



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #222
January 2023



*Faculty, international fellows & new residents
at PAACS Program at Hospital of Hope, Togo*



*Drs. Grace Kim and David Jeffcoach,
co-leaders of Team ALL-SAFE*



*Dr. Chege Macharia, PAACS Graduate and
Executive Director of AIC Kijabe Hospital*

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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

ROADMAP FOR 2023



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

God's mighty hand was seen in PAACS throughout 2022. What an incredible year filled with God's goodness and provision! Last year, five new programs started, two new countries were added (Madagascar and Burundi), 123 residents were in training, and 17 surgeons graduated. In addition, a Basic Science Conference, Faculty Development program, and Seniors Conference were all held in 2022. Thank you for your support of the PAACS ministry. We couldn't have accomplished all that we did in 2022 without God and each of you.



Hospital of Hope - Mango, Togo

As we rang in the new year, PAACS welcomed 42 new residents in our training programs. We now have 150 residents and fellows in our various programs across Africa. Additionally, as of 2023, we now have over 140 surgeons who have graduated through this ministry and are fulfilling their call in Africa by serving in the under resourced and under served areas of this continent. January 2023 also marks the start of a program in our 11th country, Togo. A general surgery program at the Hospital of Hope in Mango, Togo commenced.

Here is a brief highlight of some of the things PAACS is planning for this year. This is not an exhaustive list.

The PAACS Basic Science Conference in Kenya will be held February 12-23. Over 40 first-year residents will be in attendance. Approximately 29 faculty, 21 additional instructors, and six PAACS administration team members will also be traveling to Limuru, Kenya, to participate in this annual conference. It is a time of training, spiritual renewal, and fellowship. Also in February, PAACS will hold its Global Day of Fasting and Prayer on February 27th.

The West African College of Surgeons (WACS) conference will be held in Togo March 20-23. PAACS' EVP and Academic Dean will attend this meeting. Their trip will also include a visit with Dr. David Jeffcoach to Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Togo, which is being considered as a future collaborative training site with Hospital of Hope. Throughout 2023, we are planning visits to different mission hospitals as potential new sites for PAACS.

The next PAACS Board of Directors meeting will be held April 13-15 in Chicago. This meeting provides great opportunities for discussion regarding the direction of PAACS, for attendees to hear from leaders in this ministry, and for fellowship among PAACS supporters. The Fall Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for October in Chicago. We're also anticipating the 2023 Travel Fellow, Dr. Jack Barasa, to visit during this time, allowing for his in-person attendance at the Board of Directors meeting.

In May, we anticipate the second round of site visits for accreditation of programs through Loma Linda University. The sites scheduled for accreditation will likely include those in Malawi and Egypt.



Fall 2022
PAACS Board of Directors Meeting

continued on next page

CONTINUED: ROADMAP FOR 2023

In June, PAACS will be participating in the ICMDA conference. Potentially thirty-two 2020-2021 graduates will be invited to participate in this conference in Tanzania and PAACS will be hosting a pre-conference for our graduates.

July will mark the new fiscal year for PAACS. The PAACS Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing the current PAACS logo. Any potential design updates will be taken through a variety of reviews to be sure it reflects PAACS and will last for years to come. If a new logo is approved, it will be unveiled in the new fiscal year. We are also in the process of creating a second PAACS video to highlight training with PAACS and the great need for surgeons and related specialists in Africa.

Finally, we are in the beginning stages of a large fundraising road rally event to be held in Texas this fall. As PAACS continues to expand, it requires a larger revenue budget to support this ministry. Events like this help us to raise funds to continue to support the training and discipleship of surgeons and related specialists for Africa.

We look forward to 2023 with great anticipation. I appreciate your support in increasing the number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick. Together, we will continue to see the fruit produced by faithful surgeons and related specialists trained through PAACS, surrendering to His plans.

Blessings,

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



Basic Science Conference: February 12-23

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

February 12-23, 2023, PAACS will be hosting its now annual Basic Science Conference for first year trainees.

We look forward to having over 40 trainees there for this intense almost two weeks of training in topics like fluid and electrolyte management, trauma care, research principles, orthopaedic workshops, morning worship in song and in the Word, and for the first time, an extensive ultrasound course. We will also be providing a spouses of faculty program in addition to a children's program.

Thanks for your prayers for safe travel and an engaging, fruitful conference.



2022 Basic Science Conference

GLOBAL SURGICAL TRAINING CHALLENGE

Grand Prize Winners

In 2020, Global Surgical Training Challenge asked teams to develop new ideas to scale teaching surgical skills in low resource settings. The goal was to design modules allowing clinicians to teach themselves anywhere in the world. 44 teams representing 42 countries applied for the challenge.

The ALL-SAFE team co-led by Dr. Grace Kim (PAACS Chair of General Surgery Council and member of the Board of Directors) and Dr. David Jeffcoach (PAACS Assistant Program Director, Soddo Christian Hospital) WON the Global Surgical Training Challenge Grand Prize!

Over the last two years, the ALL-SAFE Team has grown to approximately 30 members in five countries, working together to create training modules to teach laparoscopic surgical skills. The team set out to develop unique training modules that taught these skills without the investment of a full, high-tech simulator.

ALL-SAFE plans to use the \$700,000 Grand Prize to scale to other countries and other specialties, as they've already been receiving requests. They're planning to partner with universities, hospitals and medical centers to deploy the modules.

[Read more](#) from Global Surgical Training Challenge / [Watch](#) the grand prize announcement video



Dr. Grace Kim and Dr. David Jeffcoach, co-leaders of Team ALL-SAFE

Resident Mission Report

from Ethiopia

Wotango Abenezer Iyassu, MD
PAACS Orthopaedic Resident, Soddo/CURE

The PAACS resident's journey through training is both educational and spiritual. Dr. Abenezer (second year Orthopaedic Surgery resident at Soddo/CURE) felt strongly called to take a one-year break from his residency and do rural church planting with a remote Southern Ethiopian tribe who have a very young, disunited church. Dr. Abenezer shares some of the details and encouragements from his trip:

Although I have been involved with mission work in Southern Ethiopia for some time, I saw a huge unmet need for discipleship. There was a small Christian group of believers who were struggling with a poor level of Biblical understanding, living in a tough cultural setting with a lot of alcohol abuse. I could not ignore the need and knew God put it on my heart. I had to address this and be obedient to this call, despite my family's initial reluctance and the break in training this caused.

I stayed in a church compound in the town of Hana. One of my friends, Temesgen, left his job and we were together in this mission work. We developed a team and joined with local church leaders developing good friendships. I did Bible studies with youth and the young men, helped to construct the church building and evangelists' accommodation, and developed and trained a team to continue the work of evangelism and church development in Hana for the future.

Eight evangelists and their families relocated to the town to help with the work (this was a journey of several days) as well as contacts from Soddo Kale Hiwot Church and others.

During this year, I learned that it's always best to obey God and His calling. When we step out in obedience, He has already prepared a path for our feet. God prepared the church for me, He prepared the evangelists, He prepared resources. He sustained me with encouragement throughout. One of my favorite bible characters is Abram, for leaving his familiar surroundings and stepping into a journey with God that took him miles away to a new home. It's scary to think about God doing this for us also, but the alternative is never as good!

I am immensely grateful and privileged to have had support of PAACS residents and faculty who have prayerfully and financially supported me over the last year and enabled me to take this year away from my studies. We cannot work for God's Kingdom as isolated individuals, and I am grateful for the support of His family, especially those within the PAACS community.

It's my prayer that the church in Hana will grow into a strong missional church and that I continue to be responsive to God's call now and in the future following my orthopaedic residency. I want to be a PAACS trainer and share my heart for missions with orthopaedic residents eager to serve and disciple others.



*Dr. Abenezer
and friends from Hana*



NEW PAACS PROGRAM IN TOGO

*Robert Cropsey, MD
PAACS Orthopaedic Council*

January brought the official launch of the PAACS General Surgery Program at Hospital of Hope in Mango, Togo. Praise God!

Surgical faculty, Dr. Bryce Nattier (pictured, far left) and Dr. Josh Paulick (far right) are delighted with the two residents (center) that arrived three weeks ago. The residents are enjoying the new housing right on campus. The Lord was kind in providing two new post-residency fellows, Dr. Dena Ferguson (second to left) and Dr. Christy Stoller (second to right). This allows the senior surgeons more time with residents, extra time teaching in the OR and also mentoring the residents spiritually. Leadership is also delighted to have back Alain Niles, a church planter and the original hospital administrator. He just returned from the states after becoming a Physician Assistant to better understand the medical side of administration as he uses his new skills at the hospital and clinic.



New Residents

HOSPITAL OF HOPE, TOGO: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Ntuntu Sweni Tamfu
Cameroon

It has always been my dream to become a surgeon and working in a resource-limited facility in a remote area strengthened my passion. I chose PAACS because of its distinct curriculum. PAACS trains residents to be both a surgeon and a steward of Christ, being able to deliver compassionate care and the word of God to their patients.



Dr. Mpanzu Nsumbu Yannick
Democratic Republic of the Congo

I joined PAACS not only because it is both a Christian and highly scientific program that meets my aspirations, but also because it is an answer from God to my prayers. I want to help as many patients as possible to benefit from quality surgical assistance, as I benefited from this after an accident in 2013.



New Residents

KIBUYE HOPE HOSPITAL, BURUNDI: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Thierry Giriteka
Burundi

Patients who consult with a surgeon are often in a lot of pain and without hope. I am very happy to do my training with PAACS because it will allow me to become a Christian surgeon who shows the love of Christ to patients by giving them hope physically and spiritually.



Dr. Levis Ndayishimiye
Burundi

After training in basic surgery, people thought I was a surgeon, but I had limited experience. By the grace of God, I was chosen by PAACS. As a PAACS Resident, I will continue to learn while helping our Burundian people in rural areas who are in need of surgeons. I want to be used by God to bring hope and healing to my patients.

AIC KIJABE HOSPITAL, KENYA: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Moses Smart Mbayo
Liberia

His desire in the field of surgery came from his late father, who was a Physician Assistant, and from PAACS-trained surgeons who are foreigners that are presently giving care to the Liberian society. Before PAACS, he worked in medicine and over ten years as a biology instructor. His work during the Ebola Crisis of 2014 brought him accolades.



Dr. Gidraf Gitau
Burundi

I am so grateful to God for the opportunity to train as a general surgeon. I am married to Damaris and we were recently blessed with Gervis, our firstborn son. I trained as a doctor in Kenya. I look forward to a blessed time of growth and service in the PAACS General Surgery residency program.





New Residents

MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL, CAMEROON: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Ginette Djomo
Cameroon

PAACS is the best Christian program I could have hoped for my surgical training. My desire is that God allows us to make a significant difference for good in the whole healthcare system in Cameroon, Africa, and the world. I pray we will be a living testimony, making disciples for the Glory of the Lord Jesus. I am grateful to be part of this change in the making.



Dr. Esmond Keja
Cameroon

My desire to do surgery was after an internship at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. I came to know about PAACS, admired the way they worked, and was deeply inspired by the commitment and discipline I saw in the doctors. Over the years, I have had the passion to preach the gospel and I find it more convenient to do so as a surgeon.



Dr. Lavinia Tiba
Cameroon

As a dedicated physician, I take pride in providing the best health care to the less privileged, the reason for my work in crisis regions. I am passionate about surgery, an art, through which God uses our hands to heal, and that is the reason why I joined PAACS. A perfect blend of surgical and spiritual aspects of care.

SIM GALMI HOSPITAL, NIGER: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Mélance Kabanyegeye
Burundi

While I was working in a mission hospital in Kenya, I saw the need for surgeons in rural areas of Africa. This is how the passion for surgery developed in me. I chose PAACS program because I wanted to do my training in a Christian program that would train me in surgery and also in my spiritual life.

Mbingo's White Coat Ceremony & Foot Washing

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

The PAACS General Surgery Program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital combines with Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) each year for a White Coat Ceremony.

Each program had three residents this year. The new PAACS residents are Dr. Ginette Djomo, Dr. Esmond Keja, and Dr. Lavinia Tiba.

The faculty then assisted each resident to don their their new white coats, embroidered with their names and PAACS' patch on the pocket. The residents recited the Christian Physician Oath. The ceremony concluded with the residents kneeling in the front with faculty behind them as they were prayed for by the head chaplain.

PAACS then retreated to their Conference Room. John 13:1-17 was read. Dr. Snell took off his white coat and washed the feet of each of the new residents. Schwartz, 11th edition, was then given to each of the new residents as well as other gifts. They were heartily welcomed into the PAACS family.

*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
 you also should wash one another's feet.
 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
 John 13:14-15*



PAACS GRAD NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *of AIC Kijabe Hospital*



Dr. Chege Macharia is the new Executive Director of AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya! Dr. Macharia is a 2016 Graduate of the PAACS General Surgery Program at AIC Kijabe Hospital and a 2017 Graduate of the PAACS Head & Neck Surgery Program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Dr. Macharia has been serving as a Head and Neck surgeon for the last five years.

[Click here](#) to listen to his welcome speech to the staff and AIC Kijabe Hospital Board (recorded by David Shirk, Friends of Kijabe).



David Shirk, Friends of Kijabe

Dr. Macharia giving a welcome speech to AIC Kijabe Hospital staff and Board





REFLECTIONS ON DEATH

*John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean*

Please see the obituary of Donald Edward Meier, MD, in the December 2022 PAACS Bulletin, page 11.

The weekend of January 20-22, my wife Maggie and I were privileged to attend the “Celebration of Life” for Dr. Don Meier, a pediatric surgeon with years of service globally, especially in Nigeria. Fellow missionaries, Nigerian colleagues, students, faculty colleagues, and others gathered to share and celebrate Don Meier’s promotion. Abundant joy for a life well-lived exemplified by humility, integrity, teaching, and service in Christ’s name characterized the event. At the conclusion, the family and attendees danced out singing a favorite Yoruba praise chorus entitled “O se o jesu,” which means “Thank you Jesus.”

Ecclesiastes 3 commences “For everything there is a season” and follows in verse 2a “a time to be born, and a time to die;”

Psalm 116:15 reads “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Psalm 90:10a attests that our years are numbered. “The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore;” which is followed by verse 10b which attests “yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.”

My favorite work of art is in the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD, USA a wood carving from the 16th century entitled “Memento Mori.”

[Figure of Death \(Memento Mori\) | The Walters Art Museum](#)

The inscription in Latin translates “I am what you will be. I was what you are. For every man is this so.”

A favorite poem written in 1821 is Thanatopsis by William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878).

The final stanza reads:

So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

See the full Meier obituary:

[In Memoriam | American Pediatric Surgical Association](#)



TheWalters.org



Bongolo Graduate in the News



2018 Graduate of the PAACS Program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon **Dr. Alliance Niyukuri** was featured in a KidsOR.org article, "Training the First Paediatric Surgeon in Burundi." [Click here to check it out.](#)

Tenwek Leadership Published

Tenwek General Surgery Faculty Drs. Michael Mwachiro, Robert and Andrea Parker, and Tenwek General Surgery Resident Dr. June Owino recently published "The Learning Environment of Surgical Training in Kenya: Results From a Multi-Institutional Survey of Trainees Within Two Educational Paradigms." [Click here](#) to learn more.

Two Babies Born at Mbingo



Ngoran family



Keja family

Fourth year resident Dr. Eric Ngoran and his wife, Ivoline, were blessed with their first child on December 15th. Her name is Myen Asheri.

Drs. Esmond and Mercy Keja delivered their first child, Righteous Bailufeyin, on December 7th. Dr. Esmond Keja served this past year as a surgical house officer at Mbingo and started his residency at Mbingo on January 1st.



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

GLOBAL DAY OF FASTING & PRAYER

Monday, February 27, 2023

Calling PAACS family across the globe to fast and pray for God's blessings on this ministry

Please join us on Monday, February 27th, for the PAACS Global Day of Fasting & Prayer to unite with the PAACS family as we seek God and petition His blessings.

Join the Zoom call of your choice as we seek the Lord's face on behalf of PAACS.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

PRAYER GATHERING #1:

US and Canada:

- Eastern Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm ET
- Central Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 12:00 noon CT
- Mountain Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 11:00 am MT
- Pacific Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 10:00 am PT

Africa:

- Eastern Africa Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 8:00 pm EAT
- Central Africa Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm CAT
- West Africa Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm WAT

PRAYER GATHERING #2:

US and Canada:

- Eastern Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 8:00 pm ET
- Central Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm CT
- Mountain Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm MT
- Pacific Time - Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm PT

Africa:

- Eastern Africa Time - Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 3:00 am EAT
- Central Africa Time - Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 2:00 am CAT
- West Africa Time - Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 1:00 am WAT

PRAY

- Pray for the new PAACS program in Togo this month. Pray for Hospital of Hope and the faculty and residents.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray that all the new residents will be blessed with God's favor and grace.
- 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 unity and solidarity for all the PAACS programs and within the PAACS organization.

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
- Dinamalala Olivier Radoniaina
- Tefinirina Aina Mirana Razafimanantsoa
- Valimbavaka Santatriniaina
- Raoul Mbango
- Alain Nishimwe
- Thierry Giritaka

GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA

CONNECT



Click here to read the

JANUARY RESIDENT PROFILE



featuring

DR. IAN SIMEL

General Surgery Resident
Tenwek Hospital, Kenya

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [The Specialist Anesthesiology Workforce in East, Central, and Southern Africa: A Cross-Sectional Study.](#)
- [Postgraduate Surgical Education in East, Central, and Southern Africa: A Needs Assessment Survey.](#)
- [International Neurosurgery: The Role for Collaboration.](#)
- [Association of Women Surgeons' Comprehensive Initiative for Healthy Surgical Families During Residency and Fellowship Training.](#)
- [Ergonomic Considerations in Urology.](#)
- [An Old TB Vaccine Might Help Stave Off Diabetes, Cancer Alzheimer's, and More . The BCG Vaccine Might Assist in Preventing a Range of Major Diseases.](#)
- [Challenges of Sanitation in Developing Counties - Evidenced from a Study of Fourteen Towns, Ethiopia.](#)
- [Aspirin or Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin for Thromboprophylaxis after a Fracture.](#)
- [Whole-Blood Resuscitation Following Traumatic Injury and Hemorrhagic Shock—Should It Be Standard Care?](#)