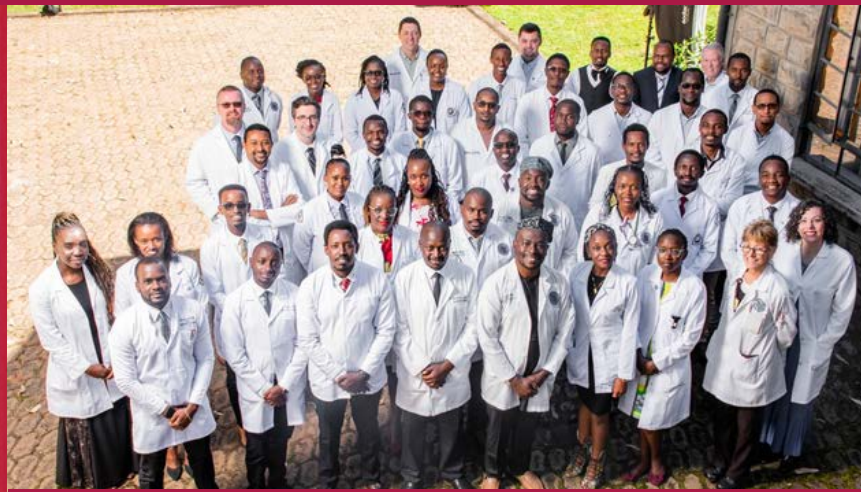




THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #223
February 2023



*Tenwek Hospital PAACS Programs'
Current Trainees and Faculty*



*Drs. Debbie Eisenhut and Bruce MacFadyen
at the PAACS Basic Science Conference*



*Nkhoma Mission Hospital
White Coat Ceremony and Foot Washing*

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PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

PAACS MISSION

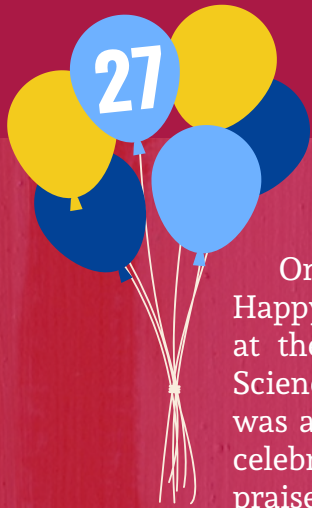
PAACS' mission is to glorify God by training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to become Christ-like leaders and servants providing excellent and compassionate care to those most in need.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAACS!



Dear PAACS Family,

On February 14th, PAACS celebrated 27 years in ministry. Happy Birthday PAACS! This year, I was fortunate to be in Kenya at the Brackenhurst Conference Center for the PAACS Basic Science Conference. Brackenhurst is the birthplace of PAACS. I was able to celebrate alongside many in the PAACS Family. We celebrated together with a beautiful day of fellowship where we praised God's faithfulness upon this ministry.



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

I took a moment to reflect on the initial days of PAACS. I realized that PAACS is a Holy Spirit breathed and given ministry. God Himself inspired Dr. David Thompson to begin a surgical training and discipleship program in Africa. Dr. Thompson realized the need was much larger than what any single person could accomplish. Yet, he faithfully stepped forward to partner with the Holy Spirit and follow His inspiration and instructions. Joining together with others, adhering to the will of God, a ripple effect would reach far across the continent.

Reflecting on those first few necessary steps to begin the PAACS ministry in 1996, God's Word in Ecclesiastes came to mind:

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

For PAACS, that first step became training one resident in one country at one hospital. Today, 27 years later, we are now training and discipling 150 residents, through 23 programs at 17 mission hospitals in 11 countries. 35 of our own PAACS graduates are serving as faculty members within PAACS programs. They, too, want to train the next generation of Christian surgeons and related specialists for Africa. How great is our God!

Thank you for making this possible. It cannot be done alone. We appreciate all the support you've given through the years. Together, we place our full reliance on God and look forward to His direction in this 27th year of ministry!

Blessings,

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



THE 27TH BIRTHDAY OF A MIRACLE OF GOD:

The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons

David Thompson, MD
PAACS Founder

Twenty-seven years ago, a small group of missionary surgeons from hospitals across Africa met each other in Kenya at a Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA) Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference. Their stated reason for coming was to earn enough CME credits to maintain their medical licenses back in the U.S. or Canada, but there were other, perhaps more important reasons to be there. Most were the only surgeons for between 200,000 and two million people, and fewer and fewer of their colleagues back home were coming to help them or replace them as their strength and resolve failed. God had called them to Africa to heal the sick and proclaim the gospel against impossible odds, but the inescapable truth was that even their best efforts were not enough. They needed not just a few, but hundreds of Jesus-proclaiming surgeons to serve not just in their hospitals, but in hospitals all across Africa. But of course, that was impossible!

Also present at that conference were academic surgeons, men and women who on their own dime (and time off) left their universities, traveled halfway around the world, and for ten days shared with their colleagues their knowledge, encouragement, and prayers. As this diverse group of Jesus-followers spent time together in lectures, coffee breaks, meals, and eventually in meetings to share their burdens, God began preparing them for something new and unexpected.

Midway through the conference, it happened: one of the youngest among them shared a vision that God had given him one day as he pleaded for help. It was just three words: "You train them!" Those words resonated in their hearts and minds, and by the end of the conference and without any idea of where the money would come from, how they would build curriculums and accreditation for their programs, and where they would find committed and qualified applicants, they joined hands to create the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons.

Were they heroes? None would claim that. And for the next decade, many considered them fools. But as they persevered, the impossible happened as one after another, Christian hospitals began training faith-filled African surgeons. Twenty-seven years later, it's still expanding. How amazing is that?

As King David wrote in Psalm 8:

O Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you. When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers - the moon and the stars you set in place - what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

PSALM 8:1-5



PAACS BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Limuru, Kenya

*Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

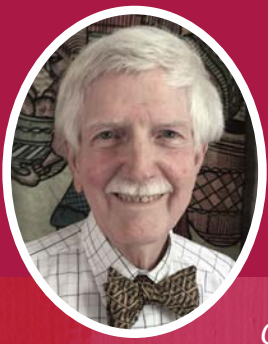
PAACS now annual basic science and surgical skills 12-day conference began February 12th on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. With 42 trainees, 39 faculty, 11 spouses, 29 children, four VBS staff, 22 guest educators (six guest educator spouses), and six administrative staff, these over 155 people represent the largest attendance ever.

PAACS trainees learned through workshops in Research, Orthopaedics, Endoscopy, Urology, Surgical Critical Care, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Oncology, and Resident Skills, while also having robust certificate programs in Basic Surgical Skills, Point of Care Ultrasound, Subspecialty Technical Skills, and Trauma Care.

Each day began with worship in song and in the Word. PAACS Spiritual Dean Rev. Ed Scarce expounded on Hebrews throughout the 12-day conference impacting each of us deeply. The fellowship and relationship building over meals, tea breaks, and in the evenings, was invaluable. Now with 23 programs at 14 sites, program updates filled the evenings.

A wonderful barbecue Friday night and a Saturday excursion to Crescent Island provided more opportunities to deepen these newly formed friendships throughout the PAACS family. We thank God for His protection throughout the conference and during travel to and from Brackenhurst. Please pray for lasting impact of this foundational conference. We look forward to relationship development in January 2024 at the Senior Conference (trainees in last year) and again at the Basic Science Conference (first years) February 2024.





PAACS BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Takeaways

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

Greetings from our PAACS 2023 Basic Science -- Clinical Skills Conference with 41 PGY I residents at Brackenhurst Conference Centre in Limuru, Kenya. The first week has been outstanding on multiple fronts – academic, spiritual, camaraderie, new acquaintances. Music, singing, sharing times, and biblical study have all been a blessing. I will share a few.

Dr. Beth Stuebing, Nkhoma Mission Hospital, Malawi, trauma surgeon, presented a world-class talk entitled “Mom’s Got a Knife: Being a woman, mother, and surgeon.” She shared her personal trek over the past two decades with the many challenges for the three roles she has assumed. Studies suggest women are an at-risk group for burnout given dual-role responsibilities, gender discrimination, and limited female mentorship.



Dr. Agneta Odera, Faculty at Tenwek Hospital and Women in Surgery Africa (WiSA) President (2019-2022), completed residences in general surgery (Tenwek), pediatric surgery (South Africa), and cardiothoracic surgery (Tenwek). Dr. Odera reported on WiSA and shared her trek, obstructionist counseling from an attending surgeon, and persistence. She asked: “Where do we go from here?” She concluded with: *“There is a strong need for substantive policy change at the individual, organizational, and governmental level to reduce gendered discrimination and gendered stereotypes in surgery. We call upon all organizations involved in surgery and other procedural specialties to actively work toward equity. It starts with YOU.”*

Dr. Debbie Eisenhut, Faculty Surgeon at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, organized small-group, hands-on experiences over the Friday afternoon session that ran four hours without a tea break. For the past four years, she has organized the skills sessions experiences, acquired the equipment necessary, recruited and instructed faculty, and made sure we stayed on time. Leadership is key; a champion is needed to deliver such a worthwhile session in a brief time.



Seven different stations (six thirty-minute and a hernia sixty-minute) commenced with instruction and demonstration, then moved to hands-



on experiences of the key aspects of clinical skills related to flexible laryngoscopy/head and neck exam, surgical endoscopy, urology, airway management, jaw wiring (arch bar placement for OMF trauma), hernia anatomy and repair, and neurosurgery (burr hole placement). At the outset, Dr. Greg Sund, Anesthesiology Faculty at Kijabe Hospital, presented safe airway management skills. Subsequently, Kijabe PGY I Drs. Betelhem Belda and Cynthia Odhiambo taught those airway management skills, thus role modeling the “teaching the teachers.”

Photos from the **PAACS BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE**



CURRENT PROGRAMS



New Residents BETHANYKIDS HOSPITAL, KENYA: PEDIATRIC SURGERY



Dr. Marlene Ishimwe
Burundi

Dr. Ishimwe is a co-founder of Jars of Love, a Burundian organization comprised of 10 of her medical colleagues. When her pediatric surgery training is completed, she plans to join this group in expanding the current clinic to a mission hospital. Burundi currently has only one pediatric surgeon for a population of 12 million people.



Dr. Anya James Andrew
South Sudan

I was working in pediatrics and surgery. I loved both, and wanted to train further, but didn't have the finances to pay for the living expenses required by most programs. In PAACS, at Kijabe, I have found a place to combine my faith, love of pediatrics, and skills in surgery, while living expenses are provided!



Dr. Weseka Wanjala
Kenya

After completing his medical training, Dr. Wanjala was posted to his home country. A surgeon there mentored him, but most pediatrics cases had to be referred to other distant hospitals. This is an intense difficulty to families with limited resources. He is excited and grateful to train in pediatric surgery to care for children nearer to their homes.

MALAMULO ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, MALAWI: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Estifanos Babulo
Ethiopia

I grew up in near Soddo Christian Hospital. I would see Christian doctors in our church and community giving free medical services and evangelizing. Watching those doctors had a huge impact on my education and my spiritual development. I felt God was calling me to use the gifts and skills he had given me to help and serve other people.



New Residents AIC KIJABE HOSPITAL, KENYA: ANESTHESIOLOGY



Dr. Betelhem "Betty" Belda
Ethiopia

I believe my purpose in life is to help others. I noticed how under-developed my home country of Ethiopia is when it comes to anesthesia and critical care. I became curious on how to preach the gospel through all of this. I decided to be part of PAACS so that not only will I become a competent anesthesiologist, but also a Christian physician.



Dr. Cynthia "Archie" Achola
Kenya

I'd love to be a Pediatric Anesthesiologist and Intensivist. With the PAACS family, I can grow to be a wholesome doctor in Christ. With the passion I have for service to children, I knew with PAACS I would get the opportunity not only to minister through service to the little ones but also to nurture the seed of God in them.

TENWEK HOSPITAL, KENYA: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Daniel Baraka
Kenya

I see being a surgeon as a ministry. Many patients requiring surgery are critically ill and come to the hospital in a low and vulnerable state. For a Christian surgeon, this provides an opportunity to minister to the physical needs and the patient's spiritual needs. During the recovery period, a relationship is built, and a surgeon can share about Jesus.



Dr. George Waiyaki
Kenya

I am deeply impressed by the way I've seen PAACS transform and produce surgeons who have a compassion and willingness to serve. I want to support the PAACS mission and vision by glorifying God through the efforts of becoming a Christ-like servant, by providing excellent and compassionate care to the most in surgical and spiritual need.

CURRENT PROGRAMS



New Residents TENWEK HOSPITAL, KENYA: ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY



Dr. Elisha Kiptoo
Kenya

The biggest winning point in the PAACS program is the mentorship program. I believe it is borrowed from the life of Paul and Timothy, but put in a medical and surgical context. What a confident, efficient, and elite team will be built in such kind of whole round surgeon. It is amazing. Glory to God!



Dr. Mike Ronoh
Kenya

My late father encouraged me to serve with compassion and humility. My heart's desire is not just to be a good doctor, but be a doctor who cares for patients like Jesus would do. PAACS provides me with an opportunity to learn from faculty that honors God and serves him through their careers.

TENWEK HOSPITAL, KENYA: NEUROSURGERY



Dr. Daniel Ndar
Tanzania

Jesus, the Great Physician, came to mend our hearts (Isaiah 61:1). Our master exemplifies Himself as the "cardiac surgeon," who sacrifices Himself for us, the sinners. I feel a calling to reach out to those who do not know God. As a surgeon, I will have the chance to reach people who are in need of hearing that God loves them.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

New Residents

SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, ETHIOPIA: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Getiso Tarekegn
Ethiopia

I am really impressed by this program because it provides not only surgical knowledge but also the program can nourish the spiritual part of my life which will encourage me to be a practicing and active Christian surgeon. I don't know where the Lord will lead me after my training, but I plan to follow the Lord and hope to serve the people of Ethiopia.



Dr. Mekbib Abebe
Ethiopia

After graduating from Addis Ababa University, Dr. Abebe worked as a general practitioner and was a leader of the Hossana Medical Mission Group, helping organize medical and evangelical outreaches around Ethiopia. A good friend connected him with PAACS. He desires to work in a place without access to surgical care.

HARPUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, EGYPT: GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Andrew Adel
Egypt

When Dr. Andrew discovered the PAACS-Harpur General Surgery Residency Program (the only Christian residency of any specialty in Egypt at that time), he knew he wanted to do it in order to be trained in a Christian environment with biblical principles of compassion, integrity, and excellence—to have his manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.



CURRENT PROGRAMS



Harpur Memorial Hospital:

David Thompson, MD
PAACS Founder

Caring for the People of Egypt



The Lim family



Dr. Nayer Naiem, faculty

The PAACS program at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt, is led by Dr. Paul Lim. It's fourth graduate will soon be Dr. Amgad Nashat. Harpur's first graduate, Dr. Shady Fayik, serves as the Assistant Program Director at Harpur. Dr. Nayer Naiem, Harpur's second graduate, serves at Harpur as a faculty surgeon. It's third graduate, Dr. Amgad Ameir serves at Harpur Sadat, a sister hospital located 50 kilometers to the north.

Harpur's newest resident, Dr. Andrew Adel will start later this month. Harpur is very proud of its residents and their scores on last year's annual PAACS examination. During his first year, Dr. Fayik scored the highest for all first, second, and third year PAACS residents.

Last month, Dr. Lim had to fly home because of his mother's failing health. Please be praying that she will stabilize soon and be able to return to assisted living.

The addition of an expatriate general surgeon on Harpur's faculty is very important to the credibility of the program, will increase the number and breadth of general surgical cases for the residents to learn.



Harpur's residents and faculty surgeons

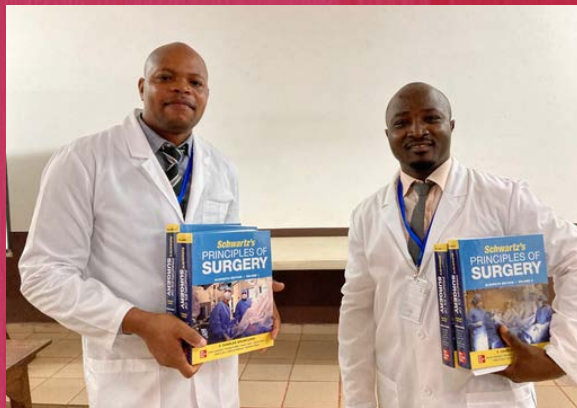


WHITE COAT CEREMONIES

BONGOLO HOSPITAL

*Zachary O'Connor, MD
PAACS Program Director, Bongolo Hospital*

Bongolo Hospital welcomed two new general surgery residents, Dr. Junior Lubanda and Dr. Fulbert Mamy. We held a white coat ceremony on January 4th with the hospital staff present as well as long-time friends of PAACS and Bongolo, Dr. William Wilson and his wife Marley. Please pray for these residents as they adapt to life in Gabon and the challenges of residency training.



SIM GALMI HOSPITAL

*Drew Avery, MD
PAACS Faculty, SIM Galmi Hospital*

On January 20, SIM Galmi Hospital celebrated the commencement of Dr. Melance Kabanyegeye with a White Coat Ceremony. He comes from Burundi by way of Kenya and is joined by his wife, Emelyne, and their young daughter. During the ceremony, the Hospital Director and PAACS faculty washed his feet, seeking to model the humble service that Jesus rendered to His disciples at the end of His earthly ministry. The SIM Galmi PAACS Program saw its seventh and eighth graduates finish their training in December 2022.



NKHOMA MISSION HOSPITAL

White Coat Ceremony

Wanda Lam, MD

PAACS Faculty, Nkhoma Mission Hospital

February 3rd marked the second White Coat Ceremony at Nkhoma Mission in Malawi. We celebrated our first class of residents, Drs. Caleb Kapengule and Vitumbiko Mwafulirwa, who now have a year of surgical training under their belts, as well as commission two new residents, Drs. Wongani Mumba and Madalitso Kumwembe.

Program Director Dr. Jens Vaylann described the history of white coat ceremony in the US and reflected on our work as surgeons. While the white coat signifies our responsibilities as physicians, he pointed out that it is the character in Christ underneath that matters.

Dr. Catherine Hodge, Director of Medical Education and Program Director of Family Medicine Residency at Nkhoma, proceeded to deliver a powerful speech on the significance of training, honoring the trainees, trainers, and patients. She left us with three important commands (1 Chronicles 16:11, Colossians 3:23, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17) that would serve as reminders during needed times.

The foot washing of new residents brought the ceremony to its climax. Dr. Vaylann emphasized that servant leadership is a core value of PAACS training with Jesus Christ as our role model. The symbolic foot washing of Drs. Wongani and Madalitso was a sign of commitment we made as a faculty to lead and serve our residents with humility like Jesus in the next five years of training. The faculty prayed over Drs. Wongani and Madalitso to commission them onto a new journey towards becoming godly surgeons.

As the ceremony came to an end, the physicians amongst the audience were invited to stand and read the CMDA oath, "As a Christian Physician," together. Reverend Kalebe offered a closing prayer. Guests were invited to a lunch reception and time of fellowship.





KIBUYE HOPE HOSPITAL

White Coat Ceremony

Ted John, MD

PAACS Program Director, Kibuye Hope Hospital



PAACS Kibuye had its inaugural white coat ceremony at the end of January.



We recognized four new PAACS residents this year: Dr. Alain Nishimwe and Dr. Raoul Mbango who started in September 2022 as well as Dr. Levis Ndayishimiye and Dr. Thierry Gireteka who started in January 2023.

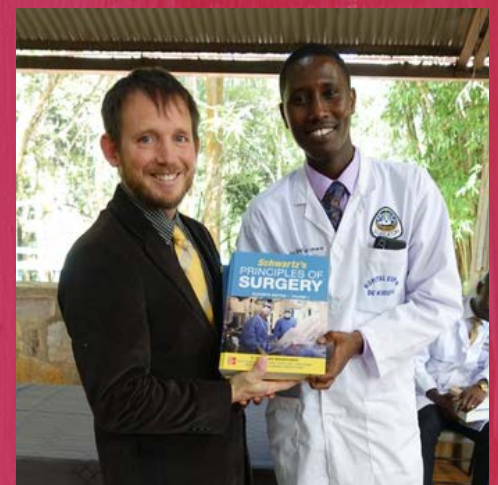


Families of the residents as well as members of the greater community gathered together to be part of this event, during which the residents each received a new white coat and a copy of the Schwartz surgery textbook.



One special part of the ceremony was the faculty washing the feet of the residents as a symbolic gesture, as Jesus did for His disciples. The event concluded with a prayer of blessing and a communal banquet.

It was a great opportunity to celebrate and bless our new residents as they begin their journey to becoming a surgeon.



GRADUATION

Tenwek Hospital

Andrea Parker, MD

PAACS Assistant Program Director, Tenwek Hospital

On February 3rd, we were thrilled to celebrate the graduation of our trainees who completed their residency training in December. This year saw the graduation of two general surgeons, Drs. Danson Mogaka and Daniel Moenga, and one orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Danny Araka. This year marked the 10th general surgery graduation and the fifth orthopaedic surgery graduation. Additionally, we welcomed back a newly trained urologist, Dr. Emmanuel Kiniga, who did his first two years of training here at Tenwek, followed by his urology training in Rwanda. It was such a blessing to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of these men and to have their friends and family, the surgical faculty, the administration, their fellow residents, and many of the hospital staff gathered to honor them.

Both graduates are staying on as faculty at Tenwek, and we couldn't be more thrilled! We are confident in these men and their skills. We also know that they love Jesus and are committed to providing compassionate care to show His love. Unfortunately, Dr. Mogaka could not join us for graduation due to a death in his family.

The training programs continue to grow and now include general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, obstetrics/gynecology, and cardiothoracic surgery. We are grateful for the growth and what it means for Kenya and the region. We are grateful to the PAACS family for the support of these essential training efforts!



PAACS Global Day of Fasting & Prayer

Ed Scarce, ThM, DMin
PAACS Spiritual Dean

The first 2023 PAACS Global Day of Fasting and Praying was held on February 27. Over 60 individuals gathered via Zoom for a time of praying for specific needs concerning the ministry of PAACS.

At the midday meeting, Dr. Limbe from Nkhoma read from Colossians chapter three and began our time of praying. Dr. Grace Kim read Scripture for the evening meeting. It was a time of earnest praying.



We serve a prayer answering God who tells us in Ephesian 3:20 he is "...able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us..." Let us increase our asking and stretch our thinking to include all God wants to do through us!

The next Global Day of Fasting and Prayer will be scheduled for June. Specific dates to follow.

PAACS is Hiring: Chief Financial Officer

Steven Darst has served as PAACS Chief Financial Officer for the past 2.5 years and he served as PAACS Controller prior to that. Steven wants to remain with PAACS, but is stepping down from his current role as CFO. Steven has done an incredible job as CFO and we want to thank him for his sacrificial service to this ministry.

That said, PAACS is seeking to hire a new CFO. Please pray about this and let us know if you know someone that might be a great fit for this position. This is a full-time role. Candidates must currently reside in the US.

Please share the LinkedIn job post with your network:

<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3491914113/>

We are requesting that applicants send their CV and cover letter to humanresources@paacs.net with subject line: "CFO Application."

Thank you for praying for PAACS as we seek to hire a candidate to faithfully execute the duties of this important position.

Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons
586 followers
1h • 🌐

PAACS is **#hiring** a Chief Financial Officer. This is a remote, full-time position. Please share with your network.

Candidates: email CV and cover letter to humanresources@paacs.net with subject line "CFO Application."

Chief Financial Officer
Job by Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons
United States (Remote)
Medical, Vision, Dental

[View job](#)

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:

- Levis Ndayishimiye
- Joseph Nderitu
- Gady Barutwanayo
- Winnie Mutunga
- Leah Caren Oundo
- Vallery Logedi
- Brian Odhiambo Ooro
- Faith Njeri Macharia
- Gidraf Njoroge
- Moses Smart Mbayo
- Kazadi Kalombo
- Brian Maluki

GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE
U.S. & CANADA

CONNECT



Click here to read the

FEBRUARY RESIDENT PROFILE



featuring

DR. LEUL SHIGUT

General Surgery Resident
Soddo Christian Hospital, Ethiopia

ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Evaluation of the practice of surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in a Zonal Referral Hospital in Mbuji-Mayi, Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\).](#)
- [Extent of Lymphadenectomy and Long-term Survival in Esophageal Cancer.](#)
- [High Infertility Rates and Pregnancy Complications in Female Physicians Indicate a Need for Culture Change. // Invited Commentary.](#)
- [Management of mammalian bites.](#)
- [Development of indicators for integrated antenatal care service provision: a feasibility study in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Sierra Leone.](#)
- [Femoral Venous Cutdown.](#)
- [Postoperative antibiotics can be de-escalated after laparoscopic surgery for complex appendicitis.](#)
- [Routine Postsurgical Anesthesia Visit to Improve 30-day Morbidity and Mortality. A Multicenter, Stepped-wedge Cluster Randomized Interventional Study \(The TRACE Study\).](#)
- [Read more articles compiled by Maggie Tarpley here!](#)