



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
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October 2022



*PAACS Faculty and Residents at
Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara in Madagascar*



Senior Residents Conference



*PAACS Graduate Dr. Fabruce and his wife,
serving in Madagascar*

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From the Desk of the CEO



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

A feeling of normalcy is back. The PAACS Board of Directors meeting was held October 28-29 in Des Plaines, IL, and we had over 70 people attend the Open Session of the meeting in-person. This has been the largest in-person meeting since COVID. It was wonderful to meet and fellowship together. In addition, because of technology, we can now have many of our colleagues from Africa and various parts of the world participate. There were nearly 50 people who participated by Zoom.

Not only did we have the usual reports at the meeting presented by members of PAACS administration and committee chairs, but there were many other interesting talks. There was a presentation on the Saline Process by Dr. Mark Topazian and Dr. Rachel Nunn. They discussed the training of residents and faculty (healthcare workers) on how to evangelize patients. We also heard from leaders of several partner organizations (Loma Linda University—Dr. Richard Hart; SIM—Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko; MedSend/IGHM—Laurie Sanders; and CURE International—Shawn Newhouse). They spoke about their individual organizations, working cooperatively as partners, and advancing the kingdom of God through joint partnerships and projects. In addition, various PAACS faculty, the “boots on the ground,” presented information about their programs, including Dr. Tim Nunn and Dr. Bryce Nattier who spoke to the audience by Zoom. We were also thrilled to have other PAACS faculty, Dr. James Brown, Dr. Michael Mwachiro, and Dr. Zach O'Connor, present live at the meeting. In addition, two of our own PAACS graduates spoke about their training through PAACS and what they are doing now after graduation. Dr. Benjamin Malikidogo and Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno spoke brilliantly, and it was a proud moment to hear from both of these fine surgeons and PAACS graduates.

The PAACS Board of Directors meeting continued Saturday, October 29th, for its Closed Session. During this part of the meeting, only members of the Board and staff participated, and they discussed PAACS finances, the audit, governance, and numerous policy issues. There was also an update on the progress of the PAACS five-year strategic plan and various other projects PAACS is currently undertaking. In addition, the PAACS Board of Directors held its election, and six persons were either elected or re-elected to the Board.

It was an excellent meeting, and much was accomplished. We were especially blessed to be able to gather in-person with so many members of the PAACS family. The next PAACS Board of Directors meeting will be held April 14-15, 2023, in the Chicagoland area.

Blessings,

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





Senior Resident Conference

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

PAACS held its first Senior Resident Conference October 2nd-8th. It began with a dinner on Sunday night and finished at noon on Saturday. Twenty-nine residents attended in preparation for their future careers. The event started with a spiritual focus on 2 Timothy and went on to include topics such as "Becoming an Educator," "Burnout, Depression, and Moral Injury," and "Keeping a Healthy Work Family Balance." In addition, a Strength Deployment Inventory (SDI) workshop was held (an assessment of ones motives and strengths), along with the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) – a special thank you to Drs. Robert Riviello and Egide Abahuje for their help in coordinating this course.

PAACS would like to thank all speakers who participated in this years' conference:

Dr. Beryl Akinyi (PAACS Graduate)
Dr. Philip Blasto (PAACS Graduate)
Dr. Moses Kasumba (PAACS Graduate)
Dr. Ken Muma (PAACS Graduate)
Dr. Mike Mwachiro (PAACS Graduate)

Dr. Rich Davis
Dr. Carl Haisch
Dr. Scott Lessing
Dr. Adrian Park
Dr. Steve Weber



The feedback received from the conference was very positive.

"It was textured for a wholesome individual, on skills that aren't commonly talked about but are very necessary not only for work but life as a whole."

"I felt like the entire conference prepared me for what lies ahead. Crystallizing the entire week, my take home was 'Run your race.' That as a soon-to-be surgeon, I should focus on what is cut out for me."

"The conference was well prepared to equip residents with knowledge that is necessary for their future career. It's rare in Africa for a training program to think about preparing their future graduates for the next step."

"The support in knowledge and understanding not only in clinical skills but also the leadership and the non-surgical technical skills we need to acquire to be an excellent surgeon are well addressed. And also the devotions focusing on encouraging us to move on to the second chapter ahead. I can see it is thought through well and organized."

"What was most valuable were the directions as how to define my own goals and expectations before I find a place suitable for me to work and how I do to improve that place."

One in Two Million

PAACS Neurosurgery Update

Carter Harsh, MD

PAACS Neurosurgery Council Chair

One in two million. This ratio represents the actual number of neurosurgeons in Kenya before the PAACS Neurosurgery program was initiated.

Even that supply is abundant in comparison to the rest of East Africa and beyond where some countries lack a single neurosurgeon, a far cry from the World Health Organization's recommendation of one neurosurgeon per 200,000 individuals. Until recently, PAACS' response to the need was sporadic, only providing short-term service by a handful of surgeons. In September 2016, however, months after finishing his neurosurgery residency at the Mayo Clinic Rochester, Dr. Will Copeland and his wife Alisa, along with their now seven children, moved to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya in order to provide full-time neurosurgical care. The Lord's call on their hearts and lives was clear, and their response has been faithful.



After two years of practice at Tenwek, Dr. Copeland passed boards (the only one to have done that after engaging in a purely international practice) and was ready to return to Tenwek to be the Program Director of **the first-ever PAACS neurosurgery training program** which launched in January 2020. The plan was to develop the program slowly, beginning with a new resident every other year. However with the abundant need and pathology, and Will's capability as a mentor, surgeon, and (apparently) administrator, residents are now being accepted on a yearly basis.

We have been blessed with robust applicant interest in the program, and the Lord has provided excellent residents for training. We are grateful that our senior-most resident, Dr. Emmanuel Wafula, has set a very high bar clinically and relationally. While navigating the arduous training program with excellence, Dr. Wafula has also had the heart and found the time to be a spiritual leader for the program. The residents and faculty meet on Sunday nights for Bible study and Dr. Wafula has encouraged all the surgical residents at Tenwek to join in reading the Bible in its entirety this year. While Dr. Wafula is currently enjoying a rotation in Spain, Dr. Josephat Mburu is learning the ropes as Senior resident and has proven himself fully capable.

Dr. Copeland, in the US for this year, was thankful to leave the emerging program in the hands of Dr. Fraser Henderson Jr. who arrived with his family in January 2022. Dr. Henderson has been a welcome addition, indeed making the continued success of the program possible. And he too has just been joined this month by Dr. Hugh Sims-Williams and family, bringing the total of full-time faculty to three.

It has been wonderful to see the establishment and growth of the neurosurgery program - not without a great deal of work, but clearly as an answer to prayer and because of the Lord's blessing. Not only will there be increased and improved neurosurgical care for the underserved, but that **care will be provided through the hands of men and women who love the Lord and are committed to and are capable of extending His love in their practices.**



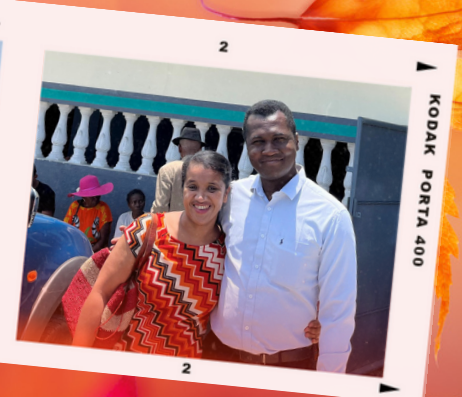
Trip to Madagascar

Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President

Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Executive Vice President, travelled to Madagascar after the Senior Resident Conference for two great visits. The first stop was at one of the new PAACS programs located at Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM). They are off to a great start, and the hospital administration is very happy with the collaboration.



After Mandritsara, **Dr. Thelander visited with PAACS Graduate, Dr. Fabruce Ramaherimamonjy in Tamatave.** Dr. Fabruce founded a new hospital shortly after his graduation in 2016. They now have 67 employees and are doing amazing work. Currently they are renting their space but recently started developing new property for the hospital.



Dr. Jim Brown Wins ACS/Pfizer Academic Global Surgeon Award



James Allen Brown, MD, FACS, received the American College of Surgeons (ACS)/Pfizer Academic Global Surgeon Award on October 18th in San Diego, CA in **recognition of his nearly two decades of selfless work providing surgical education and training to physicians in Cameroon.**

His extraordinary contribution was recognized along with four other award recipients at the ACS Clinical Congress during the annual Board of Governors reception. According to ACS, “The awards are determined by the ACS Board of Governors Surgical Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awards Workgroup and are administered through the ACS Operation Giving Back program.”

We think ACS said it best:

“During his time as a United States Navy surgeon and as a private practitioner, Dr. Brown joined several medical mission trips to Latin America, Asia, and Africa. In 2003, he traveled to Northern Cameroon for 2 and 1/2 weeks, where he witnessed an overwhelming lack of surgical services and determined surgical training could assist in addressing these gaps. In 2008, Dr. Brown and his wife moved to Cameroon full time, partnering with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), a nonprofit dedicated to high quality surgical training in Africa.

Dr. Brown’s contributions to academic surgery in Cameroon, through his work at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, have been comprehensive and transformative. Among his achievements, he initiated a Residency Review Committee comprised of all the surgical training and medical training Program Directors (including PAACS), the chief hospital administrator, senior nursing supervisor, the head chaplain, and the chief residents from each program.

Throughout his time in Cameroon, Dr. Brown has advocated for improving surgical resident education. He has partnered with numerous international university programs to establish partnerships to receive residents and faculty for global surgery rotations and research; worked to get the hospital accreditation from regional surgical societies such as the College of Surgeons for East, Central, and Southern Africa; and established collaborative relationships with national surgeons, hospitals, and medical schools to share resources, enhance consultations, and provide training” (*Credit to: American College of Surgeons*).



[Read the Full ACS Article](#)



GMHC 2022 Conference



The 2022 Global Missions Health Conference will take place November 10-12, 2022, at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. On Friday night, PAACS will host a ministry overview including PAACS Graduates, Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno and Dr. Michael Mwachiro.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Atlanta Fundraising Events



Two fundraising events were held in Atlanta, GA on October 18th and 19th. These were the kick-off for the PAACS Alumni Travel Fellow, Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno, and his trip to the United States. Dr. Ken Rutledge and his wife hosted two benefit dinners and Dr. Yaradouno and PAACS Founder, Dr. David Thompson, were the guest speakers. Dr. Yaradouno has visits scheduled in Atlanta, GA, Augusta, GA, Chicago, IL, Cleveland, OH, Pittsburgh, PA, and Lexington, KY.

A Visit to Rwanda



*Britney Grayson, MD
PAACS Faculty at BethanyKids Hospital,
Kenya*

In September, my husband and I got to visit Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (AKA the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali) in Rwanda.

The two pediatric surgeons who work there, Dr. Edmond Ntaganda and Dr. Alain Jules, are both graduates of our Kijabe PAACS/BethanyKids training program. It was so good to hear about their work and their robust training program. All newborns with surgical anomalies born anywhere in the country are referred to their hospital, so the practice is quite a bit different from ours. We pray for endurance for them as they work day and night to change outcomes for Rwandan children and celebrate the ministry God has given them. Finally, we pray for ways to collaborate with them more in the future.



PAACS ATTENDS THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (ACS) CLINICAL CONGRESS 2022

*John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean*

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) was founded in 1913 to address scientific, regulatory, and economic issues, to bring order out of chaos, and to improve the safety and quality of surgical care for citizens. The annual meeting of the College is held in October, and it rotates among major cities across the nation. The previous Annual Clinical Congress was held in 2019 in San Francisco, California. This year's Clinical Congress, held in San Diego, California, on the 16th-20th of October, was the first in-person meeting since 2019.

A number of surgeons related to PAACS presented and/or moderated sessions at this year's Clinical Congress and the pre-meeting Association of Academic Global Surgery (AAGS) meeting. On Saturday, October 15th, at the AAGS meeting, a number of current and previous PAACS Faculty, including **Drs. Andrea Parker, Michael Mwachiro, Ryan Hayton, and Jana MacLeod** presented and/or led panels in person or virtually. Specific topics at AAGS included "Harmonizing Surgical Training in the COSECSA Region" by Dr. Michael Mwachiro, PAACS Program Director at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, and "Embracing Digital Technology for Surgical Education in Africa" by Dr. Andrea Parker, Assistant Program Director at Tenwek Hospital.

As part of the Medical Student Program on Sunday, **Dr. John Tarpley**, PAACS Academic Dean, and his wife Maggie led one of three global surgery round tables at the "Networking Event to Explore Surgical Specialties, Practice Settings, and Other Topics" Session. The highlight on Monday was the awarding of the ACS/Pfizer Academic Global Surgeon Award to **Dr. Jim Brown**, previous PAACS Program Director at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Dr. Brown delivered a major address about his work and PAACS. He was one of five honorees at the Board of Governors' Dinner and Award Ceremony on Tuesday, October 18th.

Dr. Michael Mwachiro was an invited ACS International Scholar and gave two presentations: "Leveraging Global Collaborations for Research, Training, and Mentorship in Africa" at the ACS International Scholars and Travelers 2022 session and "Management of Gastric Cancer in Africa: A Kenyan Perspective" at the session entitled, "Gastric Cancer Screening and Management Around the World."

On Tuesday, **Dr. Violet Otoki**, a PAACS Resident at Tenwek Hospital, presented at the "Global Surgery & Humanitarian Outreach I: Burn, Emergency Surgery, and Trauma" on "Gender Disparities in Complication and Mortality after Emergency Gastrointestinal Surgery in Kenya." **Dr. John Tarpley** was a co-moderator for the session entitled "Bias-Free: Avoiding Gender, Racial, and Other Unintended Biases in Reference Letters, Evaluations, and the Interview Process." On Thursday, **Dr. Walt Johnson**, PAACS Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, was a key panelist on "An Approach to Developing Global Surgery Partnerships."

We at PAACS encourage all of us to seek to stay current, and to improve our fund of knowledge, judgement, technical skills, and non-technical surgical skills as we seek to deliver safe and quality surgical care for our patients, catalyze professionalism among our trainees, and do all in Christ's name.



*Dr. Michael Mwachiro, PAACS Program Director
at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya*



*Dr. Andrea Parker, PAACS Assistant Program
Director at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya*

Global Day of Fasting and Prayer

Ed Searce, ThM, DMin
Spiritual Dean

On October 10th, approximately 60 people from Africa, North America, and other locations, joined together for a day of fasting and prayer. It was a wonderful time of reading scripture, singing praises, and making petitions with thanksgiving via Zoom.

For over 25 years, God has truly blessed the ministry of PAACS. There has to be a correlation between these blessings and prayer. Through the centuries there are countless stories of God using the prayers of His saints, sometimes of the few, to bring about an outpouring of His blessings and sustaining grace.

Such an outpouring took place off the west coast of Scotland on a small group of islands called the Hebrides. Between 1949 and 1952, a widespread revival swept through these islands in answer to the prayers of God's people. For over two years, the Spirit of God poured out awakening and revival upon the people.

God used two elderly women as a spark for the revival, Peggy and Christine Smith. They were eighty-four and eighty-two years old. Peggy was blind, and her sister was almost bent double with arthritis. Unable to attend public worship, their humble cottage became a sanctuary where they met with God. To them came the promise: "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground," (Isaiah 44:3). They pleaded this day and night in prayer. God answered this prayer in a mighty way that saw many come to saving faith in Christ.

Perhaps God is desiring to do more through the ministry of PAACS. This is not to say God has not blessed PAACS richly, but to say there is likely much more God desires to do. Prayer has been and will always be the essential "work of any ministry." In the busyness of our lives, we often fail to devote time to this essential work.

**Oh God, make us thirsty
for your presence in all we do!**

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16



PRAYER REQUESTS

- The MCS Oral Exams will be held virtually on Nov 17th. Please pray for the residents as they prepare. The FCS Oral Exams will be held in person at Windhoek in Namibia on December 5th-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:

- Erick Mulla
- Elirehema Kimaro
- Minyali Lomnyaki
- Verdiana Vedasto Mwijage
- Henry Cosmas Takule
- Faraja Magwesela
- Dickla Jackson Mollel
- James Justin James
- Baptist Augustino Matonya
- Frida Kokushubira Fidelis
- Peter Ally Kayange

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
Ephesians 6:18

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [A Virtual Tumor Board Platform: A Way to Enhance Decision-Making for Complex Malignancies.](#)
- [All Surgeons Should Be Palliative Care Surgeons.](#)
- [Announcing the Lancet Global Health Commission on medical oxygen security.](#)
- [Bariatric Surgery Lowers the Risk of Major Cardiovascular Events.](#)
- [Better Operating Room Ventilation as Determined by a Novel Ventilation Index is Associated With Lower Rates of Surgical Site Infections.](#)
- [Bleeding, Hemorrhagic Shock, and the Global Blood Supply.](#)
- [Colorectal Surgery Practice, Training, and Research in Low-Resource Settings.](#)
- [Correlation Between Postoperative Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Use and Surgical Site Infection in Children Undergoing Nonemergent Surgery.](#)
- [COVID-19 in pregnancy: evidence from LMICs.](#)
- [Crisis Preparedness: A Systems-Based Framework for Avoiding Harm in Surgery.](#)
- [Digital adaptation of teaching disaster and deployment medicine under COVID-19 conditions: a comparative evaluation over 5 years.](#)
- [Does hospital variation in intrapartum-related perinatal mortality among caesarean births reflect differences in quality of care? Cross-sectional study in 21 hospitals in Burkina Faso.](#)
- [Effect of USAID-funded obstetric ultrasound service interventions on maternal and perinatal health outcomes at primary healthcare facilities in Ethiopia: a propensity score matching analysis.](#)
- [Effective cataract surgical coverage in adults aged 50 years and older: estimates from population-based surveys in 55 countries.](#)
- [Effective refractive error coverage in adults aged 50 years and older: estimates from population-based surveys in 61 countries.](#)