



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



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.



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Arise, Shine
**for your light
has come,
and the glory
of the Lord
has risen
upon you.**

Isaiah 60:1

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear PAACS Family,

As I reflect on the past fiscal year, July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved together. Our collective efforts have unfolded and revealed God's vibrant vision and created a far-reaching impact.

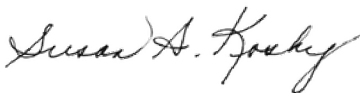
We have taken the transformative power of surgical and specialty training and combined it with spiritual discipleship, to create new possibilities for the future of healthcare across Africa. Through our programs, we have empowered aspiring surgeons and related specialists, equipping them with the skills and expertise needed to provide quality care to underserved communities. Their impact resonates across the continent, transforming lives and shaping futures through surgical care and the powerful message of the gospel.

This year, we celebrated the launch of three new training programs, bringing the total number of PAACS programs to 24. Our expansion also brought PAACS into its eleventh country of Africa, Togo. We have been praying to open a program in Togo for more than 10 years, and in 2023, it became a reality! Each PAACS program nurtures talented physicians, guiding them to become Christian surgeons and related specialists, and lays the foundation for lasting transformation within the communities they will one day serve.

Our journey this year has been filled with many other exciting milestones. Recognizing the growing number of incoming residents, we transitioned our Basic Science Conference to an annual gathering, providing a platform for first-year residents to learn, connect, and grow. Additionally, we welcomed our first Alumni Travel Fellow, whose experiences abroad in the United States enriched his medical education and inspired fundraising events that connected communities to our mission.

I express heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you, our supporters and partners. It is through your unwavering support, whether through prayers, financial contributions, service at our program sites, or sharing our mission with others, that we have been able to witness this beautiful transformation. Together, we will continue to see God's love shine through quality surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care across the continent.

Blessings,



SUSAN A. KOSHY, JD, MPH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Susan Koshy praying at the Fall 2022 Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago.

PAACS IMPACT

11
Countries

19
Partner
Hospitals

24
Training
Programs

149*
Residents
in Training

142*
Graduates

**In August 2023, PAACS was pleased to celebrate two new graduates. This brings PAACS to 144 graduates and 147 residents in training until the new year begins in January 2024.*



PAACS LOCATIONS

BURUNDI *New!*

1-Kibuye Hope Hospital (Sept 2022)
General Surgery

CAMEROON

2-Mbingo Baptist Hospital
General Surgery
Head & Neck Surgery

EGYPT

3-Harpur Memorial Hospital
General Surgery

ETHIOPIA

4-Soddo Christian Hospital
General Surgery

5-Soddo/CURE-Addis
Orthopaedic Surgery

GABON

6-Bongolo Hospital
General Surgery

KENYA

7-AIC Kijabe Hospital
General Surgery
Anesthesia
Plastic Surgery (April 2023) New!

8-BethanyKids at Kijabe
Pediatric Surgery

9-Kijabe/CURE-Kijabe
Orthopaedic Surgery

10-AIC Litein Hospital
General Surgery

11-Tenwek Hospital
General Surgery
Orthopaedic Surgery
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Neurosurgery
Ob/Gyn

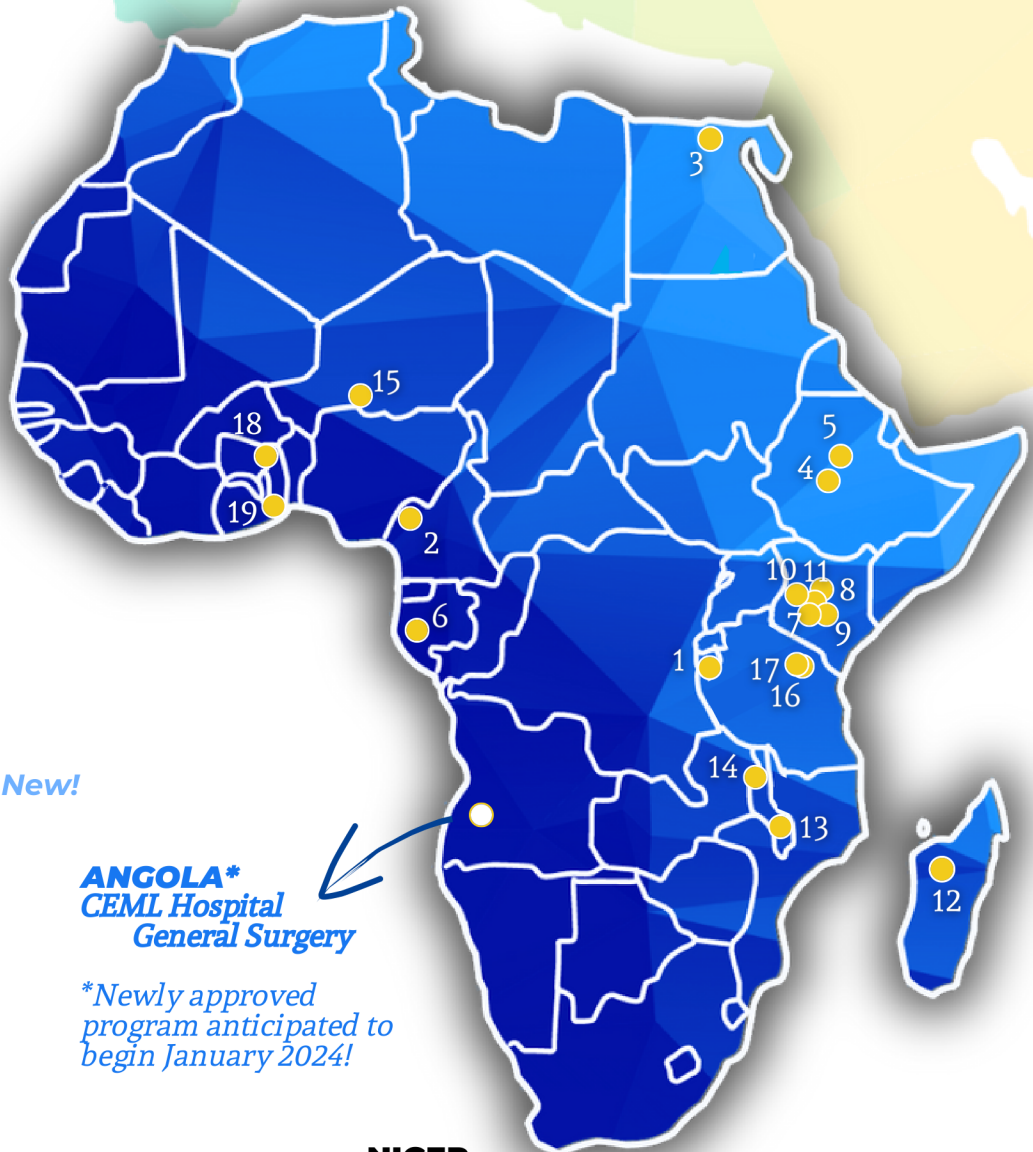
MADAGASCAR

12-Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM)
General Surgery

MALAWI

13-Malamulo Adventist Hospital
General Surgery

14-Nkhoma Mission Hospital
General Surgery



ANGOLA*
CEML Hospital
General Surgery

**Newly approved program anticipated to begin January 2024!*

NIGER

15-SIM Galmi Hospital
General Surgery

TANZANIA

16-Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre
General Surgery
17-Selian Lutheran Hospital
General Surgery**

TOGO *New!*

18-Hospital of Hope (HOH) (January 2023)
General Surgery

19-Hopital Baptiste Biblique (HBB)
General Surgery**

***Additional location in collaboration with an existing program*

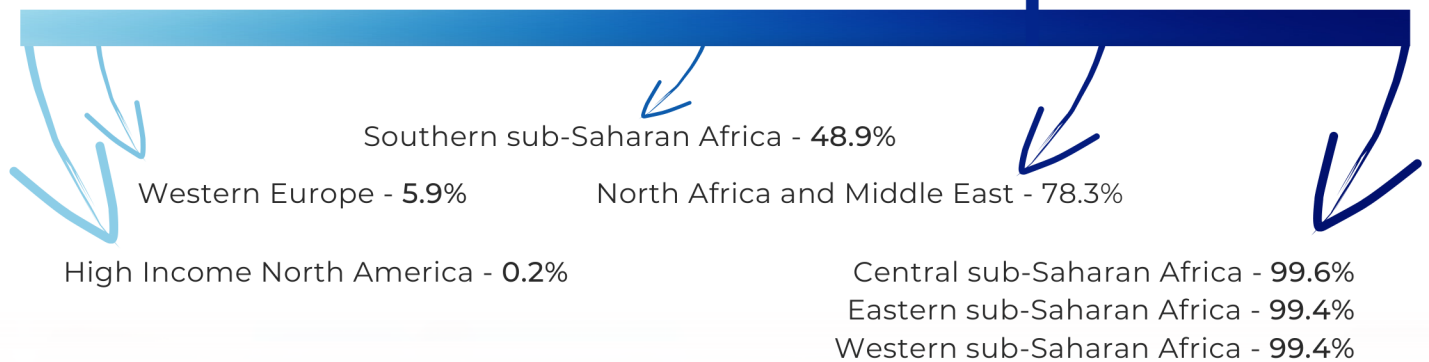
SURGICAL TRAINING

It has been estimated that only 6% of the world's surgical procedures occur in the poorest countries, yet these countries are home to over 33% of the world's population. To meet the expected demand in Africa, an additional 42 million procedures would be needed EVERY YEAR!

In many regions of Africa over 99% of the population does not have access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care. Comparing access across the globe, a stark difference is seen.

PAACS is striving to improve access to quality surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care in areas where it is needed most. By training and discipling African Christian surgeons and related specialists who are willing to go into the under-resourced areas, more people will find access to better care while hearing the gospel.

Global average who **CANNOT** access safe, timely, and affordable care is **74.6%***



Accessing Surgical Care that is
Safe, Timely, and Affordable

Expanding TO NEW PAACS TRAINING SITES



BURUNDI



As one of the most surgeon-deficient countries in the world, each graduate of the PAACS General Surgery program at Kibuye Hope Hospital will have a huge opportunity to create a sizable impact in their country. Four residents are currently in training!

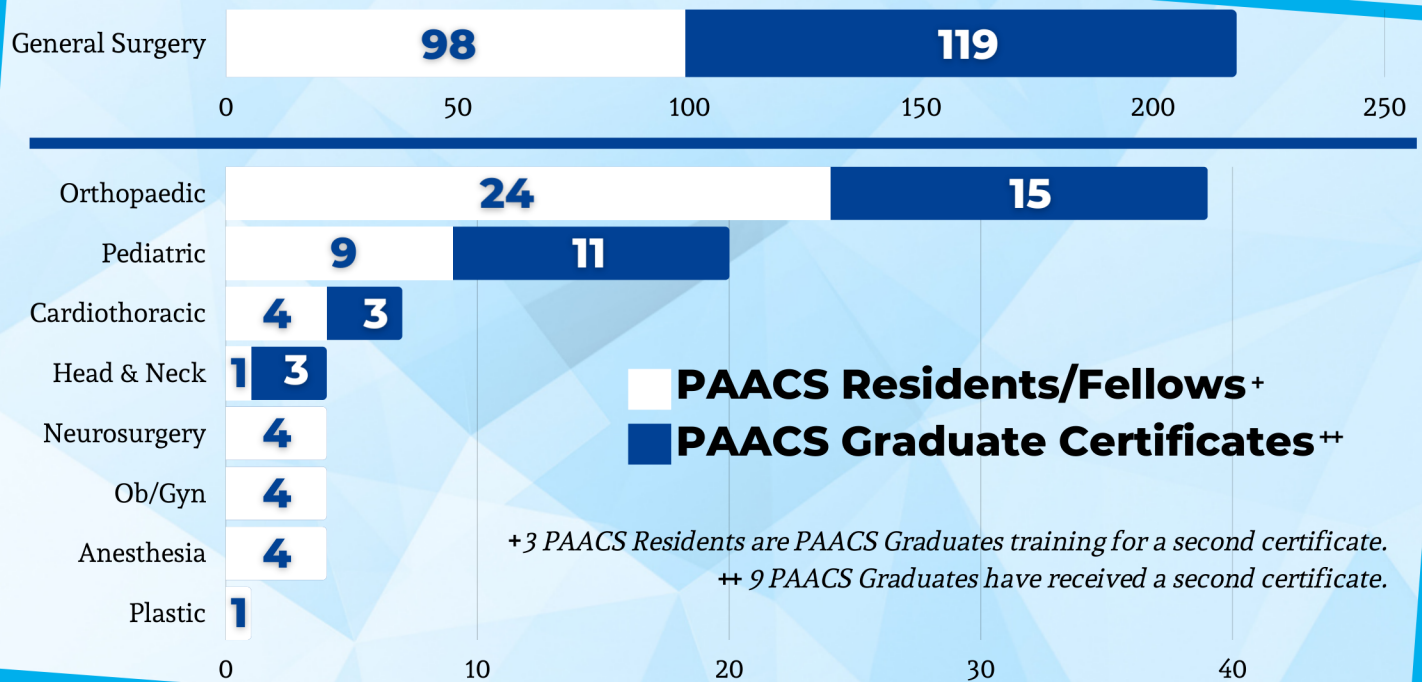


TOGO



The location of Hospital of Hope is in a majority Muslim community (>80%). Many patients also travel from neighboring countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria.

PAACS SURGEONS AND SPECIALISTS FOR *Africa*



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLESHIP

A unique factor of PAACS training programs is the fusion of surgical training with spiritual discipleship. Faculty and residents live life together, working, studying, worshiping, praying, eating, crying, laughing, everything for their five years in training. It resembles the model that Christ had with His disciples.

At PAACS, residents are given every opportunity to deepen their faith, grow in their spiritual commitment, and mature as disciples of Christ. This way they are confident in sharing their own faith with others and praying for their patients, families, and communities.

PAACS uses a 5-year spiritual curriculum designed to accompany each of the five years of training. Through weekly Bible studies they grow as followers of Jesus. As part of our strategic plan, facilitator's guides are nearly complete to help with execution of the spiritual curriculum. We also strive for all programs to hold a yearly spiritual retreat. We are thankful that every PAACS program participated in a retreat this past fiscal year. Growth as a believer is never over, and we strive to find ways for everyone to deepen their relationship with Christ and make disciples within their area of influence.

426,714,000

people are considered unreached with the gospel in Africa. That is greater than the entire population of the United States!

2,532

Decisions for Christ
through PAACS
Program Hospitals

100%

of PAACS Sites Held
a Spiritual Retreat



STEPPING AWAY: Rural Church Planting

In a bold move, Dr. Abenezer Iyassu (second-year orthopaedic surgery resident at Soddo/CURE) felt a strong calling to take a one-year break from his training and venture into rural church planting with a remote southern Ethiopian tribe. The young and disunited congregation was in desperate need of guidance and spiritual nourishment. Dr. Iyassu could not ignore the pressing need that tugged at his heart. Recognizing that God had placed this mission on his path, he made the courageous decision to step away from his residency, despite initial reluctance from his family and the temporary interruption it caused in his training.

Reflecting on the transformative year, Dr. Iyassu shared, "During this journey, I learned a profound lesson: It is always best to obey God and His calling. When we step out in obedience, He has already prepared a path for our feet. God orchestrated the formation of the church, raised up evangelists, and provided the necessary resources. He sustained me with unwavering encouragement throughout." Drawing inspiration from the biblical account of Abram, who left the comfort of familiar surroundings to embark on a divine journey to a new home, Dr. Iyassu acknowledges the fears and uncertainties that come with such obedience. However, he firmly believes that the alternative, settling for less than what God has in store, is never as fulfilling or rewarding.

ETHIOPIA



Dr. Iyassu is immensely grateful to have had the support of PAACS residents and faculty who prayerfully and financially supported him in following God's will.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS: New Roots and New Growth

The newest PAACS program at Togo's Hospital of Hope made a faithful choice to launch their program in January, beginning with a spiritual retreat. Program Director, Dr. Bryce Nattier recognized the vital role of a solid biblical foundation in PAACS training. Faculty and residents gathered to deepen their faith, begin forming strong bonds, and foster a shared sense of purpose together. This inaugural retreat isn't just a promising start; it signifies the program's dedication to cultivating both surgical proficiency and spiritual resilience among residents and faculty, setting the stage for an inspiring journey ahead.

As with every faithful journey, where there is growth, there is change. Across the continent in Ethiopia, a combined retreat was held for the Soddo and CURE-Addis programs. It had been long desired to create an event where PAACS residents and alumni could have an opportunity for encouragement and spiritual refreshment together. In total, this year there were around 50 attendees, including five PAACS graduates!



*Top: Inaugural Spiritual Retreat for the faculty and residents of HOH and HBB.
Bottom: All attendees for the Spiritual Retreat for Soddo and CURE/Addis, including five PAACS graduates.*



RESIDENTS

At the heart of our mission lie the dedicated PAACS residents and fellows who have a profound calling to treat the sick and suffering of Africa with compassion. Their commitment to surgical excellence and spiritual growth creates remarkable surgeons and related specialists who will reach some of the most under-served communities.

Through the guidance of board-certified surgeons, trainees are receiving quality training and strong mentorship. The process involves direct supervision of hands-on training, ensuring that skills are cultivated with precision. Pre- and post-operative care form integral components of their education, nurturing well-rounded caregivers who understand the importance of holistic healing. Their journey isn't confined to operating rooms; it extends to clinical and academic studies. Rigorous yearly exams and testing confirm their proficiency. Engaging in research, they contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of medical knowledge.

This year, the larger PAACS community came together at two pivotal conferences that foster the growth of our trainees. In October, the first ever Senior Resident Conference was held for fourth and fifth-year residents. With 29 residents in attendance, it celebrated the nearing completion of their training and preparation for a new chapter in their surgical career. Each day of this conference began with worship and the Word—an intentional reminder of our reliance on God. In February, the Basic Science Conference prepared first-year PAACS residents with a strong foundation for their future surgical and missionary endeavors. This year, 42 trainees, 39 faculty, 22 guest educators, and six administrative staff were in attendance. Due to the amazing growth of PAACS programs, this conference will now be held annually. These educational initiatives are focused on the development of attendees, enhancing patient care, and presenting how to be disciples of Christ while sharing the gospel with those most in need.

Basic Science Conference

42

First-Year Resident Attendees

Senior Resident Conference

29

Fourth and Fifth-Year Resident Attendees

Pictured Below: PAACS' now annual Basic Science Conference was a 12-day conference which began on February 12th with 42 trainees in attendance.



149
Residents
& Fellows

42
New Trainees
in 2023

354
Applications
Received for
Training in
2024

45
New Trainees
Anticipated in
2024



Dr. Violet Kemunto Otoki
Fourth-Year
General Surgery Resident
Tenwek Hospital

Over the last two years, Dr. Otoki has discovered her passion for surgical critical care and research. Recognizing the crucial need to care for the sickest patients, she has become a beacon of hope in their journey towards recovery.

Combining her two interests, Dr. Otoki has conducted groundbreaking research that examines the quality of care for critically-ill patients at Tenwek. Her findings shed light on areas where improvement is needed, paving the way for enhanced patient outcomes and family support. Dr. Otoki's exceptional achievements have garnered recognition beyond borders. She became the first resident from Tenwek and PAACS to present her research at the prestigious American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. Her study explored gender disparities in complications and mortality rates following emergency gastrointestinal surgery in Kenya. She embodies the transformative impact that passionate individuals can make in advancing healthcare.

Pictured Below: PAACS' inaugural Senior Resident Conference was held in October 2022 with 29 residents in attendance. The next one is scheduled for January 2024!



GRADUATES

First ALUMNI TRAVEL FELLOW VISITS THE U.S.

A new chapter unfolded for PAACS as we welcomed our first Alumni Travel Fellow to the United States. Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno was chosen by the Alumni Committee as the inaugural recipient of this esteemed travel fellowship, combining invaluable medical education with inspiring fundraising events.

Dr. Yaradouno's story is one of immense dedication and responsibility. Serving a population of over 300,000 at Hope Clinic in Guinea, he stands as the sole trained surgeon in the region. With surgical referrals pouring in from both Guinea and neighboring countries, his unwavering commitment to his community is nothing short of remarkable.

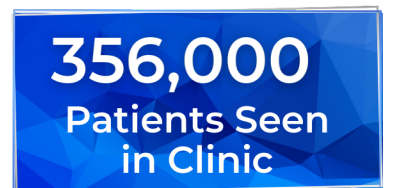
The PAACS Alumni Travel Fellowship provided Dr. Yaradouno with a unique opportunity to broaden his medical knowledge while actively participating in fundraising initiatives. From mid-October to mid-November, he embarked on a journey, visiting five states, seven cities, and four renowned healthcare systems, including hospitals and universities. Attending the PAACS Fall Board of Directors Meeting and the Global Missions Health Conference further enriched his experience.

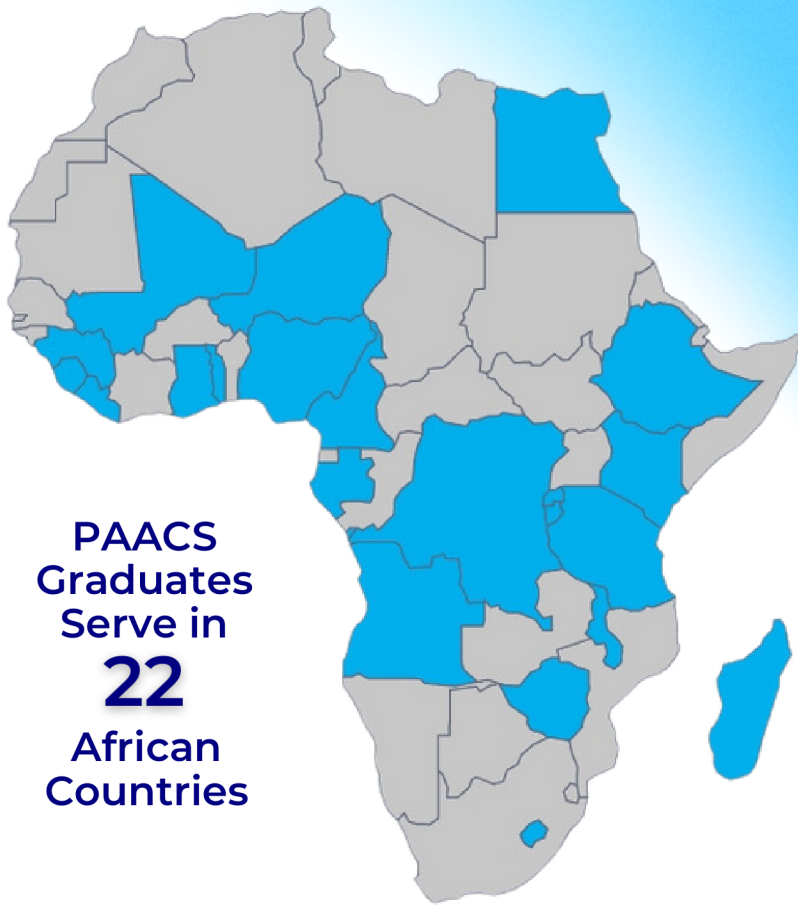
Dr. Yaradouno's journey has touched the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of meeting him. As we move forward, let us unite in lifting God's servant for Guinea in prayer, knowing that his unwavering commitment will continue to inspire and bless the lives of those he serves.

Dr. Yaradouno speaking at the PAACS Board of Directors meeting in October 2022.



According to our 2023 PAACS Alumni Survey, we estimate that the impact in 2023 from ALL combined PAACS graduates has been:





PAACS
Graduates
Serve in
22
African
Countries



ZIMBABWE



**Dr. Solomon Machedzwe
2022, GS, Bongolo**

Dr. Machedzwe is the first PAACS graduate surgeon to return and serve in Zimbabwe. His achievement marks another step forward in providing quality surgical care across Africa. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact he will make on the healthcare and spiritual landscape of Zimbabwe.



**Dr. Chege Macharia
2015, GS, Kijabe
2016, H&N, Mbingo**

was recently named the new
Executive Director of
AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya.

FACULTY

PAACS faculty members are the guiding lights of our mission. They're leading the way, training the next generation of surgeons and related specialists for Africa. They strongly believe in building a solid spiritual foundation while teaching quality surgical skills, preparing residents for challenging healthcare environments.

These dedicated faculty members are actively participating in PAACS Board of Directors meetings, both virtually and in-person, strengthening collaborative efforts. The second Faculty Development Conference took place in October 2023. It was another opportunity for PAACS faculty to grow in preparedness in training tomorrow's surgeons and related specialists. PAACS is grateful for their unwavering commitment to shaping the future of surgical care on the continent of Africa.



127
PAACS
Faculty
Members

42
PAACS
Graduates
Serving as
Faculty

Serving
**7/1/2022 -
6/30/2023**

BURUNDI

Kibuye Hope Hospital

General Surgery
Ted John
Program Director
Michael Harling
Assistant Program Director

CAMEROON

Mbingo Baptist Hospital

General Surgery
Mark Snell
Program Director
Sama Akanyun *
Program Director

Head and Neck Surgery

Wayne Koch
Program Director

EGYPT

Harpur Memorial Hospital

General Surgery
Paul Lim
Program Director
Shady Fayik *
Assistant Program Director

ETHIOPIA

Soddo Christian Hospital

General Surgery
Tim Love
Program Director
Gezahegn Tilahun *
Assistant Program Director

Soddo/CURE-Addis

Orthopaedic Surgery
Tim Nunn
Program Director

GABON

Bongolo Hospital

General Surgery
Zach O'Connor
Program Director
Jennifer O'Connor
Assistant Program Director
David Skavdahl
Assistant Program Director

KENYA

AIC Kijabe Hospital

General Surgery
Richard Davis
Program Director
Beryl Akinyi *
Program Director
Jack Barasa *
Assistant Program Director

Anesthesia

Matthew Kynes
Program Director
Gregory Sund
Assistant Program Director

Plastic Surgery

Peter Nthumba
Program Director

BethanyKids at Kijabe

Pediatric Surgery
Ken Muma *
Program Director
Jason Axt
Assistant Program Director

Kijabe/CURE-Kijabe

Orthopaedic Surgery
Francis Mbugua
Program Director
Paul Mangoli
Assistant Program Director
Morris Kitua *
Assistant Program Director

AIC Litein Hospital

General Surgery
Philip Blasto *
Program Director
John Kanyi *
Assistant Program Director
Valentine Mbithi *
Assistant Program Director

Tenwek Hospital

General Surgery
Akinnyi Fadipe *
Program Director

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Russ White
Program Director
Arege Leta *
Assistant Program Director

Neurosurgery

Will Copeland
Program Director

**indicates a PAACS Graduate*

KENYA Cont'd

Ob/Gyn

Meghan Steen
Program Director
Moselle Starke
Assistant Program Director

Orthopaedic Surgery

Kiprono Koech
Program Director

MADAGASCAR

HVMM

General Surgery
Ted Watts
Program Director
Marco Faniriko *
Assistant Program Director
Jeshiah Thiessen
Assistant Program Director

MALAWI

Malamulo Adventist Hospital

General Surgery
Moses Kasumba *
Program Director
Brent Sherwin
Assistant Program Director

Nkhoma Mission Hospital

General Surgery
Jens Vaylann
Program Director
Yamakani Limbe *
Assistant Program Director

NIGER

SIM Galmi Hospital

General Surgery
K. Shafer
Program Director

TANZANIA

Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre

General Surgery
Frank Madinda
Program Director
Emmanuel Lema *
Assistant Program Director

TOGO

Hospital of Hope

General Surgery
Bryce Nattier
Program Director
Jack Kehl
Assistant Program Director
Josh Paulick
Assistant Program Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023



Samuel Thompson, MD
Chair



Louis Pisters, MD
Vice Chair



Emad Asham, MD
Secretary



Douglas Lundy, MD
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members



Grace Kim, MD
General Surgery
Council Chair



Michael Langford, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery
Council Chair



James Fingleton, MD
Representative of
the Consortium of
Fellowship Councils



Carter Harsh, MD
Representative of
the Consortium of
Residency Councils



William Wilson, MD
Spiritual
Representative



Dieudonne Lemfuka, MD
Graduate
Representative



**King-David Terna
Yawe, MD**
African Representative



Mark Reeves, MD
LLU Representative



Stephen Doane, MD
Member-at-Large (CS)



Rebekah Kim, MD
Member-at-Large (CS)



Rebekah Naylor, MD
Member-at-Large



J. Kayle Lee, MD
Member-at-Large



George Bayless III
Marketplace
Representative



Wayne Murray
Marketplace
Representative

EX-OFFICIO *Members*



David Thompson, MD
Founder
Ex-Officio Member



Thomas Robey, MD
Past Chair
Ex-Officio Member



Lee Sillin, MD
Governance
Committee Chair
Ex-Officio Member

181
Volunteers
serve on
8
Councils
&
11
Committees

Women in Surgery

WORKGROUP CREATED

Recognizing the unique needs and experiences of female residents, PAACS has taken a vital step in fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for women in surgery. In 2022, we saw the first women's retreat organized by the women of AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya. The attendees recognized how similar their journeys were and the challenges they have experienced. Inspired by the Kenyan women's retreat, the women of Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon organized their own event in April 2023.

As a way to comprehensively address the needs of women in PAACS, the Women in Surgery Workgroup was formed and a PAACS-wide survey was undertaken. This initiative aims to capture the valuable insights and experiences of both male and female members of the PAACS community. The results of the survey will play a pivotal role in fostering a nurturing training environment, increasing female representation, and promoting the recruitment of women across various roles within PAACS—be it as trainees, faculty, volunteers, or leaders. This marks an essential step toward not only advancing surgical excellence but also ensuring that all voices within the PAACS family are heard, valued, and empowered.

CAMEROON



ADMINISTRATION *Team*

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice
President



Renee Fink, CPA
Chief Financial Officer
(began June 2023)



John "tarp" Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean



Ed Scearce, ThM
Spiritual Dean



Walter Johnson, MD
Associate VP for
Academic Programs
(through June 2023)



Steven Darst
Chief Financial Officer
(through June 2023)



Ken Rutledge, MD
Director of Major
Gifts



Deborah Pedziwol
Senior Director of
Partnership
Development



Amanda Woods
Director of
Partnership
Development



Emily Dennison
Administrator/
Communications
Specialist



Terry Duffey
Administrative
Assistant



Julie Hayden
Fundraising
Coordinator



Melissa Martin
Staff Accountant



Rachel Huth
Administrative
Assistant



Melody Raymond
Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS



DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Our Daily Prayer Guide is published every fall. Thirty days of prayer allow our PAACS family to lift the entire organization up throughout each month.

PAACS BULLETIN

The bulletin is published monthly where you can keep up-to-date on the happenings of events throughout PAACS programs. If you are not already receiving our bulletin, please sign up on our website!



PAACS HIGHLIGHTS

This year PAACS published a "PAACS Highlights." It contains inspiring stories from across the ministry including programs, residents, faculty, and graduates.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The PAACS Alumni Newsletter is published twice per year. It includes moving stories submitted by PAACS graduates who are working on the frontlines across the continent.

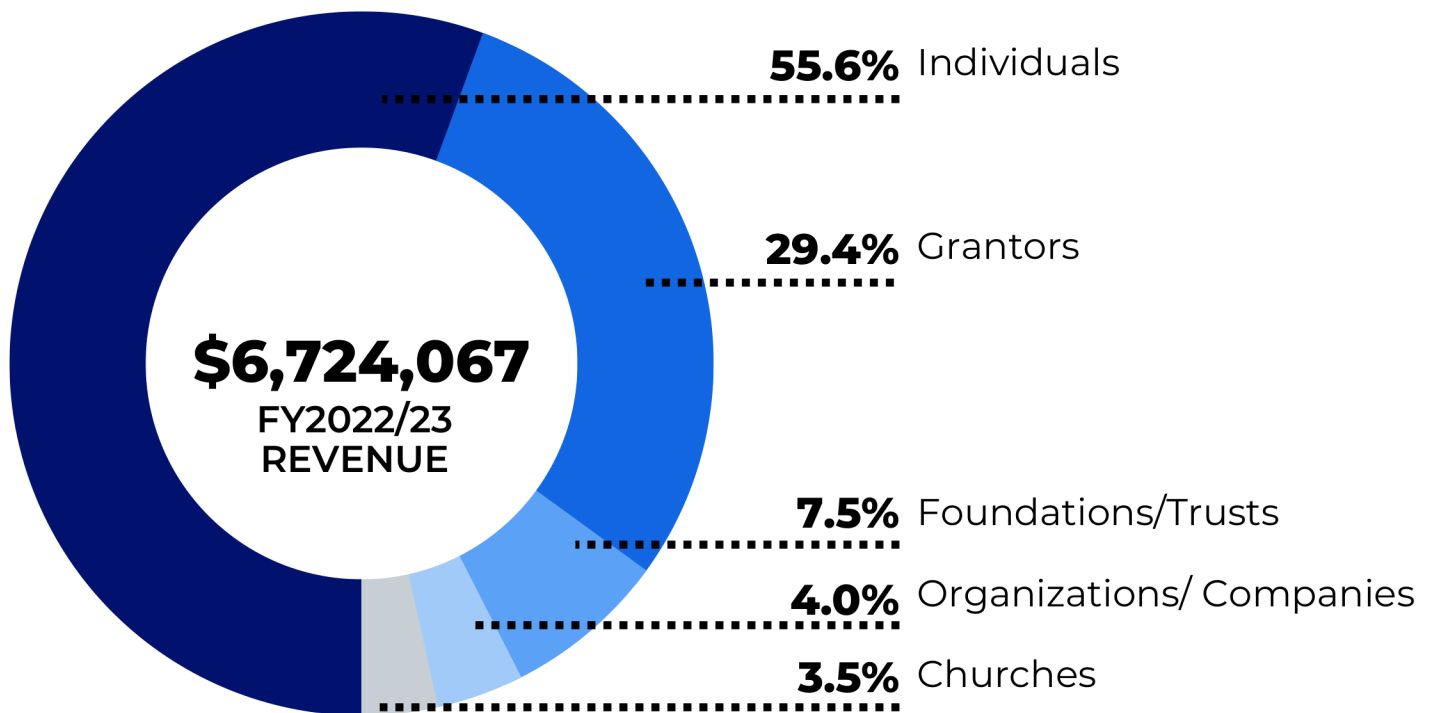


PAACS VIDEOS

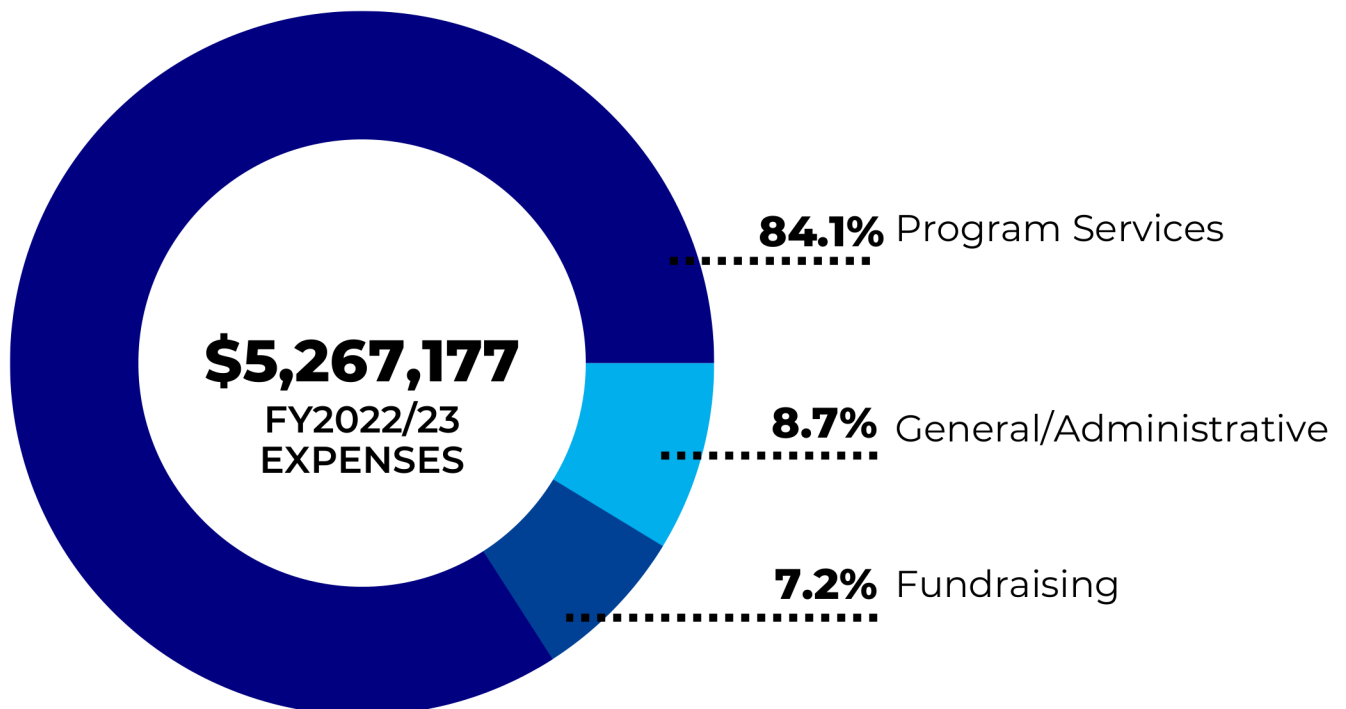
Two new videos were created this past year in Malawi showing the great need for surgeons and the gospel within the country. You can find both on our YouTube channel.

FINANCIALS

GIVING BY DONOR TYPE



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES



Both revenue and expenses include in-kind services.

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	3,981,176
Investments		3,449,472
Accounts Receivable		10,625
Program Advances		142,199
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets		45,484
Endowments		1,169,015

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 8,797,971**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	173,488
Accrued Expenses		32,054
TOTAL LIABILITIES		205,542

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions		4,784,001
With Donor Restrictions		3,808,428
TOTAL NET ASSETS		8,592,429

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$ 8,797,971**



The financial information contained in this report has been excerpted from the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2023. It has been reviewed and approved by PAACS Board of Directors.

PAACS' revenue is comprised of generous donations, grants, investments, and endowments.

PAACS also recognizes donated services in its financial statements. Most of the donated services are a reflection of critical surgical training of residents provided by short-term missionaries.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1

SPIRITUAL

Capitalizing on PAACS' roots in faith and dependence on God, strengthen PAACS' spiritual development programs to equip residents and faculty to be discerning, spiritually prepared, and prayerfully engaged to address and overcome challenges to the work of God.

Goals/Accomplishments/Highlights:

Facilitators Guide due for completion by the end of 2023

All PAACS locations held a spiritual retreat in 2022

2

Goals/Accomplishments/Highlights:

First Senior Conference held, including available career opportunities

Next Senior Conference is scheduled for January 2024

RESIDENT DEVELOPMENT

Develop opportunities for PAACS Residents to become PAACS Faculty, while identifying and encouraging potential candidates.

3

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Develop a mandatory Faculty Development Training Program to equip and prepare all faculty candidates and members, both spiritually and professionally.

Goals/Accomplishments/Highlights:

Second Faculty Development conference held in October 2023

Program Director Manual has been finalized

4

Goals/Accomplishments/Highlights:

Burundi - Sept 2022

Togo - Jan 2023

Plastic Surgery - Apr 2023

Approved and Scheduled

Angola - Jan 2024

Pediatric Orthopaedics - Jan 2024

EXPANSION

Capitalizing on PAACS' experience in surgical education and discipleship, develop new surgical training programs in underserved areas of Africa where there is a great need for a surgical workforce.

ACCREDITATION

PAACS programs are accredited through Loma Linda University (LLU) and all sub-Saharan programs are accredited by the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA). The West African College of Surgeons (WACS) provides some training oversight for certain training sites in West Africa. In addition, CANECSA (College of Anesthesiologists of East, Central, and Southern Africa) and ECSACOG (East, Central, and Southern Africa College of Obstetrician/Gynecologists) provide accreditation for the Anesthesia and Ob/Gyn programs.

Thank you **TO OUR ACCREDITATION PARTNERS**



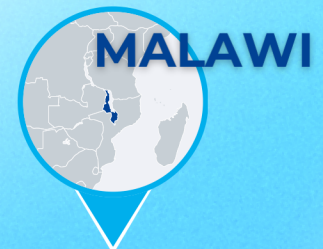
LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY



SITE VISITS *Completed*

The last 'every five-year cycle' of PAACS site visits took place in 2016. After a Covid delay over the last few years, LLU, as an accrediting body for PAACS training sites, was able to restart these accreditation site visits from October 30 – November 6, 2022. An LLU team under the leadership of Dr. Mark Reeves, with Dr. Martin Rosenthal and Dr. Jana Davis, evaluated Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (Tanzania), Soddo Christian Hospital (Ethiopia), and CURE-Addis (Ethiopia). In May 2023, Dr. Reeves and Dr. Andrei Radulescu continued site visits including Harpur Memorial Hospital (Egypt), Malamulo Adventist Hospital (Malawi), and Nkhoma Mission Hospital (Malawi).

These visits were successful, receiving overall positive initial reports about all sites. During the accreditation visit at Harpur, the team had the honor of celebrating the graduation of its newest surgeon, Dr. Amgad Nashat. This personal and heartfelt moment went beyond a task list, illustrating the genuine relationships PAACS fosters with its partners. Such interactions emphasize the human aspect of PAACS' mission and strengthen its collaborative approach to training in Africa. The next round of visits is currently scheduled for December 2023-January 2024, covering three sites in Kenya.



NEWS STORIES



PAACS-BACKED TEAM WINS GLOBAL SURGICAL TRAINING Challenge

In 2020, the Global Surgical Training Challenge called upon teams to develop innovative solutions for teaching surgical skills in areas with limited resources. The goal was to create modules allowing clinicians to learn independently regardless of their location. A total of 44 teams representing 42 countries applied for the challenge. We are thrilled to announce that the ALL-SAFE team co-led by Dr. Grace Kim (PAACS Chair of General Surgery Council and member of the Board of Directors) and Dr. David Jeffcoach (Former PAACS Assistant Program Director, Soddo Christian Hospital) WON the Global Surgical Training Challenge Grand Prize in 2023!

Ectopic pregnancy stands as the leading cause of maternal death, and a significant contributor to infertility in women. In sub-Saharan Africa, women have an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, yet they have little or no access to minimally invasive, laparoscopic interventions. ALL-SAFE initially focused on developing laparoscopic treatment for ectopic pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa and later expanded to include appendectomy. As with many hospitals in the region, they found that donated equipment lay unused in operating rooms due to a shortage of adequately trained surgeons.

Over the past two years, the ALL-SAFE Team has grown to approximately 30 members across five countries. Together, they have collaborated to create training modules aimed at teaching laparoscopic surgical skills. Their unique approach sought to provide surgical education without relying on costly high-tech simulators.

ALL-SAFE plans to use the \$700,000 Grand Prize to extend its reach to other countries and medical specialties, fueled by the growing demand for their modules. Their plan includes forming partnerships with universities, hospitals, and medical centers to make these transformative training resources accessible to medical professionals worldwide.



“It is an amazing privilege to be able to innovate on behalf of our patients so that safe surgery will be available to all who need it around the world.”

-Dr. Grace Kim



Dr. Grace Kim
PAACS Chair of
General Surgery Council



Dr. David Jeffcoach
Former PAACS Asst.
Program Director
Soddo Christian Hospital

NEWS STORIES

IN *Memory*

DR. SOLOMON ENDRIAS 2010 PAACS GRADUATE

March 23, 1974 – February 2, 2023

PAACS graduate surgeon, Dr. Solomon Endrias, went to be with his Savior on February 2, 2023. Dr. Endrias graduated from the general surgery program at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia in 2010.



FIRST PEDIATRIC SURGEON IN *Burundi*



"I have grown up in Burundi and worked as a general surgeon here and now I will have the opportunity to practice paediatric surgery in my own country."

Dr. Alliance Niyukuri, 2018 Graduate of the PAACS Program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon, was featured on KidsOR.org, "Training the First Paediatric Surgeon in Burundi."

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