well-being of children and families in need. The residents and faculty recently had a welcoming breakfast. We are also excited to welcome Dr. Sebashoka, who has just embarked on his journey in MCS. Starting this demanding but rewarding path marks the beginning of a transformative experience that will shape him into a skilled and compassionate surgeon.

Lastly, this past year was a year of many blessings and victories in research. At the 2024 American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) scientific congress, Dr. Muse scooped the Judah Folkman award for his work on central line infections among children. Dr. Bethleen scooped the best presentation award in the 2024 Annual Kenya Association of Paediatric Surgeons (KAPS) scientific conference for her work in neonatal sepsis.



*Dr. Dimingo and family during his farewell party.*



*Drs. Dimingo, Bethleen and faculty during the COSECSA graduation ceremony at Harare, Zimbabwe.*



*Dr. Bethleen beaming with a smile after winning the coveted KAPS Best Presenter award 2024.*



*Dr. Muse and Bethany Kids staff and surgeons in the APSA 2024 scientific congress where he won the Judah Folkman award.*



*Welcoming breakfast attended by faculty and residents for Dr. Brian Musau and Dr. Isaac Wekesa who now join the FCS team.*



## SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

*Tim Nunn, MD, Program Director, Orthopaedic Surgery*

The graduation ceremony of Dr. Yohannis Nigusu, Dr. Abenezer Iyasu, and Dr. Ayenew Gaye was a hugely memorable occasion as well as being a landmark event for the Orthopaedic residency. This was the first time the Orthopaedic program had 2 graduates as Dr. Abenezer had taken a year off program to coordinate missions and church planting in South Omo, and returned to the residency training in his 4th year.

Faculty, staff, family, friends, and residents (past and current) gathered for a service of commissioning. Dr. Tim Love, Dr. Gezahegn Tilahun, Dr. Temesgen Zelalem, Dr. Nate Ross, and the graduates contributed to the service. Dr. Duane Anderson gave the address on his reflections on biblical priorities in our walk with the Lord, our spouses and work (in that respective order). It was a strong and timely reminder of our calling as Christian servants.

After commissioning, a time of sharing memories and gifts was performed at a local hotel. All the graduates thanked their respective family and friends. Dr. Ayenew will be moving to Kenya to work in a rural mission hospital, Dr. Abenezer will be working and building the faculty at Soddo Christian hospital and Dr. Yohannis will be taking up a Pediatric Orthopedic and Spine Fellowship at CURE in Ethiopia.



*Our graduates from left to right, Dr. Yohannis, Dr. Ayenew and Dr. Abenezer.*

Please join with us in praying for smooth transitions for these young graduates into consultant positions and for them to see the Lord at work in their lives.

## ARUSHA LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTRE – 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

*Keir Thelander, MD, Executive Vice President*

On December 14th ALMC celebrated the graduation of Dr. Faraja Magwesela in concert with their 10th anniversary of PAACS General Surgery training. The occasion honored Dr. Faraja's five years of intense training with words of encouragement, admiration, and challenge, from PAACS EVP, Keir Thelander, PAACS Program Director, Dr. Frank Madinda, as well as local health officials including a representative from COSECSA. Pray with us for Dr. Faraja as he seeks to honor the Lord in his work and life.





## SIM GALMI HOSPITAL GRADUATION

*K. Shafer, MD, Program Director*

On November 9, 2024, SIM Galmi Hospital PAACS General Surgery Residency Program had our graduation exercises for Dr. Clarisse Girincuti (from Burundi) and Dr. Emmanuel Ikwutah (from Nigeria). We are excited that Dr. Clarisse Girincuti is our first female graduate and mother in our program and paved the way for more female graduates soon to come. Dr. Emmanuel Ikwutah is our second graduate from Nigeria. Drs. Girincuti and Ikwutah both were accepted into the SIM-PAACS African Surgeons to Under-served Communities and are planning to serve in Togo and Angola. Please continue to pray for them and their families as they transition to these new places and continue to serve the Lord.



# WELCOMING AND INTRODUCING DR. KATHRYN CHU, PAACS RESEARCH DIRECTOR

*John Tarpley, MD  
Acting Academic Dean*



In last month's Academic Dean Paragraph entitled "Why Research? Part ii," I briefly mentioned Dr. Kathryn (Kat) Chu, a colorectal surgeon and Director, Centre for Global Surgery and Professor of Global Surgery, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Subsequently, Dr. Chu accepted a part-time position with PAACS as Director of Research starting Dec 1, 2024. I have known of her for a decade related to her work with PAACS member, Robert Riviello in Kigali, Rwanda, at the University Teaching Hospital, Kigali. I first met Dr. Chu at the Pan African Association of Surgeons (PAAS) Commission 2017: "Global Surgery Implementation in Africa" at African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

We became immediate friends and colleagues. She invited Maggie Tarpley and me to participate in "How to Survive My MMed" and present our ideas on research to their surgical trainees at the University of Cape Town (UCT). She spoke at the PAACS Conference in Chicago in October 2024 where she met many in the PAACS community. She also served as an examiner at the 2024 COSECSA Exams and attended the annual meeting where she interacted with PAACS faculty and final year residents and fellows.

Dr. Chu's response, to "Why PAACS Research?" was: "Improve patient care in Africa; Improve surgical training; Strengthen the relationship between PAACS hospitals; and Be a leader in COSECSA."



**Welcome to PAACS,  
Dr. Kat Chu**

I could write multiple pages but will restrain myself. She is a Hoosier, born and raised in Indiana. Her academic trek led her to California: Stanford (BA in Human Biology with Honors), then medical school and surgical residency at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). A Fullbright Scholar at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, she earned an MSc in public health in developing countries. Her fellowship in colon and rectal surgery was at the Lahey Clinic. She was on faculty at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore 2007-2014. Her first publication was in 1992; currently she has over 140 publications in peer-reviewed journals and multiple book chapters.

Dr. Chu has resided in Cape Town, South Africa since 2015. Initially she was on faculty at the University of Cape Town but was subsequently recruited to Stellenbosch University in 2019 to set up and direct the Centre for Global Surgery. She has supplementary appointments at UCT, the University of Botswana, and the University of Birmingham, UK. She has been affiliated with Medecins San Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) since 2007, serving in major leadership roles.

While working with Mennonite missionaries in her 20s, Kat had a life-changing experience. She may well share about her Christian walk in a future PAACS Bulletin. While in London earning her master's degree she met fellow student Greg, a big-animal veterinarian from South Africa's Western Cape. They wed, have middle-school-aged twins, and reside in Cape Town.



As PAACS seeks to address its strategic plan regarding research, the need for support for our faculty, program directors and trainees was evident. Dr. Chu was not recruited to do research or search for grants but to equip, enable, motivate, and catalyze our faculty and trainees in obtaining lifelong skills to better interpret the literature, enhance their critical analysis skills, address challenges encountered in clinical practice, and contribute relevant information to improve patient care and access. As a multi-institutional and integrated educational organization in a dozen countries, PAACS is well-placed to ask pertinent questions and make meaningful contributions to our sub-region.

Jesus' job description was to teach, preach, and heal (Matt 4:23 and 9:35) and "to make God known" (John 1:18). We in PAACS see that as our *raison d'être*, our reason or justification for existence.



## PAACS SITE VISIT TO MUKINGE MISSION HOSPITAL IN ZAMBIA

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



After the COSECSA meeting early December 2024, in Harare, PAACS EVP, Keir Thelander, along with Drs. Jason Fader and Tim Love, made a site visit to Mukinge Mission Hospital, Kasempa, Zambia, to assess the hospital's readiness to become a PAACS training site in General Surgery. Dr. Sean Reimer, General Surgeon, welcomed the team as if they were dignitaries, transporting them the 10 hours to Mukinge Mission Hospital. The beautiful campus is located in the North-western province, having been founded in July 1953, now developed into a level two status (General Hospital) in Zambia. Being overseen by the Evangelical Church in Zambia and strongly collaborated with SIM, Mukinge Mission Hospital has a strong spiritual ministry, holding to their vision "To be a nationally and internationally recognized mission hospital in the provision of Spiritual and Quality Health care that is anchored on Christian principles and to create healthy communities that know and serve Christ."

Mukinge Mission Hospital is a well-established mission hospital with a robust spiritual ministry. Surgical service growth continues with the addition of Sean Reimer (General Surgeon) in July 2024, Chipu Luundu (General Surgeon) and Armia Samuel (General Surgeon, PAACS Grad) in December 2024, to the team anchored by Dr. David Friend (Generalist) for about 20 years. The hospital delivers care to the least of these, providing essentially free surgical services to the majority of patients in their now five operating rooms. PAACS' team recommendations include development of cohesion among the surgical team, in addition to certain space allocations necessary for education. We look forward to seeing the Lord at work in this growing collaboration to hopefully culminate in a robust General Surgery training program.





## JANUARY SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT HVMM

Ed Scarce, DMin  
Spiritual Dean



The continuing emphasis on spiritual formation is a high priority for PAACS. At least once a year each PAACS site plans a time of rest, refreshing and renewal for its residents and faculty. In mid-January Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly, Mandritsara (HVMM), held their spiritual retreat. Here are a few words from Dr. Ted Watts, Program Director at HVMM:

*The recent Madagascar PAACS retreat was a refreshing time of fellowship and spiritual encouragement for residents, faculty, and alumni.*

*Michael Prest, director of UFM Worldwide, spoke on the Beatitudes, helping us reflect deeply on themes like forgiveness and showing mercy. His sessions were both challenging and encouraging as we considered how to live these truths in our daily lives.*

*We were also delighted to be joined by Dr. Roseline, a PAACS alumna, whose presence was greatly appreciated by all. Alongside the teaching, we had time for fun and relaxation, including an afternoon trip to the river, a film night, and some lively games. It was a rich time of growth and connection, leaving us refreshed for the year ahead.*



## NEW BABY AT GALMI

Dr. Christian Mutunzi (second year resident) and his wife Amina are excited to announce the birth of their second daughter Mugoli Mutunzi Aelys born on December 16, 2024. They request prayer for good health for the entire family, being successful in everything they are doing, more spiritual growth, and to abide in Christ.



## L'CHAIM PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SERVICE AWARDED TO DR. GREGORY SUND

Dr. Sund, Assistant Program Director of the PAACS Anesthesiology program at AIC Kijabe, has made extraordinary contributions to anesthesia care in East Africa, transforming healthcare systems and saving countless lives in underserved regions. His remarkable work, supported by the \$500,000 L'Chaim Prize, will further expand surgical capacity and reduce maternal and pediatric mortality rates in countries such as Kenya, Burundi, Malawi, and Uganda.



[Read the full announcement here](#)

**LANDS' END** 

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# PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs, that they will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray for the newest residents who started their journey with PAACS this month, may they have a smooth transition and a successful start to their residency.
- Pray for God's guidance and strength for the newest PAACS programs, general surgery at AIC Kapsowar and Ob/Gyn at AIC Kijabe.

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

- Oscar Rotich
- Peter Waweru Maina
- Ronoh Mike
- Elisha Kiptoo
- Winnie Chebii
- Iradukunda Jean
- Gideon Kurgat
- Twahira Isaie
- Lijalem Taye Garba
- Abraham Tiruneh
- JB Gusa
- Sama Akanyun
- Lughano Kalongolera



# ARTICLES ON SURGERY, OB/GYN, AND ANESTHESIA

*Compiled by Margaret Tarpley*

- [Surgical training simulation modalities in minimally invasive surgery: How to achieve evidence-based curricula by translational research](#)
- [Predicting mortality in adults hospitalized with multiple trauma: Can the BIG score estimate risk?](#)
- [Our surgical practice with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons \(PAACS\)](#)
- [Trust issues in the operating room: What does sex have to do with it?](#)
- [Promising patient-reported outcomes after complex incisional hernia repair – But how'd they do it?](#)
- [Comprehensive retrospective analysis of the European hernia Society quality of life in patients undergoing abdominal wall reconstruction](#)
- [Using patient satisfaction to assess trainee performance: Is perception reality?](#)
- [A chance to cut is a chance to cure](#)
- [Antibiotics alone versus appendectomy for uncomplicated appendicitis in children](#)
- [Appendectomy versus antibiotics for acute uncomplicated appendicitis in children: an open-label, international, multicentre, randomised, non-inferiority trial](#)

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

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## CONNECT

