

THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #227
June 2023



PAACS Soddo Christian Hospital / CURE Hospital residents and faculty



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



Dr. Hanson Chidi Otuneme graduates from PAACS Galmi General Surgery Program

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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

Dear PAACS Family,

As we conclude another fruitful fiscal year on June 30, we are thrilled to share the inspiring accomplishments of PAACS. Together we have made remarkable strides toward our mission of training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to provide excellent and compassionate care to those most in need in Africa.



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH Chief Executive Officer

PAACS training programs have flourished this fiscal year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). We are currently equipping 150 residents with skills to address pressing healthcare and spiritual needs in their communities. New general surgery programs began in two new countries, Burundi (Sept. 2022) and Togo (Jan. 2023). Also, a new plastic surgery program started at AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya (April 2023). Beyond the residents in training, we have 142 PAACS graduates who are serving in 21 countries bringing healing and hope to those who are suffering.

Our commitment to spiritual growth is evident in our 5-year strategic plan and the goals that are being accomplished. All PAACS sites held spiritual retreats this fiscal year and our comprehensive five-year spiritual curriculum has been completely updated and is now available within Logos Bible Software. We believe in providing a transformative journey alongside quality surgical and specialty training.

This fiscal year marked a number of significant milestones and I can only mention a few. In October, we held a successful inaugural Senior Conference for fourth- and fifth-year PAACS residents. This platform propelled these men and women toward surgical excellence and innovation through advanced learning and collaboration, preparing them for the thriving ministry as God has called them to do. In February, we held our largest Basic Science Conference with 155 people gathering in Limuru, Kenya.

To support and empower women in their surgical careers, we recently established a Women in Surgery Workgroup. The representation of women trainees and graduates within PAACS surpasses the estimated average in Africa, and we are committed to fostering their continued success.

We also proudly welcomed our first travel fellow, expanding educational horizons and strengthening connections beyond borders. Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno's experiences abroad have not only enriched his medical knowledge but also inspired impactful fundraising events, advancing our mission to bring transformation to underserved communities.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support. It is through your prayers, financial contributions, and dedication that we continue to make a lasting difference. Together through God's guidance, we radiate the brilliance of healing, hope, and a brighter future for Africa. Let's get excited for new beginnings in the fiscal year beginning July 1!



PAACS First Travel Fellow Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno

Blessings,

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



PAACS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS ELECTRONIC EXAMS ACROSS 10 COUNTRIES

Keir Thelander, MD Executive Vice President

PAACS administered fully electronic exams this month for 107 trainees in their MCS and FCS general surgery years along with two candidates in neurosurgery. The exams took place at 15 different sites across 10 countries over the course of seven hours. Special thanks to Rachel Huth who helped facilitate during a few very late nights.

We are thankful that at the end of two days, all 109 examinees had downloaded and uploaded two parts to the exam, meaning 218 downloads and uploads had occurred without issue! With the exception of a couple test-taking misunderstandings, all went extremely well.





Of the 109 test takers, 96 were successful. Special congratulations to Dr. Rumbidzai Mlweah, fourth-year trainee at Malamulo Adventist Hospital, who had the highest overall score. Congratulations to Dr. Linda Thure, second-year trainee at Tenwek Hospital, who scored the highest above passing for her year level at 25% over the minimum passing score. This year, the exam grading curve was set at -6.8%, reflecting the rigorous nature of the assessment, while maintaining a commendable reliability coefficient (KR20) of 0.88.

Let us celebrate the achievements of those who were successful. At the same time, we humbly request your prayers and support for those who did not achieve the desired outcome. May the Lord meet their needs. A remediation exam has been scheduled for July 28th or 29th, depending on site.



Average	60.1%
Standard Deviation	8.6%
Median	60.8%
Minimum	34.7%
Maximum	74.9%
25th quartile	57.3%
75th quartile	66.3%
KR20	0.88
# questions	199

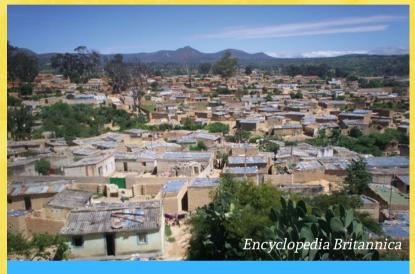
PROGRAM FUTUR

PAACS EXPANDS: LAUNCHING A NEW GENERAL SURGERY PROGRAM IN ANGOLA

Julie Hayden Development Coordinator

As part of the five-year strategic plan, PAACS continues to explore options to expand into more underserved areas of Africa. The PAACS Board of Directors recently met to review an opportunity to begin a new General Surgery program in Angola. Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML) is located in southern Angola and provides healthcare to an immediate catchment population of over 2.5 million people. Half of the population in the catchment area has no direct access to primary healthcare and often has over a two-day walk to CEML.

One major barrier to quality healthcare in Angola is what many call the "brain drain." Angola has one of the highest net emigration rates for doctors in the world. An estimated 70% of Angolan doctors have left for other countries. By training and discipling surgeons locally at CEML, Angola can retain more talented medical professionals, strengthen its surgical workforce, and ultimately improve access to essential surgical care. A new PAACS program typically



Lubango, Angola

begins with two residents and adds more each subsequent year as resources allow. What a great impact this creates on the surrounding community!

We are thrilled to announce that the PAACS Board of Directors approved the program to begin at CEML! The program could begin as early as January 2024. Please pray for all those involved in completing the necessary steps for the program to start quickly and smoothly. Also, ask God to start preparing the hearts of the residents He is guiding to train and serve the people in Angola.







PROGRAMS CURRENT

ETHIOPIAN WHITE COAT AND FOOT WASHING CEREMONY WELCOMES FOUR NEW RESIDENTS

Timothy Nunn, MD PAACS Orthopaedic Program Director, Soddo Christian Hospital / CURE Hospital

There is perhaps no more powerful statement of Christian servant leadership, especially in hierarchical cultures, than foot washing. Ethiopian medical social media platforms were buzzing after the foot washing photos were uploaded. Foot washing remains as counter-

cultural today as in first century AD!

This year's ceremony address was given by Dr. Duane Anderson. It was graciously translated by the Soddo Christian Hospital Chief Executive Officer Ephrem Gebreselassie. Ephrem is hugely supportive of the PAACS training program, faculty, and residents. Dr. Anderson gave a comprehensive history of those who started the program at Soddo Christian Hospital. It was clear that the programs were being built on the 'shoulders of giants' who served faithfully. The address concluded with an exhortation to individuals and the whole PAACS family to remain faithful to our calling, to seek and save the lost, and to continue in discipleship and prayer. Prayer was offered up as the foot washing was performed. Afterwards, it was clear that it had been a significant and poignant time for residents, trainees, faculty, staff, and families.

Both the symbolism and the address reminded me of how unique the PAACS program is and the privilege it is to be part of the Lord's work here in Ethiopia. I am immensely grateful for the support of Dr. Tim Love in arranging this ceremony. Please pray for our two new orthopaedic and two new general surgical residents as they embark on their training:

General surgery residents: Dr. Mekbib Abebe Dr. Getiso Tarekegn

Orthopaedic surgery residents: Dr. Dereje Hunduma

Dr. Dawit Beyore



Dr. Duane Anderson and Ephrem Gebreselassie



New PAACS residents



PAACS Soddo/CURE residents and faculty



PROGRAMS Н Z

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT AND FAITH

Dr. Otuneme Graduates from PAACS Galmi General Surgery Program

K. Shafer, MD PAACS General Surgery Program Director, SIM Galmi Hospital

On April 1, we celebrated the commencement ceremony of Dr. Hanson Chidi Otuneme of Nigeria from our PAACS General Surgery Program at SIM Galmi Hospital. Dr. Otuneme holds the distinction of being our first resident from Nigeria to graduate and marks the 9th overall graduate to complete the program.

Dr. Otuneme's path to this milestone was marked by unexpected twists. Initially commencing his residency at PAACS Mbingo, violence disrupted the program's operations, necessitating the relocation of many residents. In the face of adversity, Dr. Otuneme exhibited remarkable flexibility and transitioned to our program.

During the commencement ceremony, our esteemed hospital director Dr. Sanoussi along with a local pastor delivered poignant messages of encouragement and guidance rooted in scripture.

Dr. Otuneme has been greatly appreciated by our hospital staff and patients for his ability to speak the local language coupled with his heartfelt participation in resident Bible studies, offering spiritual insights with the heart of a pastor. Dr. Otuneme's wife, Grace, is a pharmacist and has also been an active and invaluable contributor to our patients' well-being.

Since graduation, Chidi and Grace along with their two sons, Liam and Avery, have embarked on a new chapter of service. They are now serving the Lord at ECWA Hospital Egbe in Nigeria. We humbly request your continued prayers for them.











≫ Ш ALUMNI

PAACS GRADUATE DR. CHEGE MACHARIA: LEADING THE WAY AT AIC KIJABE HOSPITAL

Dr. Bruce MacFadyen and Mrs. Rosemary MacFadyen PAACS Leadership



Dr. Chege Macharia has taken on the role of Executive Director of AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, marking a new era of exceptional healthcare. His journey with PAACS began as a General Surgery resident at Kijabe in 2011. He went on to complete the PAACS Head & Neck Surgery Fellowship at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon under the leadership of Dr. Wayne Koch.

Dr. Macharia returned to Kenya and AIC Kijabe Hospital's surgery department focusing on head and neck surgery and has become the head of the department. He does all types of general surgery but concentrates on patients who have head and neck tumors and trauma.

Embodying the core values of AIC Kijabe Hospital and PAACS, Dr. Macharia believes in a Christ-centered approach, combining

medical and surgical excellence with unwavering compassion for every patient. He emphasizes the importance of listening to patients and addressing not only their medical needs, but also their spiritual well-being. He is actively implementing Kijabe's five-year plan, emphasizing strength in all aspects of primary care, internal medicine, general surgery, and anesthesiology. Kijabe has excellent PAACS training programs in general surgery, general and pediatric orthopedics, plastic surgery, anesthesiology, and pediatric surgery, with plans to add fellows in pediatric orthopaedics and head and neck surgery, while considering urology and obstetrics and gynecology training.

PAACS Family, Dr. Macharia requests that you pray for God to give him wisdom in developing Kijabe's next five-year plan and pray the National Health Insurance Fund is able to meet its commitments to reimburse the hospital for care given to low-income families.

PAACS is thankful for the way God has led and provided for Kijabe in the past and is confident God will lead them forward. When discussing his personal and hospital goals, Dr. Macharia referenced Ephesians 3:20: "He who is able to do immeasurably more than all we are able to imagine according to His power that is at work within us."





PAACS ALUMNI VIRTUAL GATHERING

There will be a PAACS Alumni virtual gathering via Zoom on **Thursday, July 6 at 4pm GMT / 5pm WAT / 6pm CAT / 7pm EAT** (note time change). This will be a time for PAACS Graduates to share current needs and discuss ways to support one another. Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka and Dr. Steve Doane will moderate the discussion. Invitations coming soon via email.

BECOMING A SURGICAL EDUCATOR: Tanzania and the ICMDA Conference

John Tarpley, MD Academic Dean

A highlight of June for me was an incredible trip to Tanzania, accompanied by Dr. Keir Thelander, Executive Vice President of PAACS. Joining us in Arusha was Dr. Wendy Willmore, who had just completed a five-month volunteer teaching and working visit across Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.

The first several days allowed us to view the countryside from Arusha in the north to Nkinga in the Tabora Region in the center of the country, a nine-hour drive. We were the guests of PAACS graduate Dr. Julius Paul who completed his PAACS training at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center under co-program directors Drs. Frank Madinda and Wendy Wilmore, and the leadership of the Hospitali Ya Rufaa Nkinga (Nkinga Regional Hospital) of The Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania.

After a warm, impressive, short visit, we returned to Arusha to present a PAACS faculty development pre-conference to recent PAACS graduates and other attendees of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) Annual Meeting held at the Arusha International Conference Centre. There were 30 recent PAACS graduates in attendance and another 20+ attendees from other parts of the world. The meeting was organized by Dr. Jim Smith of Portland, OR, and Dr. Thelander. Faculty included Drs. Madinda, Willmore, Smith, Thelander, and Tarpley.

The format was a lecture followed by interactive discussions, breakouts into small groups, and then reports back to the gathered group. The camaraderie of the PAACS graduates from multiple programs was a joy to experience with wonderful reconnections, exchanges, and photos.

Topics addressed included becoming a surgical educator; leadership; incorporation of research in one's program; giving feedback; depression, burnout, and moral injury; how to help the underperforming resident; a toolkit to improve teaching; simulation in surgical education; assessments; organizing and administering education in a program; plus a robust wrap-up session on how one can implement faculty development in one's program. The importance of the spiritual mission of PAACS was highlighted with excellent reports, input, and testimonials from various PAACS graduates.

Though the majority of the roughly 50 attendees were recent PAACS graduates and Gynecologic Oncologist Dr. Laurie Elit of Mbingo, there were non-PAACS ICMDA attendees who participated and contributed. The meeting was well received. The esprit de corps was wonderful.

The October Faculty Development Conference for PAACS faculty will take place at Brackenhurst, Kenya October 1-7, 2023.









EMBRACING THE POWER OF PRAYER PAACS Global Day of Fasting and Prayer

Ed Scearce, ThM, DMin Spiritual Dean

PAACS held its second Global Day of Fasting and Prayer for 2023 on June 12th. The atmosphere was filled with reverence and anticipation as over 150 people participated in one way or another, each contributing in their own unique way during this essential time of dedicated fasting and prayer. Sixty-six dedicated souls from different corners of the world gathered in two Zoom meetings to pray together.

The theme was taken from Psalm 96:8-9: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!" The exhortation from these verses is to "worship in the splendor of God's holiness."

Prayer is one of the highest forms of worship. We come before a God of absolute holiness who has lavished upon his people love, grace, and mercy. It is through the name of Christ that we approach the throne of holiness to present our petitions and make supplication.

Prayer is our lifeline. Prayer is our communion with God. Prayer is the means by which we speak to God. And whatever it is that God has designed for us to do in praying is what we ought to do and not any other thing. Let us remember the promise in 1 John 5:14: "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

There are many gifted people involved in the ministry that God has given to PAACS. For this we give thanks! However, the success of PAACS since its inception 27 years ago can only be attributed to one thing: **the powerful hand of God working in answer to the prayers of His people**. Thanks be to God for His great blessings! The way forward is on our knees before our God who answers prayers. Let us "worship in the splendor of His holiness!"

EMPOWERING CHANGE: Introducing the PAACS Women in Surgery Workgroup

J. Kayle Lee, MD Member-at-Large, PAACS Board of Directors

We are thrilled to announce the creation of a new initiative within PAACS – the Women in Surgery Workgroup. Recognizing the unique experiences and challenges faced by women in surgery, particularly in Africa and as Christians, this Workgroup aligns with PAACS' strategic vision. Over half of the African population is female, a significant proportion of African medical graduates are female, and yet <10% of the African surgical workforce is female. By creating a supportive training organization and environment that advocates for women in surgery, we can increase recruitment and retention of women in the field of surgery and in PAACS.

This taskforce is comprised of PAACS faculty, alumni, leadership, and volunteers: Dr. Agneta Odera, Dr. Beth Stuebing, Dr. Britney Grayson, Dr. Elina Pfaffenbach, Dr. J. Kayle Lee, Dr. Lemfuka Dieudonne, Mrs. Margaret Tarpley, Dr. Rich Davis, and Mrs. Susan Koshy. We have begun meeting and will start with creating and distributing a survey to residents, faculty, and alumni. After a needs assessment, we hope to help address the various issues important to the women of PAACS such as work-life balance, gender roles, discrimination, inequity, career development, ergonomics, and more. Our goals are to create a community for women in PAACS and to educate all trainees and faculty in advocacy for women in surgery. We look forward to using this initiative to glorify God and fulfill PAACS' mission in an inclusive and transformative way.

SHARE NEWS TO G00D

MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA

Timothy Nunn, MD PAACS Orthopaedic Program Director Soddo Christian Hospital & CURE Hospital, Ethiopia



Dr. Yohannis Nigusu, Orthopaedic FCS4 at Soddo/CURE, married Hibist Tamirat on May 27. Family and Soddo friends and colleagues joined to celebrate the ceremony at Faith Bible International Church in Hawassa. The happy couple honeymooned in Arba Minch, Southern Ethiopia. Please pray for God's blessings for their marriage.

NEW BABY AT KIJABE

Matthew Kynes, MD PAACS Anesthesiology Program Director <u>AIC Kijabe Hospital</u>

Second year PAACS Anesthesiology Resident at Kijabe Dr. Rebecca Dufe and her husband Ayo welcomed a baby boy, Temitayo Mwamure, on May 22. They wanted him to have meaningful names that would speak blessing upon him. Temitayo means 'worthy of joy,' and Mwamure means 'the chosen one / set apart'. They are also a great representation of our cultural diversity as they are Yoruba and Kikuyu names, respectively.

PAACS LEADERSHIP COLLABORATE TO PUBLISH ARTICLE

Congratulations to PAACS leadership including Drs. Robert Parker, Heath Many, Grace Kim, Michael Mwachiro, and Andrea Parker on the publishing of their research article "<u>Trainee Autonomy and Surgical Outcomes After Emergency Gastrointestinal Surgery</u>" in the journal *Surgery*.



Residents, graduates, and faculty: share your news with the PAACS Family!
Email your updates to emily.dennison@paacs.net.

LAPS FOR PLACES



FUNDRAISER

PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPT 300 9:30 AM-4 PM



Come! Bring a friend!
Support PAACS while enjoying a fun-filled day with unique car experiences and entertainment.

COMPLIMENTARY FUN EXPERIENCES

- EXOTIC AND PERFORMANCE CAR SHOW
- MUSEUM OF MOVIE CARS
- AWARD-WINNING TEXAS BBQ LUNCH
- LIVE AUCTION

EXPERIENCE THE THRILL AND HELP FUEL THE LIFE-CHANGING WORK OF PAACS IN AFRICA. JOIN US AND LEARN HOW THE POWER OF GOD AND YOUR GIVING CAN HELP TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF MANY THROUGH PAACS.

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*An optional adventure available for purchase through DrivExotic, an outside vendor, providing an exotic car driving experience.

drivexotic.com

For more information, contact Amanda Woods - (815) 219-8093 or Amanda.Woods@paacs.net

TRANSFORMING LIVES: STORIES OF IMPACT FROM PAACS' FIRST-YEAR RESIDENTS



Dr. Estifanos BafaPAACS General Surgery Resident
Malamulo Adventist Hospital
Malawi





Dr. Djomo GinettePAACS General Surgery Resident
Mbingo Baptist Hospital
Cameroon







Dr. Madalitso Kumwembe PAACS General Surgery Resident Nkhoma Mission Hospital Malawi













As we reach the end of our fiscal year, we would like to share a powerful testament to the impact of your support for PAACS. During the Basic Science Conference in January, we had the privilege of interviewing some of the first-year PAACS residents. These interviews captured their heartfelt reasons for choosing PAACS and how they feel God has called them to serve in Africa.

While each resident has a unique story and journey into medicine, they all share a common thread in their association with PAACS. The program's ability to combine top-notch surgical training with spiritual growth resonates deeply with them. It will empower them to serve the people they have encountered, who are in desperate need of improved healthcare and the hope found in the gospel.

In these videos, you'll see the tangible results of your support and how PAACS is equipping these residents to be compassionate surgeons and specialists AND ambassadors of the gospel. Your continued generosity ensures that more lives will be transformed and that Africa will have a brighter, healthier future.

We invite you to reflect on the impact you can make through a financial contribution. Your support not only provides essential training and discipleship, but also helps fulfill the calling of these dedicated residents to bring healing and hope to Africa.

Please consider making a final donation to PAACS before June 30, as we continue to train and disciple the next generation of African Christian surgeons and related specialists. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities across Africa.

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE U.S. & CANADA

PRAY

- Pray that God will bless and guide as PAACS continues His work in Africa.
- Pray 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, and their families.
- Pray that God will bring His chosen and qualified African physicians to be trained as surgeons, anesthesiologists, and obstetrician/ gynecologists through the PAACS programs.
- May the Lord bless all the PAACS graduates.
 May He help them and their families as they serve Him.
- Pray for blessings upon on all PAACS partners, supporters, and prayer warriors.
- Pray that as this fiscal year comes to a close on June 30, 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:

- John Tanyi
- Misori Glory Masango
- Paul Shu Chinonso
- Faith BIH Irene Keba
- Neville Alemnju Telelen
- Picard Dingong
- Armia Samuel Fathy Kamel
- Diomo Ginette
- Keja Esmond
- Tiba Dongmo Janelle Lavinia

GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE U.S. & CANADA

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- The Association Between Meningioma and Breast Cancer. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.
- <u>Perinatal outcomes and the role of obstetric</u> anaesthesia interventions.
- Evaluation of a Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) workshop for peripheral intravenous cannulation.
- Things I Wish I'd Known From the Beginning:
 SOPs. No matter how many times a pilot has
 flown a specific airplane, 100% of the time before
 takeoff, they review the SOP (Standard Operating
 Procedures) for that plane.
- The Searing Disparity Between Burn Patients. A hidden gender equity issue.
- Salpingectomy in Ovarian Cancer Prevention.
- Endoscopic retrograde appendicitis therapy or antibiotics for uncomplicated appendicitis.
- <u>'But what if you miss something ...?': factors that influence medical student consideration of cost in decision making.</u>
- Complicated Pregnancy in Surgical Residency.
- <u>Humility: A Revised Definition and Techniques</u> for Integration into Surgical Education.
- <u>Immediate versus delayed sequential bilateral</u> <u>cataract surgery.</u>

Read more articles compiled by Margaret Tarpley by <u>clicking here!</u>

