



THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
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From the Desk of the CEO



*By Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer*

Dear PAACS Family:

The PAACS Board of Directors meeting is being held April 29-30 in Des Plaines, IL. This is our annual Spring meeting, and it is being held at the same time as the release of this PAACS Bulletin. As such, we will report fully on the Board of Directors meeting in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The PAACS Spring Board of Directors meeting will be a hybrid-meeting. We will meet in-person but also have an option for people to participate virtually. We are currently expecting 55 people for the in-person portion of the meeting and an additional 50 persons by Zoom. Because of this new hybrid model of meeting, many of our colleagues throughout Africa and the world can join and hear about the work and progress of PAACS. Many of the meeting speakers are working directly with PAACS programs throughout the continent and have hands-on experience with our training programs. They will be able to provide very interesting and current perspectives.

Please pray for the meeting and for wisdom for the Board of Directors as they are making many decisions about the future of the ministry. Please pray for God's direction and will to be done. We seek to follow the leading of the Spirit of God.

Blessings,

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

40th CMDE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Golden Coast Hotel Conference Center
Marathon, Greece April 4-April 14, 2022



40th CMDE International Conference in Marathon, Greece April 4 - 14, 2022

*By Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President*

The 40th CMDE International Conference was held in Marathon, Greece, on April 4 - 14th. Due to the COVID realities, the conference was restricted to those over the age of 16. As a result, and given other factors, the attendance that has been over 1,000 in the past, was just over 300 this year. While in years past, PAACS senior residents have been able to attend this conference that is held in Greece, this year, due to COVID, visas were not able to be obtained, so no residents attended.

Yet, a number of PAACS faculty members attended and were blessed. PAACS Founder, Dr. David Thompson, gave the Stewart Lecture which was a wonderfully inspirational message of God's provision and faithfulness. Additionally, some PAACS leaders provided content for the Surgical Stream, Dr. Carl Haisch, Dr. Rebekah Kim, Dr. Doug Lundy, and Dr. Louis Pisters. Drs. Zachary O'Connor, Jennifer O'Connor, Jens Vaylann, Jeff Mailu, Rick Bardin, Jim Brown, Russ White, Jason Axt, and Cheryl Cowles, are all PAACS faculty who attended this conference.

Though small numbers, the Lord blessed those who could attend, and the impact will remain for months and years to come.

CURRENT PROGRAMS



HARPUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

*By David Thompson, MD
PAACS Founder*

Currently, PAACS has only one training site for all of northern Africa: Harpur Memorial Hospital, in Menouf, Egypt, which also reaches the Middle East. According to the Joshua Project, the 19 countries in this region host a population that exceeds 385 million people, 67% of whom are unreached. Clearly, this program is strategic to the future of Christian hospitals and their important role in reaching Muslims with the love and message of Jesus.

The PAACS Program at Harpur Memorial Hospital is currently in its 8th year. Dr. Paul Lim is the current Program Director and Dr. Shady Fayik, the program's first graduate, is the Assistant Program Director. Dr. Nayer Naiem, also a graduate, is serving as a third faculty surgeon (to be approved at the upcoming PAACS Board meeting.) For a variety of reasons (some of them tragic) since its inception in 2014, Harpur's program has graduated just three surgeons. Previous Program Directors include Dr. Sherif Hanna, now retired in Canada, and Dr. David Thompson, retired and living in Redding, CA.

Harpur's program currently has five residents. This does not include Dr. Armia Samuel, a fourth-year resident who, after a three-month rotation at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, decided to transfer to Mbingo for broader surgical training over the next two years. This is so Dr. Armia and his wife can serve more effectively in the future as international workers in sub-Saharan Africa.

In order, from left to right below, Harpur's five residents are:

- Dr. Georges Shoukry – 2nd year
- Dr. Joseph Samy – 3rd year
- Dr. Mena Rasmy Armanyous Luka – 3rd year
- Dr. Amgad Nashat – 5th year
- Dr. Armia Samuel (transferred to Mbingo)
- Dr. Shady Onsi – 1st year (Shown with his wife below)





HARPUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Reaching Africa and the Middle East



Harpur's General Surgery training program is facing two significant challenges:

- Too few surgical cases to meet PAACS' minimum requirements for its residents. To help resolve this issue, Dr. Lim is hoping to establish one or two satellite surgical clinics near Menouf. Such an effort will require a decision by the hospital's board, which is scheduled to meet in a few weeks.
- An urgent need for an additional, broadly trained general surgeon from the outside. Several surgeons have expressed an interest in joining Harpur's faculty, but have chosen other hospitals.

Currently, Harpur is adding three additional floors to the nursing school building to house faculty for the nursing school and PAACS residents.

Let's keep the PAACS program at Harpur in our prayers and ask God to move on their behalf.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For PAACS Faculty - Present and Future

By James Smith, MD

Chair, PAACS Professional Development Committee

The PAACS Board of Directors created a Professional Development Committee six years ago with the charge to help our faculty improve their teaching skills. We have done this with online resources and onsite visits discussing faculty development topics. We had planned an in-person Professional Development conference in 2020, but it was cancelled because of COVID. COSECSA has implemented a requirement that surgical faculty of an approved COSECSA training program complete the requirements for a Training of Trainers (TOT) certificate. At present, these requirements include eleven online modules and an in-person 1–2-day training course.

The Professional Development Committee feels that our faculty should complete this training rather than have a separate PAACS course which would duplicate many of the topics.

The recent PAACS strategic plan includes three goals for the Professional Development Committee:

1. Plan a Professional Development conference (Planned for June 2022).
2. Resident development which would include identifying residents interested in being faculty, providing training for residents to become teachers, and helping to identify faculty opportunities for residents as they complete training.
3. Provide faculty development training at a Professional Development Conference as well as online and onsite training.

To fulfill the first goal, a **Professional Development Conference** is planned for June 2022 in Kenya. Topics will emphasize spiritual aspects of being a good teacher, core faculty development topics, and two days dedicated to fulfilling the COSECSA requirements for in-person training to complete the TOT requirements. Three Faculty from each site will be invited to attend the conference.



SPIRITUAL CURRICULUM AND RETREAT UPDATE

*By Ed Searce, ThM, DMin
Spiritual Dean*

Spiritual Curriculum

The revision of PAACS Spiritual Curriculum is in its final stage. The Blue, Green, Pink, and Tan books have now been revised. The target date for completion of the Yellow Book is November 2022. About a third of the original material has been replaced with new material.

All of the books have been significantly reformatted for easier navigation. More emphasis has been placed on inductive Bible study. A Leader's Guide is being produced to aid those who are spearheading the teaching times.

While others have helped, a special thanks goes to Rev. Wayne Feigal and Lea Searce who have greatly assisted the Spiritual Dean in the process of revisions.

Spiritual Retreats

On one occasion Jesus said to his disciples,

"He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.' For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat." Mk 6:31 (CSB)

Spiritual retreats are one of the ways which PAACS seeks to encourage and equip residents and faculty. These are designed to get away from the hospital to a relaxing setting for 2-3 days. While this is challenging to do, it continues to prove to be a significant blessing to those attending.

A guest speaker is brought in to lead these times of refreshment. When possible, the PAACS Spiritual Dean participates. The past two years have made it difficult to fulfill this goal. However, some were able to meet, and many are already scheduling a retreat for 2022, including Harpur, Malamulo, Nkhoma, Bongolo, HVMM, Galmi, Soddo CURE, Soddo GS, Kijabe (GS, Anesthesia), and Mbingo.

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:1-2*



EDUCATION, EASTER, AND TELEMEDICINE

By John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

Greetings from Nashville.

This month's column will be a bit of a potpourri re: education, a movie recommendation, a suggestion that our PAACS programs consider the incorporation of telemedicine into our options to improve communication with our patients, and a current article from SSA.

Education: Last month, I focused my column on research and the splendid work being conducted by our colleagues at Tenwek regarding esophageal cancer, a scourge in many countries in the COSECSA region. My intent this month is to focus on recent contributions by PAACS personnel in articles related to education and mentorship mentioned in the Surgery Updates column in the March PAACS Bulletin. We will revisit that in more detail.

[Design of a Novel Online, Modular, Flipped-classroom Surgical Curriculum for East, Central, and Southern Africa. Parker AS, et al.](#)

[An Online, Modular Curriculum Enhances Surgical Education and Improves Learning Outcomes in East, Central, and Southern Africa: A Mixed-Methods Study. Parker AS, et al.](#)

[Reflections on Clinical Mentorship in Surgical Practice, Training, and Research. Mwachiro M, Parker AS. Annals of African Surgery.](#)

Easter 2022: I trust you had a meaningful Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Easter Monday. In addition to a wonderful pair of Easter Sunday services at our church, I viewed an incredible movie which challenged me and read an informative article which I want to share.



In a recent conversation, a friend mentioned Dr. Tom Catena and the **2016 movie Heart of Nuba**. It is available on YouTube. A worthwhile and challenging “watch” if you have not seen it. It is also worth reading about Dr. Tom Catena from [Wikipedia](#) as well. *Note: there have been changes in Sudan since 2016. The 30-year-long military dictatorship led by Omar al-Bashir ended April 11, 2019. Sudan was declared a secular state in 2020.*

I usually read something non-medical each evening before bedtime. I read Trish Warren's opinion piece in the New York Times: **Why It Matters That Jesus Really Did Rise From the Dead**. If you cannot download this and wish to read the article, please contact me.

Telemedicine: Over the past decade or so there has been increased introduction and sophistication developed to utilize telemedicine. The Veterans Administration medical centers in the USA were early to utilize this opportunity to address long commutes by patients for waits, then brief post-op visits. Telemedicine has been used in Haiti where mountains, bad or no roads, and travel are challenges both physically and financially. Colleagues at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town have just published a scoping review with 250 references re: telemedicine that are applicable to us.

Telemedicine in Surgical Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review
Owolabi EO, MacQuene T, Louw J, Davies JI, Chu KM.
World J Surg. In press DOI: 10.1007/s00268-022-06549-2

Is this something that might benefit not just you but especially our patients? SSA has led the way in the use of cell phones for communication and financial transfers. Many, if not most, students, residents, and attendings I know from my last five years have more than one server, often three.

Have a productive, safe, good month.

In the words of William Barclay, may we be: “Spirit filled, Christ centered, and God focused.”

NEW JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT BETWEEN LLU, PAACS, AND COSECSA

By Walt Johnson, MD

Associate Vice President for Academic Programs

An anonymous survey project has been launched jointly between Loma Linda University Department of Surgery and Center for Global Surgery, PAACS, and COSECSA. This survey is to be distributed by email to residents/registrars and faculty of PAACS and COSECSA surgery training programs. An initial survey has been distributed only to PAACS programs to constitute a pilot survey; results from this pilot survey are being compiled now.

The objectives of this project are to 1) assess the burden of cancer care experienced by faculty and trainees in these programs, 2) assess the availability of current resources for cancer care, 3) assess the utilization of known resources for education such as the Global Curriculum for Surgical Oncology, and 4) estimate affordability (out-of-pocket expenses) for patients even when surgical services are available.

The data will be distributed and collected via an anonymous survey in an electronic format without identifiable information. Only residents/registrars or faculty at PAACS or COSECSA Surgery programs in Africa will be included. The survey is sent to all training programs, including sub-specialty programs. Investigators include surgeons at LLU and PAACS general surgery program at Tenwek Hospital, Kenya.

It is expected that this survey will provide necessary data to emphasize the need for improving surgical oncology training opportunities within current training programs and broaden the awareness of surgical oncology resources that are currently available but underutilized.



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY



GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



Mbingo Birth Announcement

Muhnyong Elora-Claire Telelen was born on March 15, 2022 to Dr. Telelen Neville and his wife, Vanessa. She weighed in at 3200 gm and joins an older brother. Dr. Telelen is a first-year PAACS resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.”*

Psalms 127:3



Dr. Telelen

PAACS BENEFIT CONCERT IN INDIANA

Featuring Five-time Grammy Award Winning Christian Artist

STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

PAACS is inviting you to a special evening under the stars with Grammy Award winning Christian artist, Steven Curtis Chapman. This benefit concert will include dinner and take place outside at the home of one of our supporters on June 18th in Zionsville, Indiana (near Indianapolis.)

100% of all proceeds raised will support the training and discipleship of African Christian surgeons through PAACS!

RSVP is required, and there is no charge to attend. If you are interested in being a part of this special event in Zionsville, Indiana, please **contact Deb Pedziwol at deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net**

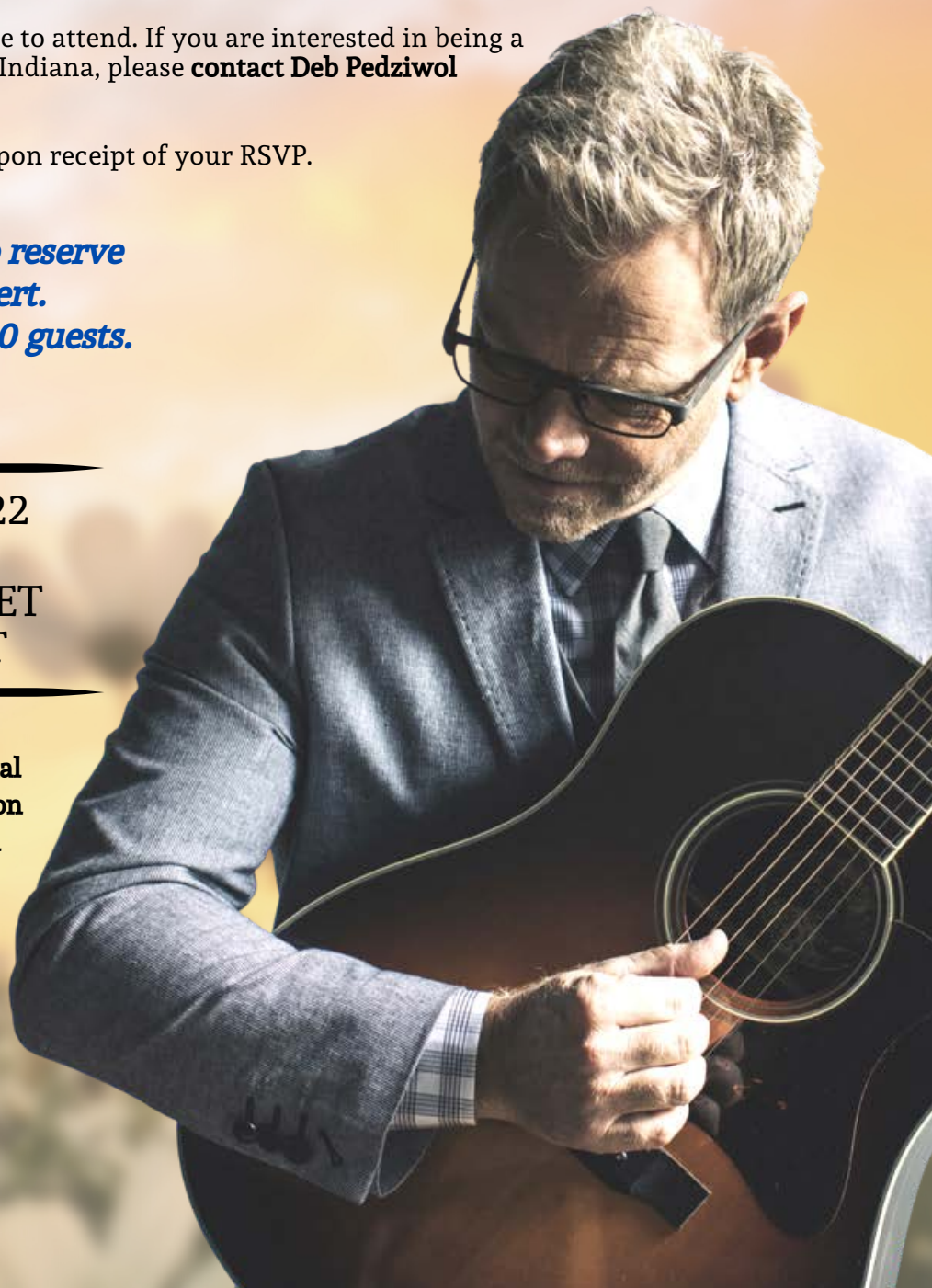
Further event details will be emailed upon receipt of your RSVP.

Please contact Deb Pedziwol to reserve your seats for the benefit concert. Seats are limited to the first 200 guests. Please RSVP soon.

Saturday, June 18, 2022
Zionsville, Indiana
Doors open - 5:45 PM ET
Concert - 7:00 PM ET



Watch a special video invitation from Steven Curtis Chapman



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Dr. Sherif Hanna, previous Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, as he recovers from bone marrow transplant surgery.
- Pray that God will lay the need for short-term surgeons to assist the programs on the hearts of those who are willing to respond. Pray for the resolution of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Africa which continues to interfere with some travel plans.
- Pray for the upcoming PAACS Board of Directors Meeting on April 29-30th, that God would guide and direct our leadership and keep all who are traveling to the meeting safe.
- Please pray for all new residents who started in January 2022.
- Pray for peace and stability in the PAACS countries, especially for the ongoing tribal unrest and famine in Ethiopia and the recurrent civil unrest in Cameroon.
- Pray for the continued rollout of the Saline Process throughout all the PAACS training sites.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Pray that many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- Pray that God will bring His chosen long and short-term missionary and national surgeons to help train African residents in the PAACS training programs.
- Pray for PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's grace, protection, provision, strength, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.
- Pray for all the PAACS faculty members and the hospitals – for personal health and safety and for financial viability of the charity hospitals in this tough time.
- Pray for those surgeons who are planning to join PAACS in the next few years – as they complete their residencies or fellowships, as they find a sending agency, as they raise the necessary money, and as they prepare for the major cultural shifts.
- Pray for the PAACS graduates and African nationals who will be preparing to become PAACS faculty, that God would prepare them spiritually and give them direction in all they do.

SURGERY UPDATES

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Prevalence and associated factors of external hernia among adult patients visiting the surgical outpatient department at the University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialised Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study.](#)
- [Time to tackle early-onset sepsis in low-income and middle-income countries.](#)
- [Ethical failures in global health research: violations of Sustainable Development Goal 8, decent work for all.](#)
- [Neonatal sepsis and mortality in low-income and middle-income countries from a facility-based birth cohort: an international multisite prospective observational study.](#)
- ['Implementability' matters: using implementation research steps to guide and support non-communicable disease national planning in low-income and middle-income countries.](#)
- [Ethical guidance or epistemological injustice? The quality and usefulness of ethical guidance for humanitarian workers and agencies.](#)
- [Equitable access to quality trauma systems in low-income and middle-income countries: assessing gaps and developing priorities in Ghana, Rwanda and South Africa.](#)
- [Equity in global health research: A proposal to adopt author reflexivity statements.](#)
- [Deliberate Practice at the Virtual Bedside to Improve Clinical Reasoning.](#)
- [Global and regional estimates of maternal near miss: a systematic review, meta-analysis and experiences with application.](#)
- [Stillbirth, neonatal and maternal mortality among caesarean births in Kenya and Uganda: a register-based prospective cohort study.](#)
- [Mobile telephone follow-up assessment of post-discharge death and disability due to trauma in Cameroon: a prospective cohort study.](#)
- [Making anticoagulation safer.](#)
- [Ethical guidance or epistemological injustice? The quality and usefulness of ethical guidance for humanitarian workers and agencies.](#)