

THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter

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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

CHRIST HAS RISEN!



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

Can you believe that Easter is just over one week away? In the coming days, we will celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, journey to the cross, death, and resurrection. Each step reminds us of God's ultimate plan for the salvation of His beloved sons and daughters.

Before Jesus was arrested and later crucified, He went to the Heavenly Father in prayer. Knowing that He would take on the sins of the world, He asked the Father, if possible, to let the cup pass from Him. However, He continued to trust and surrender to God's will. In agony, He continued to pray to be strengthened and prayed for each of us. He prayed for joy in our sorrows and protection from evil. He finished by praying for God's love to continue to be known throughout our world and that we as believers would walk in unity with Him. What an example to follow! Even in the midst of His sorrows and trials, Christ prayed for us.

This month, I ask you to pray for PAACS. We are continually seeking God's will and desire to follow the path He has set forth for this ministry. Please pray for unity with the will of God and unity among the entire PAACS family. Let us not only fulfill the mission of PAACS, but ultimately the Great Commission God set before us. Pray for the patients that receive care from PAACS residents, graduates, and faculty. May they find joy, hope, and healing in Christ and may His protection surround them. And finally, pray for all of us to be the light of Christ, showing God's love to those who come into our circle of influence.

Personally, I'd like to ask for specific prayer over the Chief Financial Officer position on our PAACS administrative team that is currently available. Please pray that God will bring the right candidate that He has chosen to serve in this ministry.

If you find yourself in need of prayer, PAACS wants to pray for you! You can email your prayer requests to prayer@paacs.net and our team will commit to praying for you.

May this Easter be a time where you draw closer to God and experience His presence in your life. May we all celebrate the Risen Christ. Happy Easter!

Blessings,

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

*"Praise be to the God
and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he
has given us new birth
into a living hope
through the
resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead."
1 Peter 1:3*



PAACS TOGO SITE VISITS

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

PAACS Executive Vice President Keir Thelander, Academic Dean John Tarpley, and former Soddo Christian Hospital Program Director David Jeffcoach had the privilege of visiting Hospital of Hope (HOH) in northern Togo where Dr. Bryce Nattier is the program director for 1st year trainees Drs. Sweni and Yannick. The newest PAACS program requires about nine hours of reasonable travel from Lome, the capital of Togo. Located in a primarily Muslim area, the hospital shines brightly as they care for around 1,500 surgical cases per year and many more outpatient/inpatient challenges. Our visit consisted of touring the facility and discussions with the staff, trainees, and administration. We confidently see strategic location training and discipling excellent surgeons and devoted believers.

Subsequently, we traveled about two hours by plane to Tsiko, Togo, to visit Hopital Baptiste Biblique (HBB), where three general surgeons work together to provide high level surgical care. Drs. Tom Kendall (also Hospital Director), Jack Kehl, and newly arrived Brandon Snook will be the backbone of the surgical training and discipleship at HBB. Consideration of a two site/one program model was discussed and plans made by each site to offer this robust educational and discipleship experience beginning January 2024. Pray for PAACS leadership, HOH, and HBB as we develop the plans for a two site/one program model in Togo.

WACS PRECONFERENCE LAPAROSCOPIC TRAINING

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

As we continue to engage with WACS (West African College of Surgeons), PAACS collaborated under the leadership of Peter Ekeh, formerly PAACS Board of Directors African Representative, to provide a Basic Laparoscopic training course.

We appreciate the strength of the ALL-SAFE project which served as the foundation for the hands-on skill stations along with Ethicon training boxes. Though attendance was low, important connections were made between Dr. Bryce Nattier and Dr. Amouzou, a Togolese surgeon who works about two hours from Hospital of Hope. Additional thanks to Dr. Adrian Park who presented and performed the two laparoscopic cholecystectomy demo cases. Thank to Drs. Nii Armah and Monday Yilkudi (WACS fellows) and Dr. David Jeffcoach who presented other teaching sessions. Dr. Ngam Blessing Ngoin, part of the ALL-SAFE project and fourth year PAACS trainee at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, played an integral role in the setup of the training boxes. The collaborative effort generated much interest from the participants and faculty alike, hopefully resulting in other courses being hosted in Ghana and Nigeria using the ALL-SAFE platform.



Dr. Ngam Blessing Ngoin, PAACS General Surgery Resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital



PAACS AT WACS

*John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean*

“Surgical Education Training in West Africa” was the theme for the 63rd Annual West African College of Surgeons (WACS) in Lomé, Togo, March 20-23. WACS, launched in 1960, now includes seven faculties: anaesthesia, dental surgery, obstetrics & gynaecology, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, radiology, and surgery.



Francophone and Anglophone West Africa includes 18 member countries. See [West African College of Surgeons and its role in global surgery | The Bulletin \(facs.org\)](#) by PAACS Board Member Dr. King-David Yawe. Meetings and the presidency rotate between Francophone and Anglophone countries. The majority of members are from Nigeria and Ghana with the Secretariat in Lagos. Due to COVID, this was the first gathering in several years and enjoyed a robust attendance with members thankful to meet, interact, and network. PAACS, affiliated with WACS for two decades, has four programs with WACS relationships: Bongolo (Gabon), Mbingo (Cameroon), Galmi (Niger), and most recently Togo.

PAACS, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Ekeh of Wright State in Dayton, Ohio, and the prior African Representative to the PAACS Board, made several significant contributions to this year's WACS meeting. A preconference Basic Course in Laparoscopy was led by Dr. Ekeh along with colleagues from Africa and the USA including Dr. David Jeffcoach, former program director at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia, Dr. Adrian Park (Maryland), fourth year PAACS resident Dr. Ngam Blessing Ngoin (Cameroon), and others. They utilized the ALL-SAFE simulation lap skills trainer developed by Dr. Jeffcoach, now at UCSF Fresno, PAACS colleagues in Mbingo and Kijabe, and Dr. Grace Kim, PAACS General Surgery Council Chair. See more on ALL-SAFE in the [January PAACS Bulletin](#).

Dr. Ekeh also organized a Leadership Symposium “The Surgeon as Leader: Leading Your Team in the Clinical Arena and Beyond” to be highlighted in next month's issue.

Attending his first WACS, PAACS Program Director at Hospital of Hope in Mango, Togo, Dr. Bryce Nattier participated in the preconference laparoscopy course. Dr. Blessing Ngoin, Mbingo PGY IV resident, also participated in the preconference workshop and introduced attendees to the award-winning ALL-SAFE laparoscopic simulation trainer while working the Innovative booth the 3.5 days of the meeting.

The meeting included lectures, panels, a named research lecture on cervical cancer, and presidential addresses by the outgoing president Prof. Peter Donkor (Ghana), and the incoming president Prof. Emmanuel Ezeome (Nigeria), whose title was “Our Journey so Far as a College.” Prof. Yawe (Nigeria), past President of WACS 2017-2019, and current PAACS Board African Representative, led several meetings.



Dr. Ngoin and an ALL-SAFE Team member instructing attendees at WACS



PAACS CURRICULUM REVISIONS

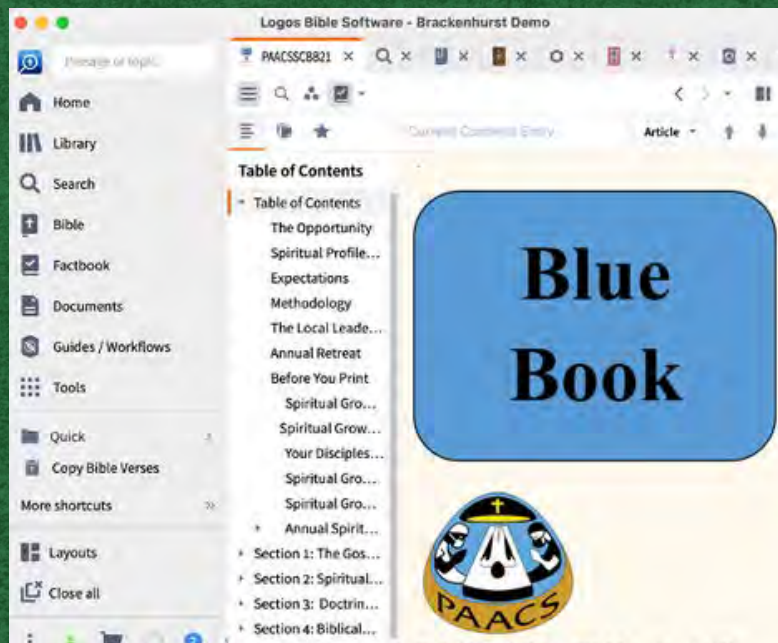
*Ed Scarce, ThM, DMin.
Spiritual Dean*

The revisions of the five PAACS spiritual curriculum textbooks were completed in December of 2022.

The revisions included:

- 1) New material for sections of Bible studies
- 2) Inclusion of “Words Worth Remembering” for most lessons
- 3) Complete make-over of layout and formatting
- 4) Actions Steps/Application questions for each lesson
- 5) New material on personal evangelism
- 6) Personal Spiritual Assessment tool

A major difference in this latest version is formatting all five books for use within the Logos Bible Software program. The books are currently being formatted by Logos. The software also has a translation tool that will translate into over 100 languages. What a wonderful tool for our residents!



Logos Bible Software

PAACS secured a volume license agreement with Faithlife (makers of Logos software) for the purchase of this software by PAACS residents. This cost of \$50 USD for a resident is less than 10% of the actual cost to PAACS.

If a student would like to obtain a permanent license for Logos, they should email a request to PAACS Spiritual Dean, Dr. Ed Scarce (ed.scarce@paacs.net).

PAACS GRADUATE FOLLOWS GOD TO SERVE BUNIA

Thomas Robey, MD

Past Chair, PAACS Board of Directors

Dr. Jacques Ebhele is a 2015 graduate of the PAACS General Surgery program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. Following his residency, the Lord has used Jacques in many ways. Initially, Jacques wanted to return to his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Unfortunately, there were no feasible opportunities at that time in eastern DRC. Instead, the Lord called Jacques to Cameroon where he served as faculty and Assistant Program Director at the PAACS general surgery program at Mbingo Hospital for several years.

When the Cameroon War temporarily suspended the Mbingo Program, Jacques and his family left for Malawi where he worked as the Chief of Surgery at Daeyang Luke Hospital. It was during his time in Malawi that Jacques heard the Lord's call to go back his home country to establish a general surgery practice to help the war-torn people of eastern DRC. But where would God send Jacques?

Jacques was given a vision of him starting a practice right in the middle of the devastation in Bunia, a sanctuary city for many eastern Congolese who were escaping the guerilla violence in the countryside. Bunia has exploded to a city of over two million people as many refugees now call this home. Jacques' vision was two-fold. First, he felt called to start his own surgical clinic, Mercy Surgical Polyclinic (MSP) in Bunia to meet surgical needs as well as share the gospel. In addition, he established the Christian Surgical Network (CSN), a surgical strike force team to meet the surgical needs at the many mission hospitals throughout eastern DRC who have either no surgical access or need an additional surgical team to handle the workload. An example of CSN's work are surgical trips that Jacques and his team have done with fellow PAACS graduates, Dr. Sammy Nigo and Dr. Jean Claude Bataneni at CME-Bunia Hospital and Nebobongo Hospital.

To support his ministry, Jacques has joined Partners in Evangelism International as a full-time surgical missionary. PIEI's strategy is to connect national missionaries with donors who provide prayer and provision to effectively spread God's Word and disciple those their ministries cross paths with.

This past October, Dr. Rebekah Kim and I had the opportunity to visit Jacques in Bunia and meet his national partnership committee. We visited the site of MSP and travelled with Jacques to see Drs. Bataneni and Nigo. It was amazing to see these three PAACS graduates and how the Lord is using them to further His kingdom throughout the eastern DRC. Please pray for all of our Congolese graduates. Who knows, perhaps the Lord will use the CSN to start a PAACS training program in the DRC. It all starts with a vision!

If you would like to learn more about Jacques' ministry, please visit his [ministry page](#).



The Ebhele family



Mercy Surgical Polyclinic under construction with Jacques' national partnership committee and Drs. Nigo, Kim, and Robey

PAACS Graduates to Co-Lead Workshops at ICIIGS 2023

*Alliance Niyukuri, MD
PAACS Graduate*

The International Conference on Innovations in Global Surgery (ICIIGS 2023) will be held in Mombassa, Kenya April 24-25. The goal of the conference is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in innovations in global surgery, as well as



promote safe access to surgical, obstetric, trauma and anesthesia care in rural settings of East Africa. There will be practical workshops including Wide Awake Local Anesthetic No Tourniquet (WALANT), Laptop Cystoscopy (Urology), Flexible Endoscopy, Technology Innovation for Gasless Laparoscopic Surgery, and Virtual Reality in Medicine (VRIMS). Some of these workshops will be co-led by PAACS graduates including Dr. Michael Mwachiro and Elijah Mwaura. For more information, visit [the Surgical Society of Kenya's website](#).

Litein Resident Celebrates Marriage



Fourth year general surgery resident at AIC Litein Hospital Dr. Ruth Talaam married Joshua Onyango on January 21.

Please pray for the couple as they begin their marriage.

PAACS Board of Directors Meeting

The PAACS Spring Board of Directors Meeting will be held this upcoming April 13-15 in the Chicago area. Please pray for the presenters and attendees.



PRAY

- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray that all the new residents will be blessed with God's favor and grace.
- Pray for PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's protection, provision, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.
- Pray for unity and solidarity for all the PAACS programs and within the PAACS organization.

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

- Chelsea Shikuku
- Stephen Ngare
- Peter Mukisa
- Anita Kawira
- Jeremiah Nangale
- Samson Kassa
- Peter Waweru Maina
- Tegen Surafel Dubale
- David Leon Adai
- Mark Karanja Njuguna

GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA

CONNECT



Click here to read the

MARCH RESIDENT PROFILE



featuring

DR. BRILLANT GAËL GAHIMBARE
General Surgery Resident
Tenwek Hospital, Kenya

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Perioperative Risk Assessment in Humanitarian Settings: A Scoping Review](#)
- [A Global Call for More Investment in Data-Driven Perioperative Care Delivery Models in Humanitarian Settings](#)
- [Tracheostomy-related indications, early complications and their predictors among patients in low resource settings: a prospective cohort study in the pre-COVID-19 era \(Mbarara, Uganda\)](#)
- [Manual of Resource-Limited Surgery @ManualofSurgery. New chapter on #cesarean birth. How to deal with different fetal presentations and unexpected findings](#)
- [Managing Complications Part 1: Yourself](#)
- [Exploring the Use of a Fit-for-Purpose Surgical Headlight in Sub-Saharan Africa: Mixed Methods Study](#)
- [Impact of malnutrition on early outcomes after cancer surgery: an international, multicentre, prospective cohort study](#)
- [Quality of care for postpartum hemorrhage: A direct observation study in referral hospitals in Kenya.](#)
- [Read more articles compiled by Maggie Tarpley here!](#)