



The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 239 • June 2024



Anesthesiology residents completed rotations at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.



Congratulations, Dr. Mehret Desalegn Enaro, the newest PAACS Pediatric surgeon.



Over 160 people attended the Steven Curtis Chapman concert fundraiser.

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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 reflect on the past month, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God has blessed our ministry and enabled us to continue our mission. Our residents, faculty, supporters, and Board of Directors have all played a vital role in our achievements, and I am excited to share some highlights with you.

Early in the month, PAACS general surgery residents undertook their annual exams, and I am delighted to report an impressive nearly 92% pass rate. This achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of our residents and the unwavering support of our faculty.

On June 1st, a fundraising concert featuring Steven Curtis Chapman was held to benefit PAACS in Indiana. Despite a rainy day, the event was a great success, bringing together supporters and friends of PAACS to celebrate our mission and raise funds to further our ministry.

Additionally, our Board of Directors met virtually on June 25th to approve the budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year and discuss the expansion of PAACS through new programs. One unique initiative discussed focused on training and discipling residents specifically from countries with a recognized surgical workforce shortage and need for the gospel.

As we are almost at the end of our fiscal year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all who have supported PAACS this year. Your generosity has enabled us to continue our vital work, training surgeons and related specialists who not only treat patients physically but also bring hope through the message of Christ. If you have not yet given, I encourage you to prayerfully consider your best gift before the fiscal year ends on June 30th.

As we look ahead, I am reminded of God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Please join us in prayer for the upcoming year starting on July 1st. We seek God's guidance to continue our ministry faithfully and effectively, impacting lives across Africa with both surgical excellence and spiritual care.

Blessings,

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

[GIVE TODAY](#)



PAACS GENERAL SURGERY & NEUROSURGERY EXAMS

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

On May 31st and June 1st, 121 trainees sat for the General Surgery exams and three sat the Neurosurgery exams. This is now the second year that the administration of exams was conducted fully electronically and without any major difficulties. In the analysis of the exams, a few questions were thrown out. No curve was required for either exam. A few trainees will be required to sit for the remediation exams but overall the passing rate was quite high this year at around 92% for General Surgery. The exam proceeded at 15 different PAACS sites applicable to their days and time zones. Using WhatsApp allowed rapid and effective communication throughout the two days of exams.

ON THE GENERAL SURGERY SIDE, SEE THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

Overall Test...	Scores
Average	68.30%
Standard Deviation	9%
Median	69.20%
Minimum	40.90%
Maximum	88.40%
25th quartile	63.10%
75th quartile	74.70%

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING TRAINEES WHO SCORED THE HIGHEST AT THEIR RESPECTIVE YEAR LEVELS.

Top Score By Year		
1	Ian Kiptoo Phillip Mutai	75%
2	Mekbib Abebe	80%
3	Kalkidan Gulilat	86%
4	John Tanyi	82%
5	Faraja Magwesela	88%

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE TRAINEES AS THEY PROCESS THEIR SCORES AND SEEK WHAT GOD HAS FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE.



ANESTHESIOLOGY RESIDENTS COMPLETE AWAY ROTATIONS TO KIBUYE

Matthew Kynes, MD

Program Director, PAACS Anesthesiology, AIC Kijabe Hospital

In April and May, Kijabe PAACS Anesthesiology senior residents, Dr. Rebecca Dufe and Dr. Eunice Kageha, completed away rotations at Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi. This was the first away rotation for PAACS Anesthesiology residents, and their roles included teaching local anesthesiologists and PAACS surgery residents, supervising anesthesia care, and designing a quality improvement project around postoperative respiratory events in pediatric surgical patients. Despite its large size and surgical volume, Kibuye Hospital has not had a full-time anesthesiologist since 2020.



Both residents noted the challenges of caring for patients using a different level of resources, systems, and language compared to their home environment at Kijabe. Despite these adjustments, they had an excellent learning experience and felt well-supported by the Kibuye team, including PAACS Kibuye Program Director, Dr. Ted John. They were also gratified to see how their skills in anesthesiology can be applied to another mission hospital setting. The Kijabe program actively explores how away rotation opportunities for residents at other PAACS sites can benefit resident education and anesthesia capacity building.





ACADEMIC DEAN UPDATE

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

The concluding sentences from the May 2024 Academic Dean's Paragraph re: the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) read: "The 8:00 am session on Sunday, the final day, was **'The Role of Faith in Clinical Practice'**. Stay tuned." The panel was the brainchild of 2023-2024 President of APSA, Dr. David Powell. The panelists were pediatric surgical leaders from a variety of faith-traditions: varied Christian backgrounds, Muslim, and Jewish. There were no Hindu, Buddhists or Nones representatives.

Dr. David Powell was raised Catholic and then was active in Young Life. He resides in the mountains of Colorado. As he looked at the 14,000-foot mountains from his window, he was sure there was "something bigger than you". **Dr. Bagwell** was reared in a Christian home in southern Virginia. After caring for a 4-year-old who was shot in the chest, he became a counselor for families and patients in addition to his role as an operating, academic surgeon at VCU in Richmond, VA. **Dr. Kurt F. Heiss** of Emory descended from a long line of Lutheran ministers but in time found his calling in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. His mission was in Bangkok, Thailand. He discussed his "Mission of Purpose". The moderator of the panel was **Dr. Mary L. Brandt, MD**, MDiv. She has a Presbyterian background, is a poet, and an ethicist from Baylor and Tulane. A national leader in surgical education, she attended seminary and spoke on "connectedness", and God as "that which creates and connects". **Dr. Fizan Abdullah**, a Muslim, discussed the importance of his faith "that holds him together" in his daily and professional life as a surgeon at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. **Dr. Sabina Siddiqui**, a Muslim, serves at the Arkansas Children's Hospital. She shared navigating challenging times and the importance of her faith as an individual and a surgeon. Her faith is integral to who she is. **Dr. Samuel Soffer**, an Orthodox Jew, grew up in South Shore, Long Island, New York and now practices in New Hyde Park, NY as faculty at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra and Northwell Health. He emphasized the power of group prayer, how important the Sabbath is as a gift, not a burden, and sees himself as a messenger to help kids get better.

Dr. Powell noted that this may be the first session addressing the role of faith in clinical practice at a North American academic surgical conference. The attendance was robust for an early Sunday morning on the last day of the conference. Attendees were eager to contribute, share, and ask questions.

My reflections, in part, related to the perception that major academic institutions and capital cities are often seen as "godless wastelands" by many. I thought of Elijah who thought he was the only one faithful to YHWH. In reality, I Kings 19:18 reports there were seven thousand who had not bowed their knee to Ba'al.

Several books came to mind: *Finding God at Harvard – Spiritual Journeys of Thinking Christians* by Kelly Monroe, *Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World – Evangelism as a Way of Life* by Rebecca Pippert, and a classic *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman of Asbury Seminary which is available free at [The Master Plan of Evangelism \(Free PDF\) - Levaire](#).

Our God is not without witness whether in Lagos, Nairobi, Boston, or Seattle.

ENTERING JESUS'S SABBATH REST



Dr. Ed Scarce
Spiritual Dean

There is a principle of rest that is found in Scripture. This short article does not provide space to invest in every aspect of the subject. It begins with God resting on the seventh day. I prefer to call this a principle rather than an ordinance. It is a principle that continues to unfold as God's promise of eternal rest (Gen 3:15). It then becomes a part of the Ten Commandments. One of the purposes of this commandment was an exercise of trust in God's ability to provide everything the Israelites needed.

Ultimately, Jesus is revealed as our "sabbath rest" as the "Lord over the Sabbath" (Luke 6:5). Christ has fulfilled the Law and, as believers in Christ, we are no longer under the law, yet there is a continuing spiritual discipline of finding rest. Rest that is both physical and spiritual.

Jesus encourages all to come to Him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28–29 ESV)

This is what the author of Hebrews meant when he said that "there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:9-10). We rest in Christ's work for us and cease from all dependence on our own efforts.

How then do I, as a follower of Christ, practice the Sabbath principle of rest? Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Find a designated time once a week to simply rest.** The length is not as important as consistency. Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God".
2. **Look upon this time as an act of worship.** Being still is not in the nature of most surgeons and those who work in related specialties. Make it a time of worship.
3. **Don't be legalistic.** The nature of what you do includes emergencies which need attention.
4. **Make it a priority.** We tend to do the things we intend to do.
5. **Trust God,** who supplies everything you need according to His riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

**GLOBAL DAY OF FASTING
AND PRAYER WILL BE
MONDAY JULY 8**

**REGISTER
HERE**





PAACS CONCERT FUNDRAISER FEATURING STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

Amanda Woods
Director of Partnership Development

On Saturday, June 1st, Dr. C.R. Powell hosted a special PAACS event featuring GRAMMY-Award Winning artist, Steve Curtis Chapman. The evening of worship was enjoyed by 165 attendees. PAACS CEO Susan Koshy along with former Program Directors, Drs. Moses Kasumba and Joe Starke shared testimonies of healing, transformation and how their PAACS training and experiences are changing the surgical and spiritual landscape across the African continent.





DR. ABENEZER IYASSU

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY RESIDENT
SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
ETHIOPIA

Growing up near a hospital affiliated with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), Dr. Abenezzer Iyassu had a unique window into its mission. His mother worked at the hospital, and the program's blend of surgical excellence and spiritual care sparked a curiosity within him that would ultimately shape his path.

A life-changing encounter solidified his calling. Meeting Dr. Duane Anderson, the visionary founder of the Soddo Orthopedic Residency program within PAACS, left a profound impact. Inspired by Dr. Duane Anderson's dedication to the biblical principles of obedience and God's enduring faithfulness, Dr. Abenezzer knew his future lay in serving others through orthopedic surgery.

PAACS offered the perfect environment to cultivate his skills and deepen his faith. **"God led me here,"** he reflects. **"This rigorous training program, steeped in a spiritual environment, is the only way to truly excel as a surgeon. Our tools can heal, but they can also inflict harm. PAACS ensures we wield them with compassion and a deep understanding of the human condition."**

Dr. Abenezzer's dedication is fueled by the countless patients he encounters. One unforgettable story involved a 39-year-old woman suffering from severe hip pain due to post-pregnancy complications. Traditional care was out of reach, her options limited, and her pain unbearable. When she arrived at PAACS, desperation clouded her eyes. Following a successful total hip replacement, a transformation unfolded. Tears of joy replaced tears of despair as she walked freely, a testament to the program's transformative power. **"Patients like her are why I believe everyone deserves this kind of care,"** Dr. Abenezzer asserts.

Inspired by PAACS alumni who tirelessly serve their communities, Dr. Abenezzer perseveres on his journey. Their unwavering dedication to compassionate service fuels his own determination, especially during challenging times. Dr. Abenezzer embodies the spirit of PAACS – a skilled surgeon with a heart guided by faith, ready to bring healing and hope to all who need it most.

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST PAACS PEDIATRIC SURGEON

Dr. Mehret Desalegn Enaro graduated from the BethanyKids/Kijabe Hospital (BKKH) Program on March 31st of this year. She successfully completed her MCS-level training at Soddo Christian Hospital in her home country of Ethiopia before transferring to BKKH Kenya in January 2020 to continue FCS training in Pediatric Surgery.



She has been supported well in this journey by her family, including her husband, Amanuel, and her aunt, Wegene. Arriving in Kenya with a 5-month-old daughter, she completes her training as a mother of two, with her son joining the family in 2023. Mehret is just the second woman to train in our program and the first to be fully certified by COSECSA. We are delighted to report that Dr. Mehret will remain at BKKH as a consultant to teach the next generation of pediatric surgeons from across the continent.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. MEHRET!



CEML AND COSECSA

At the beginning of May, the PAACS program at CEML hospital had an accreditation site visit by COSECSA for the membership level. The visiting inspectors had very encouraging words for the staff and PAACS faculty. Pray that the rest of the steps are completed by the end of the year!

NEW BABY AT GALMI

On May 23rd, 2024 God blessed Dr. Aimé Mugisha and his wife with a baby boy, MUGISHA Amir Shiloh, weighted 3186g.

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy (Psalm 126:3)



HIS HANDS AND FEET

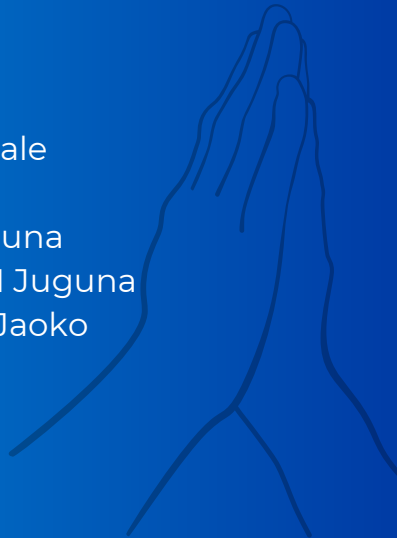
We invite you to watch this special video message and witness how PAACS residents are embodying the love and compassion of Jesus in their work, providing both physical healing and spiritual hope!

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray that God will bless and guide as PAACS continues His work in Africa.
- Pray that God will help PAACS remain focused on educational excellence and evangelism for Christ's honor and glory.
- Pray for God's mercy, protection, blessings, and provision for all PAACS residents, faculty, graduates, and their families.
- Pray that as this fiscal year comes to a close on June 30th, that God abundantly supplies all our needs.

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

- Kazadi Kalombo
- Stephen Ngare
- Peter Mukisa
- Anita Kawira
- Jeremiah Nangale
- Samson Kassa
- Tegan Surafel Dubale
- David Leon Adai
- Mark Karanja Njuguna
- Annette Waruga N Juguna
- Stephen Ochieng Jaoko



PARTNER WITH PAACS

GIVE (U.S.)

GIVE (CANADA)

GIVE (OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA)

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Guidelines and Hospital Length of Stay, Readmission, Complications, and Mortality. A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials](#)
- [Virtual reality simulation to enhance advanced trauma life support trainings – a randomized controlled trial](#)
- [Impact of planned delivery mode on neonatal outcomes and costs in twin pregnancies in Kenya](#)
- [Recognition, diagnosis, and early management of suspected sepsis: summary of updated NICE guidance](#)
- [Early vs Late Inguinal Hernia Repair in Preterm Infants](#)
- [Povidone Iodine vs Chlorhexidine Gluconate in Alcohol for Preoperative Skin Antisepsis. A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
- [Skin Antisepsis to Prevent Surgical Site Infections. Implications for Global Surgery.](#)
- [The State of Surgical Research in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Urgent Call for Surgical Research Trainers](#)

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