



The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 252 • July 2025



OUR 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.

OUR VISION

PAACS envisions a growing number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

As we begin a new fiscal year, I want to first say thank you. Because of your faithful generosity and steadfast support, we are grateful to share that PAACS met our financial goals for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. The final financial numbers will be available in our Annual Report that will be released later this Fall. This is a tremendous milestone—one we simply could not have reached without you.

With deep gratitude, I am excited to share that on July 1, we launched into our new fiscal year with fresh vision and renewed purpose. And what better way to begin than in prayer? On July 14, 72 individuals, over two separate zoom prayer calls, from across the globe, joined us for our Global Day of Fasting and Prayer. These gatherings—held three times a year—center us as a community and remind us that every endeavor at PAACS must begin with seeking God first.

To all who participated: thank you. Your prayers are powerful. As we look ahead, we do so with humility, fully reliant not on our own strength, but on God's unchanging faithfulness.

We are also pleased to announce that our Board of Directors has approved a FAITH budget of more than \$5 million for fiscal year 2025–2026. This is a 10% increase from the previous year. This investment reflects not only our ongoing growth but also our unwavering commitment to excellence in medical and spiritual formation. These dollars help support our mission—to train and disciple African surgeons and related specialists for Christ and His Kingdom work. PAACS also continues to depend upon the Lord to provide for this ministry to fulfill His plans and purposes.

This month, we began our annual audit season. Once complete, the audit results will be posted on our website, along with our IRS Form 990s and previous audit reports. We remain committed to full transparency and financial integrity in all we do.

Additionally, our residents recently completed their remediation exams—a key part of our commitment to academic excellence and accountability. Please continue to pray for them as they grow in knowledge, surgical skill, and Christlikeness. These future leaders are being shaped not just as surgeons and related specialists, but as faithful witnesses of the Gospel in the operating room and beyond.

We are filled with anticipation for what lies ahead. God is doing remarkable things through PAACS, and we are so honored to walk this journey with you. Together, let's continue to serve, pray, and believe—trusting that the best is yet to come.

With sincere gratitude and blessing,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



UPDATE ON OB/GYN AT KIJABE

Lilian Mameti, MBChB, MMed-Ob/Gyn, FCOG-ECSA
Program Director, Ob/Gyn
AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya

We started our residency application process in April 2022, with the accreditation process coming through one year later in mid 2023. The program is running under ECSACOG (East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynecology) with residents qualifying to be specialist Ob/Gyn consultant members of the college after the 4-year training (M-ECSA). In the last year, we also found favor to be enjoined into the PAACS program, a milestone that we're very grateful for.

We began with 6 faculty members; Drs. Stelle Njenga, Priscilla Wanjohi, Elisa Lupi, Brian Liyayi, Albert Gichuki and I, Lilian Mameti, in the program director capacity. We came down to 4 with Dr. Lupi leaving in early 2024 and Dr. Njenga joining a

gynecologic oncology fellowship at the university of Nairobi in September 2024.

Subsequently, we've been able to recruit two more consultants, Dr. Chan Joack Puoch and Dr. Elvis Bugusu, who joined us in January 2025. We're currently back to 6 faculty members. We're also being supported by two externally contracted gynecologic oncologists who join our weekly virtual MDTs and come in to operate with us in gynecologic oncology surgeries. We also have high risk obstetrics MDTs supported by two MFM specialists working in Nairobi. We look forward to enjoining some more sub-specialist consultants from the REI, adolescent and pediatric gynecologic health, uro-gyn and advanced laparoscopy into the program.



Accreditation Day, 2023

UPDATE ON OB/GYN AT KIJABE (CONT'D)

Our first intake comprised of two residents, Dr. Joshua Emerry Muhondwa and Dr. Lynette Ng'endo Kimani, currently in their 2nd year of training. These two were our former medical officers, intentionally selected from the ground for an easier program take-off, with anticipated teething challenges of a new program.

Our second intake in 2024 included Dr. Brenda Nyawira Mukunya and Dr. Elsie Wanjiku Kamau, who are about to complete their year 1 training.

We're looking forward to our third intake interviews this coming week, with the commencement of the next academic year in September, 2025.

We thank God that we have found favor through the hospital leadership and through PAACS to support our residents through their training. Because of this, they can focus more on their studies instead of mixed allegiance to school and other employers for sustainability. PAACS has become a very supportive synergy through faculty development, leadership mentorship and resident support through resident training during the annual boot camps, financial support through stipends, book support and much more.

We are very thankful to all and to God for the journey so far and look forward to more positive growth in the near future. We hope that as we move towards the first graduating class, we shall continue to train excellent specialists who can give the highest level of care, wholistically, to all patients across Africa and beyond.



2024 Resident Interview Panel



Faculty, Residents, and MOs



Our Residents, 2025



ADVANCING SURGERY IN MALAWI: REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2025 SAM SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Joseph Mkandawire, MD
General Surgery Resident
Malamulo Adventist Hospital

The Surgical Association of Malawi (SAM) held its Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference in Blantyre, Malawi, from the 4th to 5th of July 2025. Malawi's PAACS programs—Nkhoma Mission Hospital and Malamulo Adventist Hospital—were represented by Romavimbi Ngwira (PGY1-GS), Madalitso Kumwembe (PGY2-GS), Sharon Bonya (PGY4-GS), and Joseph Mkandawire (PGY5-GS). The team was led by Dr. Brent Sherwin, Program Director at Malamulo, and Dr. Bernhard Widmann, Faculty at Nkhoma.

This year's theme, "Transformative Surgery: Leveraging Limited Resources for Optimal Patient Care," was explored through abstract presentations and panel discussions. Dr. Kumwembe presented on the establishment of the first intensive care unit in rural Central Malawi at Nkhoma Hospital, while Dr. Mkandawire presented a case report titled "Consequences of Resource Limitations: A Decade-Long Misdiagnosis of Rectal Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor" and also led a session on neurotrauma and ethics. Dr. Ngwira's research on "Laparoscopic Surgery in a Resource-Limited Setting," which highlighted the strides made at Nkhoma in making minimally invasive surgery a reality in rural Malawi, won both the Best Junior Abstract Award and the Best Overall Conference Abstract Award.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion in which Dr. Sherwin and Dr. Widmann participated as panelists. They emphasized that continued surgical education, such as that provided through PAACS, is central to improving surgical outcomes in Malawi. Additionally, they underscored the importance of fostering a work ethic grounded in servanthood and professional commitment, rather than personal gain, as a cornerstone for strengthening the Malawian surgical workforce.





SALINE PROCESS UPDATE FROM MALAMULO

Brent Sherwin, MD
Program Director, General Surgery
Malamulo Adventist Hospital

On June 18, Malamulo Adventist Hospital had a follow up meeting with our Saline Process group from our original training back in January with Drs. Mark Topazian and Rachel Nunn. We spent several hours together reviewing some of the basic principles of the Saline Process, doing some role play scenarios, and sharing with the group testimonies of how the training had been working in our daily interactions with patients. It was a wonderful time to re-connect as a team and see how God had been working through us to share Jesus with our patients. We look forward to more follow up meetings in the future.





STANDING STRONG IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE

Ed Searce, DMin, ThM
Spiritual Dean

When you think of a bully, whose name(s) comes to mind? It is likely you thought of more than one. Are these people you know personally? In what way did they bully you? How did you respond? Hopefully in a manner that honored Christ.

Bullying is a sad attempt to make oneself feel powerful at the sake of others, but it actually reveals what one really thinks of themselves. It has been said that most bullies are cowards at heart.

In a spiritual sense, the ultimate bully is Satan. Though we may rightfully label Satan as a bully, he is no coward, he is a bully with a real punch. Satan is the leader of powerful forces of spiritual darkness. Paul reminds us in Ephesians chapter six of this ongoing battle.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12 (ESV)

Satan wants to bully us into believing that he is all-powerful. And yes, we would make a mistake to think Satan has little power. He does not rule the spiritual forces of darkness from a position of weakness. We are in a real battle with these forces of spiritual darkness.

Yet, God has not left us to fend for ourselves. We have been provided everything we need to stand strong against the schemes of Satan and his legions of demons. What are we to do when the spiritual forces of darkness come against us with what seems to be overwhelming power? The Apostle Peter tells us what we are to do.

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 1 Pe 5:8–9 (ESV)

Paul also instructs Christians what we are to do in Ephesians 6:10, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might”.

We dare not take on the spiritual forces of darkness trusting our own abilities, regardless of how righteous we may think we are. It is only in the power of Jesus Christ that we are victorious. We do not have to run and hide in fear. We can stand strong in the power of Christ. We can defeat the forces of evil that bombard us every day. The victory has been won by Christ. Yet there are battles yet to be fought. Next month we will look at the armor God provides for every believer to do battle.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

A WONDERFUL NEW ADDITION TO OUR TEAM

We are delighted to share that Dr. Rachel Cobos, a trauma and critical care surgeon, has officially joined our team at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. Her expertise is already making a meaningful impact—enhancing the quality of care for our patients and enriching the training experience for our surgical residents.

Please continue to pray for a smooth transition for Dr. Cobos and her family as they settle into life and ministry here in Soddo.



MARRIAGE AT MBINGO

Dr. Marius Tchinde is a 5th year resident in general surgery at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.

Olivia and Marius' wedding was in June 27-28, 2025 in the town of Bafoussam. Thanking God for the smooth celebration and praying for Him to bless the couple with a fruitful marriage.

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs, that they will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray for God's blessing and provision as a new Fiscal Year began on July 1.
- Pray for God's guidance as PAACS programs continue the selection process for the 2026 academic year.

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

- Dickla Jackson Mollel
- Baptist Augustino Matonya
- Frida Kokushubira Fidelis
- Peter Ally Kayange
- Ernest Babu
- Lilian Emmanuel Tarimo
- Benedicto Mwang'onda
- Joshua Mbelwa
- John Minja
- Loveness Kimaro



LANDS' END 

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branded items.](#)

ARTICLES ON SURGERY, OB/GYN, AND ANESTHESIA

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Spirituality and Surgical Education: Beliefs and Practices Among General Surgery Program Directors](#)
- [Assessing Learner Growth on a Low-cost Laparoscopic Simulation Platform](#)
- [Initial Qualitative Needs Assessment of Surgical Resident Case Logging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries Across Pan-African Training Programs](#)
- [A Retrospective Study of the Management of Hirschsprung's Disease at a Tertiary Healthcare Facility in Africa](#)
- [The Feasibility and Safety of Ventral Hernia Repairs Under Local Anaesthesia: A Systematic Review](#)
- [The Impact of Work-related Pain on Surgical Team Members' Burnout and Personal and Professional Performance](#)
- [On the Backseat: Analyzing Motorcycle Passenger Injuries in Children](#)
- [Surgical Healthcare: How Sub-Saharan Africa is Translating Global, Regional, and National Policy into Action](#)
- [Health Workforce as a Climate and Health Priority in Nationally Determined Contributions](#)
- [The Use of Deliberate Practice in Simulation-based Surgical Training for Laparoscopic Surgery – A Systematic Review](#)

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Margaret Tarpley by clicking here!**

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