



The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 251 • June 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Desk of the CEO
- PAACS Exam Results
- Soddo PAACS Shines at the 30th Annual Ethiopian Surgical Society Conference
- PAACS Graduate Welcomed at HOH
- Submit Abstracts for the 2025 PAACS Conference
- Praise and Testimonies Celebrate the Mission of PAACS in Houston
- Good News
 - Three Babies at Kibuye
- Prayer Requests/Praises
- Articles on Surgery



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

As we end another fiscal year, I continue to be amazed at how God is guiding and growing the ministry of PAACS through both new opportunities and faithful partnerships. Each day, I'm reminded that this work belongs to Him and that we are stewards of a mission far greater than ourselves.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of attending a national conference for nonprofit CEOs, CFOs, and COOs. It was a time of learning covering timely topics like artificial intelligence, HR best practices, and the evolving landscape of insurance. But just as meaningful was the opportunity to connect with other leaders who share a passion for excellence and impact in ministry. These conversations are strengthening our efforts to steward PAACS well and to think faithfully and strategically about the future.

Our future planning was also on my mind as I recently met with the leadership of Mercy Ships to explore areas for future collaboration. I want to thank them for a wonderful day and a great experience. Strategic partnerships like this can help expand our collective capacity to have a greater impact bringing hope and healing across Africa.

Meanwhile, our internal work continues as we prayerfully develop our next five-year strategic plan. This process is engaging our board and administrative leaders in conversations around spiritual formation, SAO education and training, organizational development, and strategic partnerships. Please join us in praying that God will give us wisdom and clarity as we shape this next chapter.



The PAACS community gathered for a special event on June 7th, a beautiful benefit concert in Houston, TX, with gospel artist Nicole C. Mullen. It was a powerful evening of worship, testimony, and sharing the incredible stories of what God is doing through PAACS surgeons. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the night possible.

Finally, this month, many of our residents completed their annual PAACS examinations. These assessments are a key milestone in their rigorous training. Please continue to pray for them and the ways they will serve in Africa.

As we close our fiscal year on June 30th, we are especially grateful for the generosity that sustains this ministry. THANK YOU for your support, encouragement, and prayers. Truly, without God and without you, none of this would be possible. If you have not yet had a chance to give this year, there is still time to make a meaningful gift before the end of the day on June 30th. Thank you for being part of what God is doing through PAACS.

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
PAACS

GIVE TODAY!

PAACS GENERAL SURGERY AND NEUROSURGERY EXAMS



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

On June 6th and 7th, 124 trainees sat for the PAACS General Surgery in-training exams and 3 sat for the Neurosurgery in-training exams. After analysis of each question, a few were deemed unacceptable and thrown out. This years exam was a bit more difficult than last year so a 2.5% curve was applied. One hundred seven trainees out of 124 (86%) were successful on the General Surgery Exam. The exam proceeded at 16 different PAACS sites applicable to their days and time zones. Using whatsapp allowed rapid and effective communication throughout the two days of exams. With a KR20 0.968, the exam preparers (Carl Haisch, Steve Doane, and Jennifer Kincaid) should be proud of their work, which demonstrates a valid exam.

Special congratulations to Dr. Kalkidan Gulilat (4th year Soddo) who's 85% was the highest overall score and to Dr. Veronicah Kungu whose score exceed passing for her level by 28%, the highest score over passing percentage. Another note of congratulations to the Soddo Christian Hospital program trainees performance having the highest score at years 3, 4, and 5. On the general surgery side, the following statistics resulted:

Overall Test	Scores
Average	65.0%
Standard Deviation	10.0%
Median	67.1%
Minimum	36.2%
Maximum	84.7%
25th Quartile	58.2%
75th Quartile	72.40%
KR20	0.96815448
# Questions	196

Success by year level required the following scores:

1st year 47.5%
2nd year 52.5%
3rd year 57.5%
4th year 62.5%
5th year 67.5%

As a result the performance by year level is noted below.

Year Level	Pass	Fail	
First	27	6	82%
Second	32	2	94%
Third	16	3	84%
Fourth	20	3	87%
Fifth	12	3	80%
Junior	59	8	88%
Senior	48	9	84%
Overall	107	17	86%

PAACS GENERAL SURGERY AND NEUROSURGERY EXAMS (CONT'D)

Congratulations to the top scorers, listed below.

Top Score By Year

1st year	Veronica Kungu	76%	Litein
2nd year	Dickson Gusugusu	78%	Kibuye
3rd year	Mekbib Abebe	84%	Soddo GS
4th year	Kalkidan Gulilat	85%	Soddo GS
5th year	Yohannes Debebe	83%	Soddo GS

Top % Deviation By Year

1st year	Veronica Kungu	28%	Litein
2nd year	Dickson Gusugusu	26%	Kibuye
3rd year	Mekbib Abebe	26%	Soddo GS
4th year	Kalkidan Gulilat	22%	Soddo GS
5th year	Yohannes Debebe	16%	Soddo GS

Top Score

4th year	Kalkidan Gulilat	85%	Soddo GS
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Top % Deviation

1st year	Veronica Kungu	28%	Litein
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Please pray for all the trainees as they process their scores and seek what God has for them in the future.



SODDO PAACS SHINES AT THE 30TH ANNUAL ETHIOPIAN SURGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Gezahegn Tilahun, MD, FCS (ECSA), FACS
Assistant Program Director, General Surgery
Soddo Christian Hospital, Ethiopia

The Soddo PAACS program was well represented at the 30th Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Surgical Society, held on May 15–16 in Addis Ababa. This year's gathering marked the 30th anniversary of the Society — a significant milestone that celebrated the contributions of Ethiopia's pioneering surgeons. Two memorial lectures were delivered in honor of two late “giants” in the field, remembering their enduring legacy and impact on surgical education and care in the country.

Emerging themes such as digital surgery drew attention at the conference. While still in its infancy in Ethiopia, the trend is gaining momentum, especially among young surgeons who are eager to engage with new technologies and techniques.

Soddo PAACS has consistently earned a strong reputation at this annual conference, frequently contributing well-regarded papers. Although the number of presentations from Soddo was fewer this year, the quality of the work remained outstanding. Three papers were presented by our team, continuing our legacy of academic excellence.

Dr. Natnael Temesgen, a chief resident, and Dr. Edomias Zenebe a fourth-year general surgery resident, presented their research with distinction. Out of over sixty papers submitted from various institutions across the country, Dr. Edomias was awarded first place for the best paper of the conference. He presented two impactful studies - 1. “Outcomes and Patient Perception of Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Performed in Wolayita Soddo, Ethiopia” and 2. - “Utility and Effectiveness of Ultrasound-Guided Supraclavicular Limb Block in Adults at Soddo Christian General Hospital, Wolayita, Ethiopia: Analysis of 616 Consecutive Blocks.”

His first paper was particularly recognized as the best research article of the year, bringing honor to himself and the program.

In addition to the success of our residents, two PAACS graduates served as session chairs during the research presentations, and another graduate contributed a paper, highlighting the growing academic leadership of Soddo PAACS alumni.

This recognition has energized the entire program. Looking ahead, we are inspired to increase our research engagement in the coming year. With God's help, we plan to submit even more papers — particularly prospective studies and randomized controlled trials — and to continue making meaningful contributions to surgical knowledge and practice in Ethiopia.



PAACS GRADUATE WELCOMED AT HOSPITAL OF HOPE IN TOGO

"I am Dr. Clarisse Girincuti, a general surgeon from Burundi, who graduated from the Galmi PAACS program in 2024. I am fortunate to be married to Audace Nduwimana and the mother of three children: Ettie (7 years old), Dave (6 years old), and Alva (9 months old). I am deeply grateful for the holistic training I received through PAACS, which has shaped me into the surgeon I am today.

My long-held dream of serving as a missionary and teacher at PAACS, in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:2, became a reality through the ASUC/SIM program. Throughout my training, my heart was drawn to Muslim communities, especially women and children, recognizing the profound opportunity to serve and uplift them.

Thanks to God, I found my way to Togo HOH, where I continue to grow, teach, and impact the community in the name of Jesus Christ. My family and I remain grateful for all that God is doing through us for His Kingdom."



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

For the first time ever, PAACS is accepting abstract submissions for our 2025 Fall Conference in Chicago, IL (Oct 2–4)! We are accepting submissions from US medical students, residents, and fellows through August 1, 2025. Abstracts will be selected for in-person or zoom oral and poster presentations at the conference.

PAACS will be accepting online submission on the following topics:

- Global surgery
- Broad-based general and subspecialty surgery (neurosurgery, CT surgery, head and neck surgery, etc.), anesthesia, and OB-GYN within a global context
- Education/Simulation within a global surgery context
- New technologies and techniques within a global surgery context
- Research performed by or in collaboration with PAACS faculty, residents, or alumni

Submissions are due August 1, 2025. Abstract selections will be made by September 1, 2025. Presenters will be responsible for making their own travel and hotel arrangements.

For more information please visit - <https://paacs.net/get-involved/2025-abstract-submissions.html>

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Global Surgery

SUBMISSIONS DUE - **AUGUST 1, 2025**
SELECTIONS MADE - **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**
PAACS CONFERENCE - **OCTOBER 2-4, 2025**

**DON'T
MISS YOUR
CHANCE!**



PRAISE AND TESTIMONIES CELEBRATE THE MISSION OF PAACS IN HOUSTON

Deb Pedziwol
Senior Director of Partnership Development



On June 7th, PAACS hosted a fundraising event which featured dinner and a musical performance featuring Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning Nicole C. Mullen in Houston, TX. Over one hundred guests attended the event and enjoyed an evening of great food, fellowship, and uplifting music! Susan Koshy, PAACS CEO; Dr. Jason Fader, faculty at Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi; and Dr. Moses Kasumba, PAACS Graduate and former faculty at Malamulo Adventist Hospital, Malawi, presented a compelling PAACS program that focused on the 29 years of surgical and discipleship training and detailing the impact of our 186 trainees and 187 graduates to the continent of Africa.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the incredible work of the Houston Concert Committee! I would like to recognize this hard-working committee: From the PAACS Board of Directors: Dr. Louis Pisters, Chair, his wife Jane and sons, Andrew and Phillip, Dr. Emad Asham, Secretary and wife Christine, Wayne Murray, Community Representative and wife Jackie, Dr. Brian Badgwell and Dr. Wendy Badgwell, Harry Hinkle and wife Mona. Also, the Chair of the Advancement Committee who travelled down to Texas, Dr. CR Powell. THANK YOU!

This was the last fundraising event for our 2024-25 fiscal year. I invite each of you to consider hosting an event in the coming year. Help PAACS expand our reach and share the incredible story of our ministry with your friends, church family, and colleagues by hosting a PAACS gathering in your area. Please contact Deb Pedziwol, Senior Director of Partnership Development - deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net or (423) 612-1045 to schedule your event today!



GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

NEW BABIES AT KIBUYE



Congratulations to PAACS resident, **Dr. Alain Nishimwe** and his wife, Peace, on the birth of their new baby girl.

We are thankful for our second girl Laxa Alvie Olwen NINEZA (3100g), who was born on May 16, 2025, and receive her as a gift from our Lord. It is our prayer that she will know God and serve Him.

Dr. Nishimwe is a third-year resident at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.

Another blessing from the Lord. A beautiful baby girl, Irankunda Jael Osnat, born on April 23, 2025 at Kibuye Hope Hospital.

Thank you God for all your blessings to me and my family.

Dr. Sadock Irankunda is a PAACS graduate and faculty member at Kibuye.



Congratulations to PAACS residents **Drs. Raoul Mbango and Leilla Muhimpundu** on the birth of their new baby boy.

We are deeply grateful to God for the precious gift of our first child MBANGO Ewan Jaivyn Naëlis born on June 10th, 2025. Our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness. May God help us to raise him according to His Word.

Drs. Mbango and Muhimpundu are third- and first-year residents, respectively, at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.

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 discernment and guidance during the interview and selection process for the applicants who will join PAACS in January 2026.
- Praise God for His provision and guidance through a successful fiscal year, keeping the mission thriving.

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

- Ntuntu Sweni Tamfu
- Junior Arung
- Patiente Umuganwa
- Kokou Drafor
- Ngankwe Franck Vincent
- Radoniaina Dinamalala Olivier
- Tefinirina Aina Mirana Razafimanantsoa
- Valimbavaka Santatriniaina
- Toavina Rabenasolo
- Benjamin Unamosi
- Désiré Razafindrasara
- Lalaso Randrianjohany



ARTICLES ON SURGERY, OB/GYN, AND ANESTHESIA

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Surgical Culture and the Pregnant Surgeon](#)
- [The ARTS of being a surgeon: a qualitative study exploring supervisors' trust decisions when granting autonomy to trainees](#)
- [Interfaith Dialogue, AI, and Conflict Resolution in Africa: Exploring the Potential of Religious Leadership with Reference to Selected African Countries](#)
- [Regret in the Moral Psychology of Surgical Professionalism](#)
- [Comparison of maternal and neonatal outcomes between general anesthesia and combined spinal-epidural anesthesia in cesarean delivery for pregnancy complicated with placenta previa](#)
- [Pre- and post-amputation healthcare experiences among persons with lower-limb amputations and their relatives: The case of Trinidad and Tobago](#)
- [Surgical site infections following emergency abdominal surgery: a prospective cohort study](#)
- [Who pays for surgical care in the global south? A narrative review](#)
- [Trauma Laparotomy. Manual of Surgery in Resource-Limited Settings](#)
- [Conservative Oxygen Therapy With Mechanical Ventilation](#)

[Read more articles compiled by Margaret Tarpley by clicking here!](#)

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