



The PAACS Bulletin

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Four PAACS Residents Have Celebrated Marriage at Soddo in 2024!

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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,

As we release this 236th edition of the PAACS bulletin on Good Friday, our hearts are filled with anticipation for Easter Sunday. Today represents Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of love, and Sunday we will celebrate His resurrection and victory. Here at PAACS, our goal is to train surgeons and related specialists who not only excel in their field but also carry this message of hope, love, and victory of Jesus Christ to each of their patients. Through their compassionate skilled care, we hope many will come to recognize Jesus's name and embrace Him as their savior.

I want to share with you what has been happening throughout PAACS this past month. We've been busy spreading the word about PAACS and the incredible ways God is working through our ministry. First, in Atlanta, PAACS' founder, Dr. David Thompson, shared inspiring insights as a main speaker at the MOVE Missions Conference. This event took place at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church from February 28 to March 1, and welcomed around 1,000 attendees.

The West African College of Surgeons (WACS) Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone from March 4-7. Drs. Keir Thelander and John Tarpley attended from PAACS. In addition, presentations were given by many who had a connection back to our ministry. Notably, Drs. Grace Kim, David Jeffcoach, and Peter Ekeh, led an ALL-SAFE laparoscopic training course prior to the meeting. It was very successful and WACS announced its adoption of ALL-SAFE as its primary laparoscopic training platform and requiring it at training sites!

On March 11, we observed our Global Day of Fasting and Prayer, one of three such days PAACS holds each year. We're thankful for the nearly 75 participants who joined us across two sessions, allowing broad global participation. Remember to save the date for our next Global Day of Fasting and Prayer on June 10th.

From March 22-24, one of our Directors of Development, Amanda Woods, participated in the annual Missions Conference at Biola University. This is the largest student-led Missions Conference globally.

This Easter, may you deeply feel Jesus's love and share it with others. I wish you a blessed Easter filled with reflection and joy.

Blessings,

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



PAACS DOES WACS 2024

John Tarpley, MD, Academic Dean

The 64th West African College of Surgeons (WACS) Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, March 4-7, 2024. WACS was founded in 1960 and includes 15 Anglophone and Francophone countries (Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Angola, Cameroon, and Congo). There are eight faculties: Anesthesia, Dental Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Radiology, and Surgery.

Presiding at this year's meeting was Professor E. R. Ezeome, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, the 32nd President. WACS leaders with PAACS connections include former WACS President Prof. King-David Yawe of Abuja, Nigeria, the current African Representative on the PAACS Board of Directors, and Prof. A. Peter Ekeh of Wright State School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, the WACS North American Representative and previous African Representative on the PAACS Board.

A strong PAACS presence was seen at this year's meeting. Presentations included:

- Dr. Grace Kim, Chair of the General Surgery Council, and Dr. David Jeffcoach, former faculty surgeon and program director at Soddo Hospital in Ethiopia--Surgical Simulation: Teaching Laparoscopy Via the ALL-SAFE System" (See article in this Bulletin).
- Abraham F. Camara, PGY V at Bongolo Hospital, Gabon--"Outcomes of Antibiotic-Only and Operative Management of Acute Appendicitis in a Low-Resource Setting".
- PAACS Alumnus Aiah Lebbie, the only paediatric surgeon in Sierra Leone--"The Use of Preconceptual Folic Acid to Prevent Neural Tube Defects".
- Dr. Peter Ekeh-- "Maintaining Collaborations – Joint Products of Collaboration-Writing and Presenting".
- Chris Reynolds, member of the ALL-SAFE Team and final year U Michigan med student--"Evidence Supporting Performance of Laparoscopic Appendectomy Through a Novel Laparoscopic Training System (All-SAFE)."

- Dr. Walt Johnson, former PAACS Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and now with Mercy Ships--
 - Co-chaired the session "NSOAP & Surgical Planning - Access to Safe & Affordable Surgical & Anaesthesia Care".
 - Presented on "National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plans – Historic Perspectives and the Dakar Declaration".
- Former PAACS Intern Chris Gross, final year U Florida, Gainesville med student --"A Multi-National General Surgery Residency Curriculum Review: Step Toward a Common Curriculum".
- Dr. C. Yoonhee Ryder, member of the ALL-SAFE Team and PGY I in ENT at the U Michigan
 - "Enhancing International Education Collaborations with 3D Printed Surgical Simulations".
 - "Enhancing Academic Partnerships Through a Collaborative Sleep Surgery Initiative: Creation of a Validated Sleep Survey".
 - "Using Artificial Intelligence to Assess Competency on a Novel Laparoscopic Training System".
- Dr. Barnabas Alayande, University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda and Harvard –
 - "Developing and Testing Non-Technical Skills for Surgery in the Nigerian Variable Resource Context".
 - "Forming Surgical Safety Implementation Interventions in Plateau State, Nigeria: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Baseline Perioperative Surgical Safety Practice".
 - "Identifying Surgery Capable Facilities in Plateau State of North-Central Nigeria: A Walkthrough Survey of 783 Health Facilities".
 - "The Pan-African Surgical Healthcare Forum: An African Consensus Propagating Continental National Surgical Healthcare Policies and Plan."





ALL-SAFE TRAINING COURSES

Grace J. Kim, MD, FACS

ALL-SAFE recently held two laparoscopic training courses led by Drs. David Jeffcoach, Peter Ekeh, and Grace Kim and in collaboration with WACS. At the first course held in Abuja, Nigeria, on October 6-7, 2023, 35 surgeons from across Nigeria and surrounding countries attended to learn basic laparoscopic skills on the ALL-SAFE training platform. At the second course on March 2-3, 2024, prior to the annual WACS meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18 surgeons and trainees practiced skills on appendectomy and ectopic pregnancy. Because of the overwhelming success of these courses and the ALL-SAFE training system, WACS President Prof Emmanuel R. Ezeome announced that WACS would now adopt ALL-SAFE as its primary laparoscopic training platform and require it at its training sites.

Congratulations, ALL-SAFE team!



COSECSA RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Joseph Mkandawire, MD

PAACS Resident, Malamulo Adventist Hospital

In order to address the scarcity of research output from sub-Saharan Africa and other low- and middle-income countries, the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) is collaborating with the Intuitive Foundation to build capacity and address this gap.

The inaugural research methodology workshop was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from March 4-8th, 2024. Successful applicants for the course were drilled in research methodology, data analysis, and methods of research dissemination. PAACS was represented by Drs. Ngam Blessing Ngoin (PGY5, Mbingo, Cameroon), Violet Otoki (PGY5, Tenwek, Kenya), Faraja M. Magwesela (PGY5, Arusha, Tanzania), Joseph Mkandawire (PGY4, Malamulo, Malawi), and Mugisha Nkoronko (2019 GS graduate). Dr. Michael Mwachiro was among the trainers.

With continued remote mentorship, attendees will develop their research projects and, ultimately, submit manuscripts for publication. The overall aim is to improve patient outcomes in the East, Central, and Southern Africa (ECSA) region.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Ngam Blessing Ngoin and Dr. Joseph Mkandawire were winners of the Global Surgery Research Grant, funded by the RCSI/COSECSA Collaboration Program.



SODDO – FOOT WASHING CEREMONY

This year, we had the joy of welcoming two new general surgery residents, Dr. Yodahe Tadesse and Dr. Habtamu Tadesse, and one new orthopedic surgery resident, Dr. Nahusenay Alemayehu. While lots of medical schools and residencies may have White Coat Ceremonies, we pretty much all call ours a foot-washing ceremony. To a packed house, Dr. Nate Ross (PAACS faculty) shared about the servant heart of Jesus and how we desire to serve as he did. A servant heart is one of the primary distinctives of our PAACS training program, one which we pray the Lord will continue to grow daily in each of us, residents and faculty alike.



GALMI – WHITE COAT CEREMONY

On January 12th, 2024, the SIM Galmi Hospital, Niger PAACS General Surgery Program officially welcomed to our hospital our two new residents in a White Coat Ceremony. Our new residents are Dr. Che Innocent Abong from Cameroon and Dr. Christian Mutunzi from DRC. The ceremony involved their attendings washing their feet as the passage in John 13 was read describing the example Jesus gave of washing His disciple's feet. We then had a time of prayer lead by our chief residents Dr. Clarisse Giruncuti and Dr. Emmanuel Ikwutah and our evangelists. Please continue to pray for our new residents along with all our residents as they study and serve in Niger.





SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH THOSE WHO ARE ILL

*Ed Scarce, ThM, DMin
Spiritual Dean*

One of the major goals of PAACS is to share the gospel with those to whom we offer medical care. We want to fulfill the exhortation found in 1 Peter 3:15.

“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

Sometimes this may appear to be a daunting task, especially in a medical environment. How do you do it with gentleness and respect for the patient is a great question. In an effort to “be prepared” PAACS is partnering with ICMDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association) in providing training that is specific to the medical profession in attending to the spiritual needs of their patients. The specific training is called Saline Process Evangelism. At the recent Basic Science Conference a number of PAACS faculty went through 12 hours instruction provided by Drs. Rachel Nunn and Mark Topazian.

The training is centered around answering five questions.

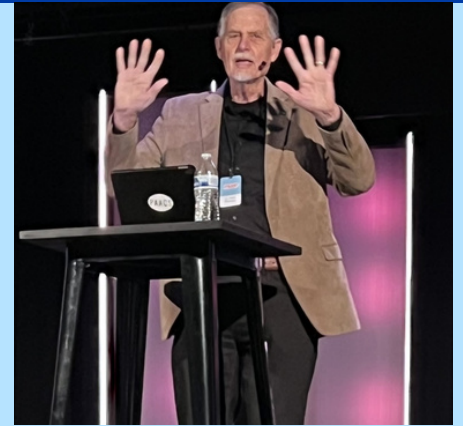
1. Why is faith important in healthcare?
2. What are opportunities and barriers to fulfilling God’s call?
3. What is my part?
4. What tools will help me cultivate, sow, and harvest?
5. Where do I go from here?

It was a wonderful time of training some of the Program Directors who will now take it back to their specific location and teach others.



MOVE MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Dr. David Thompson, PAACS Founder, was the featured speaker at several events during the MOVE Missions Conference hosted by Johnson Ferry Baptist Church on February 28-March 1, 2024. What an incredible opportunity to showcase the ministry of PAACS to an audience of approximately 1,000!



Dr. Ken Rutledge & Deborah Pedziwol were also actively engaged at the PAACS booth, cultivating new relationships and sharing gratitude with PAACS supporters who attended.



We are grateful for the opportunity to grow our footprint through our partnership with Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Special thank you to Global Mission Pastor Brian Fox, who opened the door for this opportunity to promote our ministry.

**DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE AN ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE?
PLEASE CONSIDER AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MISSIONS PASTOR/COMMITTEE AT YOUR CHURCH THIS YEAR!
CONTACT DEBORAH PEDZIWOL, KEN RUTLEDGE, OR AMANDA WOODS TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES.**

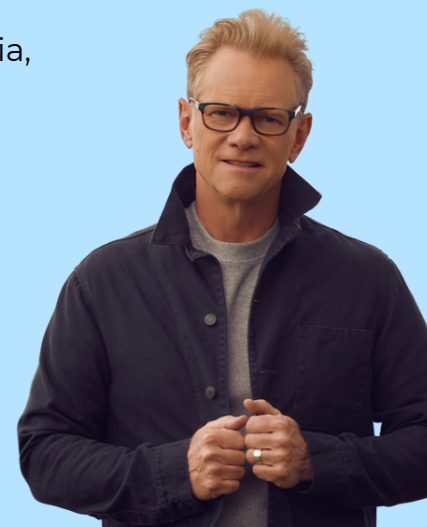


SOIREE IN THE GARDEN WITH STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

Please join us for an unforgettable evening that will change lives across Africa through surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care as well as the gospel! This will be a complimentary evening with dinner and a live performance by GRAMMY Award Winning Christian singer/songwriter, Steven Curtis Chapman. The event will be held on **Saturday, June 1, 2024, near Indianapolis** to support the work of PAACS.

Space is limited! RSVP Today! [Click Here to Register.](#)

Doors open at 5:00pm ET
Concert begins at 6:30pm ET



NEW PAACS ALUMNI TRAVEL FELLOWS SELECTED

PAACS is delighted to announce the next recipients of the Alumni Travel Fellowship. Dr. Philadelphie Dembele, hailing from Mali, has been chosen as the PAACS Alumni Travel Fellow for 2024. Dr. Lemery Nigo Samuel currently serving in Democratic Republic of the Congo was selected for 2025.

The purpose of the fellowship is three-fold: to offer a career-enhancing opportunity for graduates, to share the direct impact of PAACS through the insights of seasoned surgeons practicing in Africa, and to foster increased alumni engagement in all aspects of the PAACS organization. The fellowship will entail three weeks of travel to the United States. Typically, the itinerary spans across three cities which include both supporters of PAACS and hospitals conducive for surgical learning tailored to the graduate's areas of interest.

During their travels, the fellow will partake in various academic pursuits, including operative shadowing, participation in grand rounds lectures, attendance at conferences, and more. Additionally, they will have the honor of sharing the impact of PAACS training and discipleship with PAACS supporters at events, lending their voice to the cause. To nurture their spiritual well-being, the fellow will also have the opportunity to lodge with supportive hosts along the itinerary, further reinforcing the sense of community. Travel dates are strategically aligned with the bi-annual PAACS Conference, ensuring the graduate's participation in this significant gathering.

Nominations were welcomed for PAACS alumni with a minimum of five years of post-training experience, and the caliber of applicants was truly exceptional. The Alumni Liaison Committee evaluated each submission, reflecting our commitment to upholding the highest standards.

For those eager to contribute to the fellowship experience by offering their homes or hospitals as potential destinations for future PAACS Alumni Travel Fellows, please reach out to Dr. Steve Doane - stevedoane@gmail.com. Your generosity will be invaluable in shaping the future journeys of our distinguished alumni.

We congratulate Dr. Dembele, Dr. Nigo, and all the applicants for their unwavering dedication and professional excellence, guided by the spirit of Jesus' name!



DR. NTUNTU SWENI TAMFU

GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT HOSPITAL OF HOPE TOGO

In secondary school, Dr. Ntuntu Sweni Tamfu experienced a life-changing moment that would define his future. He had the opportunity to visit a sick classmate in the hospital. There at the bedside, Dr. Ntuntu was deeply moved by the care and empathy shown by the medical staff. It was then that he realized his purpose: to combine medical skills with the compassion of Christ, bringing not just physical healing but also spiritual comfort to those in need.

After graduating from medical school, Dr. Ntuntu chose to work in remote areas where access to healthcare was severely limited. For two years, he was confronted with the harsh reality of patients suffering due to a lack of surgical care. Simple, treatable conditions often turned into life-threatening emergencies. This exposure not only strengthened his resolve to become a surgeon but also deepened his commitment to serve through the lens of his faith.

Drawn to the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) for its excellent surgical training and its focus on the integration of faith with medical practice, Dr. Ntuntu embarked on the rigorous path to becoming a surgeon. Now as a resident at Hospital of Hope in Togo, he's realizing that PAACS isn't just a path to becoming a skilled surgeon, but where he is learning to share the gospel through his surgical skills.

One particularly impactful case in Dr. Ntuntu's career was with a non-Christian patient who had developed severe kidney failure. Despite the patients' financial difficulties, Dr. Ntuntu walked through possible options and provided compassionate care to him. At that time, he also shared the gospel and his patient accepted whole heartedly and gave his life to Christ! A few weeks after he was released, he returned for a follow-up appointment. A MIRACLE had occurred! His kidney function had returned to normal, he was full of joy, and became a testimony to his entire family about the healing power of Christ.

Dr. Ntuntu is inspired that the art of surgery and the spirit of the gospel are not separate paths but one journey, aiming to restore not just the body but the soul. As we approach Easter, a time that celebrates the resurrection of Christ and the hope it brings to the world, let Dr. Ntuntu's story inspire each of us. Every act of healing is a reflection of Christ's victory over death, offering not just physical restoration but also a glimpse into eternal hope.

This Easter, we invite you to support the mission of PAACS. Your contributions help train surgeons and related specialists who are not only skilled in their craft but are also dedicated to spreading the healing love of Jesus across Africa. Please help train and disciple surgeons and related specialists who will share the Good News of Jesus with their patients while providing quality surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care.



GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

SODDO RADIATING WITH EXCITEMENT

In just the first two months of this new year, there has been quite a lot of excitement in the PAACS program in Soddo. In addition to having residents and faculty travel for the senior resident and first-year resident conferences in Kenya, we have had four residents get married, a baby born, and a White Coat/Foot Washing ceremony. Please join us in praying for these new marriages, a growing family, and new residents!

WEDDING CELEBRATIONS IN SODDO

Congratulations to second-year general surgery resident Dr. Mekbib Abebe and Ruth, married in Butajira on January 14, 2024.



Congratulations to fourth-year general surgery resident Dr. Yohannes Debebe and Keab, married in Hawassa on January 27, 2024.



Congratulations to third-year general surgery residents, Dr. Edomiyas Zenebe and Dr. Kalkidan Gulilat, married in Addis Ababa on February 10, 2024.

RESIDENTS WELCOME BABIES



Congratulations to fourth-year general surgery resident at Soddo, Dr. Natnael Temesgen, and his wife Meskerem, on the joyous arrival of their beautiful daughter Bethany on February 6, 2024.



The Litein program is happy to announce that one of our residents, Dr. Nadine Ndechu, delivered a healthy baby boy, Blaise-Eliel Lubila Kalala, on January 29th, 2024. Though born a few weeks early, Blaise has thrived.

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 PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's protection, provision, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.
- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors, leadership, and administrative staff as they travel to the Spring Conference in April.
- Pray for blessings on all PAACS partnering organizations, supporters, and prayer warriors.

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

- Mena Rasmy Armanyous Luka
- Samy Joseph
- Georges Shokry
- Shady Onsi
- Andrew Adel
- Yannick Mpanzu
- Ntuntu Sweni Tamfu
- Junior Arung
- Patiente Ishimwe Umuganwa

PARTNER WITH PAACS

GIVE (U.S.)

GIVE (CANADA)

GIVE (OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA)

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Surgical Site Infections—Time to Test Cost-Effective Prevention Strategies?](#)
- [Early vs Late Fixation of Extremity Fractures Among Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury.](#)
- [Evaluating Global Surgery Partnerships From Low and Middle Income Country.](#)
- [Women in trauma surgery: advancing our profession through international collaboration.](#)
- [Of Aspirin, Preeclampsia, and Racism.](#)
- [Surgical Site Infections—Time to Test Cost-Effective Prevention Strategies?](#)
- [Entrustable Professional Activities in Surgery. A Review.](#)
- [Design and Usability of an Open-Source, Low-Cost Flexible Laryngoscope for Resource-Limited Settings.](#)
- [Professionalism in Anaesthesiology Practice : Ethical Reflection on the nature of Professionalism in Anaesthesiology.](#)

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