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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the First PAACS Anesthesiology Graduates

Training for Excellence, Serving for Christ



Dr. Rebecca Dufe
Faculty (Anes), AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya
PAACS Graduate, 2026

I was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, in a Christian home. Although I grew up surrounded by Christian teaching, I did not personally accept Christ as Lord until after high school, during a program at Nairobi Baptist Church. The Gospel and the overwhelming love and grace of God challenged me in a way I could not walk away from. Despite the challenges that came with that choice, it remains the best decision I have ever made. It is also where I met my husband, Daniel Ayo. We have now been married seven years and have a little toddler, Temitayo.

I heard about the **Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)** from a friend and fellow church member, Dr. David Jomo, who had been a steady encouragement to me throughout medical school. He had trained under PAACS faculty at AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya and spoke highly of the program's faith-based approach. At the time, I was still deciding on a specialty. I had only worked in outpatient settings but felt drawn to the operating theater, which led me toward anesthesia. When the position was advertised in 2020, I applied without hesitation. I was honored to be accepted.

The training was nothing like I expected. I came in with almost no exposure to anesthesia, and the learning curve was steep. But the PAACS faculty at Kijabe were remarkably patient, supportive, precise, and generous with feedback that helped me improve daily. I learned that teaching with both kindness and firmness produces the best learning and creates room for trainees to receive correction with an open heart. It is the way I now try to teach others.

I believe God has entrusted us as graduates with a valuable skill to steward well. My prayer is simply to serve Him wholeheartedly, giving optimal care to every patient, and helping to make anesthesia safer for our region, one practitioner and one patient at a time.

One moment captures why this matters so much to me. We cared for a Muslim patient battling severe sepsis from a renal abscess. His condition was critical, and surgery was his only real chance of survival. Before surgery, we sat with his family and explained how serious things were. They allowed me to pray with them, and I spoke about God's love and sovereignty and the promise of eternal life through Christ. **I knew this was a precious opportunity to share truths they may not often hear.**

The patient survived the surgery but sadly passed away a few days later. Yet when I saw his family afterward, something had changed. I sensed a hope and peace that had not been there before.

One of his daughters is a Christian, and I pray this experience will help her reach her family. Opportunities like this to pray with Muslims can be difficult to find, but **I believe God used that moment to bring down walls and open hearts to the Gospel.**



Dear PAACS Family

We are delighted to share this edition of the Alumni Newsletter with you and trust that it will both inform and inspire. In this edition, we share the stories of our first PAACS anesthesiology graduates, Dr. Rebecca Dufe and Dr. Eunice Kageha. Both graduated from AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya and now serve as faculty members within our Anesthesiology Program. We hope their journeys will remind you of God's faithfulness and the impact of your continued prayers and support.

Their stories reflect the mission of PAACS: training and equipping Christian surgeons and related specialists who serve with excellence, compassion, and a heart for communities across Africa. Each graduate represents a testimony of how God uses faithful partnerships to transform lives through Christ-centered healthcare.

Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. Your encouragement and investment continue to make a lasting difference.

As Scripture reminds us: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." — Galatians 6:9

Yours in Christ,

Dieudonne Lemfuka, MD, FCS (ECSA)
PAACS Graduate &
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WHEN GOD GUIDES: A PIONEER STORY

Dr. Eunice Kageha
Faculty (Anes), AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya
PAACS Graduate, 2026



I was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, in a Christian home. I gave my life to Christ in primary school, but like many, my faith had its own twists and turns as I learned to distinguish true faith from cultural expectation. **In His goodness, God continued to place people in my life who spoke truth into those seasons. Each time, He drew me closer to Him.**

After medical school, I moved to Nakuru, Kenya, for my internship, where I met my husband. God later blessed us with a son, and my family has been a steady source of encouragement throughout my journey. As a medical officer, however, I was unsure which specialty God was calling me to pursue. I prayed and asked Him to reveal it, trusting that He would lead me where I could best use my skills to serve Him. He answered that prayer through mentors who helped me see how vital safe anesthesia is to surgery. One mentor in particular told me about a brand-new Anesthesiology residency PAACS was launching. I did not know what to expect from a first-of-its-kind program, but I had met PAACS-trained surgeons who spoke of holistic, patient-centered care rooted in spiritual growth. **Their example showed me there was a way to pursue excellent patient care while deepening my faith, and I knew I wanted to be part of that.** I trusted God to guide me, and I was overjoyed when I was accepted.

The training was rigorous. As one of the first residents in the brand-new program, we were learning and growing alongside it, hoping to make it better for those who would come after us. Dr. Greg Sund and Dr. Matthew Kynes at AIC Kijabe Hospital, along with **the entire PAACS faculty, invested in us, shaping us not only as skilled anesthesiologists but as faithful servants of Christ.** Their patience and example taught me that excellence in medicine and devotion to Christ walk hand in hand. Our PAACS Bible study group helped ensure our spiritual growth was never neglected, teaching us to study God's Word and carry Christ's compassion into our daily care of patients. **Becoming one of the first two anesthesiology graduates in PAACS' history remains a testimony to God's goodness.**



Now, as PAACS faculty at AIC Kijabe, Kenya, **I have the privilege of helping train the next generation of physician anesthesiologists.** I want to pass on what was invested in me, combining excellence in anesthesia with Christ-centered care for patients in their most vulnerable moments. As one of my mentors likes to say, **“There is no safe surgery without safe anesthesia,”** and I am grateful to be part of the work PAACS is doing to make safe anesthesia a reality across Africa.



When Compassion Points to Christ

Dr. Kageha remembers one patient very clearly. This patient was a young girl in the ICU, fighting complications from sepsis for more than a month. During that time, we walked closely with her and her family, providing updates on her condition and praying with them each day. Her mother later told me those prayers had renewed her own faith. Our patient also gave her life to Christ during this time.

We lost her a few weeks later, and her death deeply saddened all of us who had cared for her. Yet even in the midst of that loss, her mother shared that the experience had drawn their family closer to God because of the love they witnessed in her daughter’s care.

I was devastated to lose her, but deeply humbled to have walked that road with her and her family. Her story continues to remind me why integrating faith into patient care matters. Even when the outcome is not what we pray for, God can use compassionate, Christ-centered care to draw people to Himself and make an impact that reaches far beyond the patient.