



# THE PAACS BULLETIN

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*Issue #216*  
*July 2022*



*Drs. Britney Grayson and Jason Axt*  
*BethanyKids, Kijabe Kenya*



*In Loving Memory of Dr. Martin Situma,*  
*PAACS Graduate, shown with Dr. Erik Hansen*



*Graduation at Tenwek Hospital, Kenya*

## *In This Issue of the Bulletin*

- **From the Desk of the CEO**
- **Graduation at Tenwek Hospital**
- **Change of Command at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon**
- **Upcoming Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery Program**
- **PAACS Remembers**
  - **Dr. Martin Situma**
  - **Dr. Richard Bransford**
  - **Dr. Richard Topazian**
- **Good News to Share:**
  - **Alumni Travel Fellowship Award: Dr. Yaradouno Coming to the US**
  - **Three New Surgical Theaters at BethanyKids**
- **Tarpisms to Live By, Vol. 2, by Dr. John Tarpley, Academic Dean**
- **Prayer Requests**
- **Surgery Links by Maggie Tarpley**

# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear PAACS Family:

I am very excited to share with you the PAACS video update on the impact of this ministry in Africa this past fiscal year. The video update also provides a look ahead for the new financial year and what is on the horizon for PAACS.

Blessings,

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

*By Susan Koshy, JD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer*



# Thank you!





# GRADUATION AT TENWEK HOSPITAL

*By Andrea Parker, MD*

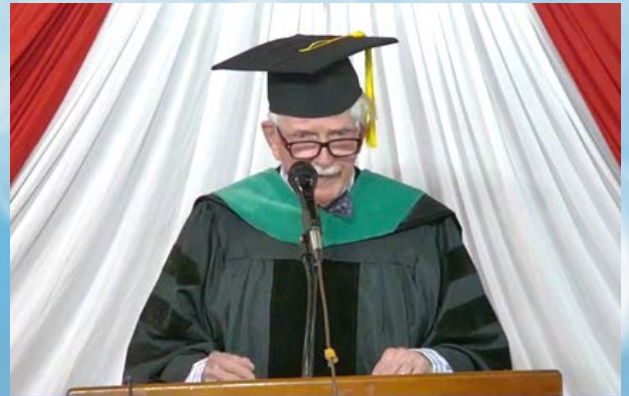
*Assistant Program Director at Tenwek Hospital, Kenya*

On June 24th, after several delays due to COVID surges, we had the privilege of holding our joint PAACS general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, and cardiothoracic surgery graduation. We graduated two general surgeons, each of whom is technically gifted, a superb clinician, and a follower of Jesus Christ, committed to sharing the love of the Gospel with their patients and those around them. Each also has a vision for ongoing training and education of others, whether through training residents or interns or medical students. Both encompass three vital aspects of PAACS, providing excellent surgical care, promoting surgical education of others, and being a light for Jesus wherever they are.



It was so encouraging to hear how, having faced various struggles in their five years of training, God has worked in each of their lives to grow them into His image. Dr. Sam Odongo is serving at St. Kiirua Mission Hospital in central Kenya. We have already heard testimony of how God is using him and his family in that area. Dr. Fadipe Akinniyi is serving here at Tenwek Hospital and brings an increased rigor to our education of residents.

Our graduation ceremony was a special time of celebration of these graduates and a time of thankfulness for God's faithfulness to all of them and for what God has done in their lives through the PAACS training. We asked for God's continued blessing on their lives as they seek to serve God in their various ministries. We were honored to have with us as our keynote speaker Dr. John Tarpley, PAACS Academic Dean. It was a privilege to have Tarp with us that week to be a part of some of the teaching and training at Tenwek.



Additionally, we were joined by Bishop Dr. Robert Lang'at of the Africa Gospel Church and Chairman of the Tenwek Hospital Board of Trustees, several members of the hospital board, the Tenwek Hospital CEO, Mr. Shem Tangu, and many members of the administration. We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from Tenwek Hospital and PAACS as we train and disciple surgeons in Kenya.





# Change of Command at Mbingo

By Mark Snell, MD

Program Director at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon



*Dr. Jim Brown, former Program Director, and his wife Carolyn*

Dr. Jim Brown has faithfully served as the PAACS Program Director and Chief of Surgery for many years at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. His sending agency does not support full time service after age 70, so this year was the year.

On June 30th, Dr. Brown handed the baton to Dr. Mark Snell as the new Program Director and Chief of Surgery. Dr. Snell was the Assistant Program Director since the program reopened in 2020. Dr. Sama Akanyun became the Assistant Program Director. Dr. Sama is a PAACS graduate from Mbingo and the first Cameroonian surgeon to hold this position.

Dr. Brown will be away for July and August, then return for most of the rest of the year as faculty.

Please pray for smoothness of the many transitions. We are forever grateful for Dr. Brown's leadership and service.



*Dr. Mark Snell, new Program Director, and his wife Yvonne*



*Dr. Sama Akanyun, Assistant Program Director, with her husband, Khan, and their children*

# 2023: Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

*By Bruce MacFadyen Jr., MD*

*Member at Large, PAACS Board of Directors and PAACS Program Committee Chair*

FUTURE PROGRAM

While all surgical specialties are in great need in Africa, one that has been in particular demand is pediatric orthopaedic surgery. PAACS has recently joined with the CURE Children's Hospital Network in Africa to develop a two-year Pediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship under the leadership of Dr. Tim Nunn at CURE-Addis and Dr. Joseph Theuri at CURE-Kijabe.

The Fellowship will be developed at the CURE Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the CURE Hospital at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya. CURE International has seven hospitals in Africa and estimates 1.2 million children in Kenya and 2.7 million children in Ethiopia live with treatable orthopaedic disabilities. When these disabilities are not treated, these children face a lifetime of pain and suffering.

Presently, CURE Ethiopia performs over 2,800 surgeries and procedures and the CURE Hospital in Kijabe, Kenya, performs over 2,000 annually. The Fellowship will launch in January 2023. These CURE hospitals value working with PAACS for its academic rigor, oversight, and the great importance of the spiritual training, which is incorporated into all PAACS training programs.

Please pray with us at this time for the development of the pediatric orthopaedic curriculum and the selection of academically and spiritually strong fellows from the African continent.



# PAACS *Remembers*

## **In Loving Memory of Dr. Martin Situma, PAACS Graduate**

Dr. Martin Situma, a PAACS Graduate surgeon, recently went to be with His Savior at the age of 45. Dr. Situma graduated from the PAACS pediatric surgery program at BethanyKids Hospital in Kenya in 2014 after a formative period of his initial pediatric surgery training at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa.

He went on to work as a pediatric surgeon at Mbarara Hospital in Uganda where he developed the first pediatric surgical unit in the region and was training pediatric surgeons. He was one of two recipients of the 2017 American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) Travel Fellowship.

His loss is a tragedy for his family and will be felt by his PAACS family and the people of Uganda he so lovingly and passionately served. Indeed, his loss will be felt throughout Africa and the world.

***For all who want to help out in Elizabeth Situma's journey ahead with six young children, BethanyKids ([www.bethanykids.org](http://www.bethanykids.org)) will accept all US or Canadian donations with the mention "Martin Situma Memorial Fund" and deliver them personally to her through their staff on the ground.***



***Pictured with Dr. Erik Hansen,  
former PAACS Program Director  
at BethanyKids Hospital.***

**Watch Recorded  
Memorial Service**



## **In Memory of Dr. Richard Bransford, Founder of BethanyKids**

Dr. Bransford's career which spanned into his 80s, was spent providing surgeries for children in difficult environments across Africa. He was the founder of BethanyKids, a children's hospital named after his daughter. PAACS currently partners with BethanyKids hospital in Kenya to train the next generation of pediatric surgeons. The late Dr. Martin Situma, who also recently passed, was a graduate from this PAACS program.

Dr. Bransford's selfless life has made an immeasurable impact in the lives of countless children and families in Africa both from his direct contact as a surgeon and the programs he created that carry on his legacy. His life and work have also made a lasting impact on many current and past PAACS faculty.



## **In Memory of Dr. Richard Topazian**

Long term friend of PAACS, Dr. Richard Topazian, went to be with the Lord at the age of 92. Following his retirement from a career of training oral surgeons, Richard was most passionate about the short-term mission trips he and his wife Pauline took to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries in numerous countries. In addition to the clinical work, he loved training medical professionals. His motivation was always to represent Christ in an expression of love to the poor and to those less served in the world.

The Topazian family requests that contributions be made to PAACS or to the Seabury Staff Appreciation Fund. Read the full obituary [HERE](#).



# Alumni Travel Fellowship Winner

*By Stephen Doane, MD  
Member at Large, PAACS Board of Directors*

Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno was selected as the first awardee of the new PAACS Alumni Travel Fellowship back in 2020, but travel plans have not been feasible until now. We are anticipating hosting him in the United States for one month between mid-October and mid-November 2022. Cities on his itinerary include Atlanta, Augusta, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Louisville, and Lexington.

He will have multiple opportunities for clinical observation and professional enrichment at academic hospitals, and he will be speaking at PAACS promotional events in those cities. He will join PAACS for the October Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago and be a guest speaker.



Dr. Yaradouno is a wonderful brother in Christ and an excellent surgeon who is committed to serving the Lord through his medical clinic in rural eastern Guinea. If you are nearby any of those cities, you will certainly enjoy time meeting with him. You can contact Deb Pedziwol for more details as the dates draw near.

Please pray with us that the logistics for Dr. Yaradouno's itinerary will be smooth and that God will be glorified through all of his interactions.

For more information on Dr. Yaradouno's travel schedule, please contact Deb Pedziwol at [deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net](mailto:deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net).



## BethanyKids Update

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

KidsOR was here last week doing the install of our three new pediatric theatres. This is a combo project between KidsOR, African Mission Healthcare, and Friends of Kijabe to offer state of the art care to Kenyan children. We are still waiting on installation of the oxygen tanks as well as door repairs, but we hope to begin using the new theatres in July!

# TARPISMS TO LIVE BY, VOLUME 2

By John Tarpley, MD  
Academic Dean

In the PAACS May 2022 Bulletin, I shared my first volume of "tarpisms", which are aphorisms and proverbs that I have collected and share with my students.

**In no order, I share this second collection.**

*We are privileged to be able to do what we do:  
help care for, at times help heal, our patients, plus teach residents, students, colleagues,  
and, when asked, preach.*

## **JESUS'S JOB DESCRIPTION:**

- 1. MAKE GOD KNOWN: JOHN 1:18**
- 2. HEALING, TEACHING, PREACHING: MATT 4:23**
- 3. WORK AS UNTO THE LORD: COL 3:23**

**I am the best paid surgeon I know;  
I am paid in a different currency.**

**The residents and medical  
students I am privileged to train  
and the patients I have been able  
to care for are my currency.**

**Non-taxable income.**

**I encourage you to be your own best friend  
(Mark 12:31); tend to your mental, physical,  
nutritional, emotional, familial, and spiritual  
health. I encourage you to practice  
excellent medical care.**

Gal 5:25

**"The spirit has given us life;  
He must also control our lives."**

**BE "SPIRIT CONTROLLED,  
CHRIST CENTERED, AND  
GOD FOCUSED."**

**- WILLIAM BARCLAY**

**A favorite poem of my wife and mine:**

## **"Outwitted"**

**by Edwin Markham**

*"He drew a circle that shut me out--  
Heretic, a rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in."*

**Treating all with Christ's love, regardless  
of their faith, is the best witness.**

**"Don't practice  
shoddy medicine  
in Christ's name."**

**- Elton Trueblood**

**True Religion:  
James 1:27**

*Daily, walk toward the Light.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for those impacted by the passing of PAACS Graduate, Dr. Martin Situma. May they find God's comfort and strength during this difficult time.
- Pray for the family and loved ones of Dr. Richard Bransford, the founder of BethanyKids Hospital in Kenya, during this time after his passing.
- Pray for the family and loved ones of Dr. Richard Topazian, that God would bring them comfort and peace after his passing.
- Pray for the future PAACS Pediatric Orthopaedic Program, for the development of the curriculum and the selection of academically and spiritually strong fellows from the African continent.
- Pray for Dr. Sherif Hanna, previous Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, as he recovers from bone marrow transplant surgery.
- 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 PAACS countries, 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.

**“Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

# SURGERY UPDATES

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Patient-Proxy and Societal Perspectives of Quality-of-Life Utilities in Children With Cleft Lip and Palate Managed With Surgical Repair vs No Repair in Ethiopia.](#)
- [Recurrent Diverticulitis. Where Uncomplicated Is Complicated.](#)
- [Towards Global Gender Equity in Surgery. Commentary on Factors Influencing the Intention to Pursue Surgery Among Female Pre-medical Students: A Cross-Sectional Study in Pakistan.](#)
- [Perioperative Care Pathways in Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries: Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis.](#)
- [Telemedicine for Surgical Site Infection Diagnosis in Rural Rwanda: Concordance and Accuracy of Image Reviews.](#)
- [The Third Delay in General Surgical Care in a Regional Referral Hospital in Soroti, Uganda.](#)
- [Self-injected contraceptives: does the investment reflect women's preferences?](#)
- [Study Confirms Benefits of Early Postoperative Walking.](#)
- [The political and social contexts of global road safety: challenges for the next decade.](#)
- [The true global burden of trauma: a call for a comprehensive trauma research platform.](#)
- [Invited Commentary: Nationwide Study on Stress Perception Among Surgical Residents.](#)
- [Exploration of Clinician Perspectives on Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Function Beyond Clinical Decision-making.](#)
- [Coaching for Surgeons: A Scoping Review of the Quantitative Evidence.](#)
- [Patient Follow-up After Orthopaedic Outreach Trips – Do We Know Whether Patients are Improving?](#)
- [Defining Surgical Workforce Density Targets to Meet Child and Neonatal Mortality Rate Targets in the Age of the Sustainable Development Goals: A Global Cross-Sectional Study.](#)