



PAACS Graduates Drs. Jacques Bake and Leul Shigut Meet the new PAACS Residents! PAACS Resident Dr. Dingong Picard and wife Dr. Onana Marie

# IN THIS ISSUE:

- From the Desk of the CEO
- PAACS Senior Resident Conference 2024
- Celebrating the 18th PAACS Graduate from Soddo
- Congratulations Tenwek Graduates
- Welcome, New PAACS Residents!
- How the First PAACS Logo Was Created
- Resident Profile Dr. Fred Omondi
- SurgHub and More Online Available Resources
- Apply Today: African Surgeons to Under-served Communities
- Good News to Share:
  - Marriage Celebration at Mbingo
  - PAACS Christmas Party at Mbingo
  - White Coat Ceremony at Mbingo
- Prayer & Praise
- Articles on Surgery



# 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



Dear PAACS Family,

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH Chief Executive Officer

I hope this month's bulletin finds you well and filled with gratitude for the blessings of the past year. While reflecting on the journey we've undertaken together in 2023, I am humbled and truly thankful for each one of you who have been a part of our mission.

Thank you for a truly remarkable year in 2023. It is with a heart full of gratitude that I express my sincere thanks for your unwavering support. Together, we witnessed the miraculous hand of God as He not only provided for us but exceeded our ambitious goal to raise over \$980,000 in the month of December alone. This remarkable achievement is a testament of God's faithfulness and your generosity towards this ministry.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to many organizations that have joined hands with PAACS as faithful partners this year. African Mission Healthcare, BethanyKids, CMDA, CURE, FAIR, Great Commission Foundation, Institute for Global Healthcare Missions, Loma Linda University, MADALA, Medical Benevolence Foundation, MedSend, National Christian Foundation of South Florida, Samaritan's Purse, SIM, SOMA Foundation, World Medical Mission, and numerous churches across the country – your commitment to our ministry is deeply appreciated, and we are truly blessed to have you on this journey with us.

There is excitement as we begin a new academic year. We are thrilled to be launching two new PAACS programs. A new general surgery program at CEML in Angola marks PAACS' presence in its 12th African country! Additionally, we are proud to introduce a pediatric orthopaedic program, a collaborative effort between CURE-Addis in Ethiopia and CURE-Kijabe in Kenya.

This past week, we held our second annual Senior Resident Conference for our senior residents and fellows. It was an incredible event, with 26 senior residents in attendance. The conference featured 11 distinguished speakers, including three from the US and five of our own PAACS graduates. As we look ahead, we are busy preparing for the Basic Science Conference, which will be held in February for all our first-year residents.

We praise God for a wonderful ending for 2023 and we look forward to His blessings throughout 2024. Thank you for your support of PAACS. Your steadfast support and dedication are the driving force behind our success, and we remain committed to our mission of training more African Christian surgeons and related specialists for Africa.

Blessings,

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

### **SENIOR RESIDENT CONFERENCE 2024**

The PAACS Senior Resident Conference was held January 21-31, 2024 at the Brackenhurst Conference Center in Kenya. Twentysix of PAACS' senior residents and fellows, PAACS faculty, as well as 11 speakers, participated in this event.















#### CELEBRATING THE 18TH PAACS GRADUATE FROM SODDO

Tim Love, MD Program Director, Soddo Christian Hospital

On December 9th. we at Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH) celebrated our 18th graduate from the PAACS program, Dr. Leul Shigut! For our graduation ceremony, we had the pleasure of welcoming back last year's graduate, Dr. Jacques Fadhili Bake of DRC. to give the commencement address and encourage Dr. Leul to continue to follow Christ as he sets out in his surgical career. This event was held just days after we had celebrated Dr. Leul's success on the COSECSA ECS exams and graduation held in Addis Ababa. Over the past five years, the SCH faculty has not only delighted in watching Dr. Leul grow and mature into a talented surgeon and leader, but also celebrate with him his marriage to Eden and the birth of their two children, Hesed and Yabetz.

Dr. Leul and his family have moved a couple hours away from Soddo to work at Negelle Arsi General Hospital and Medical College. This hospital is a training site where PAACS residents rotate for several months during their training. Dr. Leul is replacing a prior SCH PAACS graduate, Dr. Segni Bekele, as the primary general surgeon. Please pray for Dr. Leul and his family during this transition and please pray that the Lord would provide an excellent partner with whom Dr. Leul can share the clinical, administrative, and teaching responsibilities.



Drs. Jacques Bake and Leul Shigut



Dr. Leul Shigut with SCH residents



Drs. Tim Love and Leul Shigut



#### CONGRATULATIONS TENWEK GRADUATES

Andrea Parker, MD Faculty, Tenwek Hospital

On January 12th, we were thrilled to celebrate the graduation of our trainees who completed their residency training in December. This year saw the graduation of one general surgeon, June Owino, two orthopedic surgeons, Cyril Oike and Eric Yegon, and the first PAACS neurosurgeon, Emmanuel Wafula. This year marked the 11th general surgery graduation, the 6th orthopedic surgery graduation, and the first neurosurgery graduation. It was such a blessing to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of these graduates 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.

We thought perhaps the best way to share this day is in pictures. Enjoy!



The graduates (L to R), Cyril Oike, orthopedic surgery, June Owino, general surgery, Emmanuel Wafula, neurosurgery, and Eric Yegon, orthopedic surgery. Cyril, Eric, and Emmanuel have stayed as faculty at Tenwek. In addition to being excellent clinicians and educators, we know that they love Jesus and are committed to providing compassionate care to show His love.





We were honored to be joined by many special guests, including members of the Tenwek Hospital administration, led by our CEO, Mr. Shem Tangus (R). Also shown are Dr. Sylvester Kimutai (middle in green hood), PAACS graduate and Chief of Surgery at Tenwek Hospital, Rev. Paul Lokol (middle in brown hood), Principal of the Tenwek Hospital School of Chaplaincy and our keynote speaker for graduation, and Dr. Andrea Parker (L), Head of Medical Education. Each of these individuals offered incredible words of wisdom and insight to our graduates and everyone in attendance.

There is much pomp and circumstance for graduation. Here the faculty, administration, special guests, and graduates file in, gowned for the occasion.



The four graduates seated at the beginning of the ceremony as the residents enter the venue.



Our Director of Spiritual Affairs, Rev. Elijah Bii, prays for the graduates as faculty surrounds them. It is our prayer that God continues to work in their lives and through them to patients as they take on their roles as consultant surgeons.



Nothing we do in the PAACS residency programs could happen without our dedicated Programs Coordinator, Mrs. Jenny Kirui (middle), and administrative assistants Mr. Leone Kiplangat and Mrs. Modupe Wemimo.



Following the ceremony was a wonderful time of celebration at our dinner reception. We ate together and heard from each graduate's family members as they proudly spoke about what this accomplishment means to the graduate and their family.



The training programs continue to grow and now include general surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, obstetrics/gynecology, and cardiothoracic surgery. The current trainees and faculty are shown here. 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!

### WELCOME, NEW PAACS RESIDENTS!

Please join us in welcoming and praying for the new PAACS residents:

Benedicto Simon Mwang'onda, Arusha Joshua Mbelwa, Arusha Nicholas Ngome Mumbetsa, BethanyKids Minyali Lomnyaki\*, BethanyKids Benjamin Sylvere Hamidou, Bongolo Jacques Maomy, Bongolo Ilda Badukila, CEML Benedito Palaya Joaquim, CEML Enjoy these photos of just a few of the newest trainees



Dr. Trymore Sithole



Dr. Habtamu Tadesse

Chelsea Shikuku\*, *CURE - Ped Ortho* Abong Che Innocent, *Galmi* Neema Mutunzi Christian, *Galmi* Junior Arung, *HOH* Patiente Ishimwe Umuganwa, *HOH* Toavina Rabenasolo, *HVMM* Dickson Gusugusu, *Kibuye* Daniel Manishimwe, *Kibuye* Alemi Mastaki, *Kijabe - Anes* Christelle Kasoki Gbiatene, *Kijabe - Anes* Kevin Ochieng Odhiambo, *Kijabe - GS* 

Hellen Gathoni Kihoro, *Kijabe - GS* Yei P Wiah, *Kijabe - GS* Annette Waruga N Juguna, *Kijabe - Ortho* Stephen Ochieng Jaoko, *Kijabe - Ortho* Mark Mwangi Waithaka<sup>\*</sup>, *Kijabe - Plastics* Nadine Ndechu, *Litein* Trymore Sithole, *Malamulo* Gildas Placide Tadjoua Konde, *Mbingo - GS* Elvis Sonfack, *Mbingo - GS* Jonathan Chimkonda, *Nkhoma* Habtamu Tadesse, *Soddo - GS* Yodahe Tadesse, *Soddo - GS* 



Dr. Yodahe Tadesse



Dr. Nahusenay Alemayehu

Nahusenay Alemayehu, Soddo - Ortho Lughano Kalongolera, Tenwek - CT Abraham Tiruneh, Tenwek - CT Ian Kiptoo Phillip Mutai, Tenwek - GS Nelson Kipkoros Tarus, Tenwek - GS Faith Gachie, Tenwek - GS Pitman Mbabazi<sup>\*</sup>, Tenwek - NS Pendo Jefwa, Tenwek - OB/GYN Picard Dingong (transfer from GS), Tenwek - Ortho Winnie Chebii, Tenwek - Ortho

\*PAACS graduate training for a second certificate



#### HOW THE FIRST PAACS LOGO WAS CREATED

David Thompson, MD PAACS Founder

Shortly after PAACS was formed in 1996, we needed to find ways to make ourselves known to the countries of Africa, the surgical colleges of Africa, and potential supporters in the developed world. I started writing and sending out a monthly bulletin (which continues to be published to this day), but we needed something that would identify who we were and what we were about at a glance.

My oldest son was 16 at the time and had already shown remarkable artistic ability, so I told him to come up with a logo that would illustrate three things: surgery, missionary surgeons training African surgeons, and faith. About an hour later he showed me a black and white sketch of two surgeons praying over a patient lying on an operating table, one white and the other black, and an operating light overhead with a cross on it. It was perfect, and I was amazed and delighted! His reward was a hug from me and the words, "Wow, Joshua! Well done!"

After Dr. Bruce Steffes took over from me in 2006 as the PAACS Director, our board approved modifying the logo with colors, making it easier for the unvitiated to decipher. That remained the PAACS logo until late 2023, when the PAACS Board voted for a fresh new logo.



#### 1996



Effective logos aren't just designs; they are stories waiting to be told. Our new logo, was meticulously crafted with purpose and passion, narrating the journey and vision that define PAACS. At its core, the logo features a crest—a symbol recognized by esteemed higher education institutions worldwide. It signifies leadership and a legacy of positive contributions to society. Our logo features a dynamic pathway, represented by two interwoven blue ribbons. These ribbons symbolize the dual track of PAACS training and discipleship. They empower our surgery, anesthesiology, and obstetrics/gynecology residents on their journey to excellence in healthcare while instilling in them an unshakeable commitment to serving Christ. Embedded within our logo, you'll find an abstract "P," subtly nodding to the first letter in "PAACS." It also echoes the Greek letter Chi Rho, a symbol of recognition, and the XP was the early sign of Christianity, the first letters of the name of Jesus Christ in Greek. At the center stands the cross of Christ, a testament to our faith and unwavering dependence on Him. It underscores our commitment to integrating faith into our work and emphasizing the spiritual growth of our trainees.



### **DR. FRED OMONDI**

#### OB/GYN RESIDENT TENWEK HOSPITAL KENYA

Dr. Fred Omondi first learned of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) during a pivotal moment in his medical career. While completing a medical internship, a visiting surgeon who was concluding his own PAACS journey, took the time to ask each intern about their specialization aspirations and shared about the PAACS ministry. Dr. Omondi vividly remembers this encounter and eagerly sought more information. This was the catalyst that led him to discover PAACS.

What particularly resonated with Dr. Omondi was PAACS' dual mission: to train skilled surgeons in Africa and to nurture their spiritual growth. The concept of providing not only surgical but also spiritual nourishment to patients deeply appealed to him and he wanted to be part of it.

Fast forward to today, Dr. Omondi is currently a third-year Ob/Gyn resident at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. He is now immersed in the PAACS program. The weekly devotions, which are an integral part of the PAACS experience, stand out as a unique practice. Ward rounds begins with a shared Bible verse and a collective prayer for the medical team and their patients. This practice, previously unfamiliar to him, now serves as a daily reminder of his role in service to humanity and God. Through devotions, personal testimonies, and diverse perspectives on the Bible, Dr. Omondi has undergone a transformation in his perspective of Christianity and life in general. His newfound insights have significantly influenced his patient care, enhancing his abilities in patient evaluation and surgical skills. He acknowledges that this growth is ongoing, as PAACS constantly reinforces the idea that the journey of surgical and spiritual development is a lifelong commitment.

Upon his graduation from PAACS, Dr. Omondi envisions utilizing his combined surgical and spiritual training in three meaningful ways. First, he is determined to provide medical and surgical care to countless patients in need, improving healthcare access for underserved communities. Second, he eagerly looks forward to an opportunity where he can mentor and train the next generation of doctors, passing on the knowledge and values instilled in him through PAACS. Most importantly, he aspires to be a vessel of God's compassion, extending his influence not only to patients but also to fellow healthcare workers, ensuring both their physical and spiritual well-being. Dr. Omondi's journey with PAACS embodies a beautiful fusion of surgical excellence and spiritual growth, supporting his commitment to making a difference in the lives of patients and colleagues alike.





#### SURGHUB AND MORE – ONLINE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

John Tarpley, MD, Academic Dean Margaret Tarpley

As a summer project during medical school in 2003, Dr. Elizabeth D. Slater, now a plastic and burn surgeon at Vanderbilt and an active participant in the PAACS plastic surgery residency program under Dr. Peter Nthumba at AIC Kijabe Hospital, spent three months in the Vanderbilt library reviewing microfilmed issues of JAMA for articles related to spirituality and religion in medicine from 1885 to 1925. Now, even publications initially only in print version from the last centuries are available electronically.

The delta over the past 50 years with virtual access to materials formerly available only in libraries or paper subscriptions and participation from nigh any place globally with internet in hybrid/virtual meetings is game changing.

Many virtual resources are available to abet and enhance surgical education, most with subscriptions necessary. Examples include *Decker Med, SCORE,* etc.

An increasing number of free resources are available ranging from YouTube videos to organization-based offerings. One needs to be ever aware of the accuracy and quality of the various sources and "not believe everything you read" or "see."

PAACS faculty member Peter Nthumba in collaboration with the late Louis Carter, produced the <u>PAACS Principles of Reconstructive Surgery, Revised Edition</u>.

PAACS faculty member Rich Davis, along with Rondi Marie Kauffmann of Vanderbilt and a PAACS member, has created the <u>Manual of Resource-Limited Surgery</u> which is written by global surgeons for global surgeons. The Manual is open access. This format allows updating, editing, and adding chapters in real time.

Virtual access to the current literature has increased exponentially over the past two decades. Example: all articles in <u>PubMed Central</u> are full-text and free. Proprietary journals require significant fees even to read an article (sometimes with only 24-hour access) at rates out of bounds for folks working in LMICs (Low- and Middle-Income Countries) and HICs (High-Income Countries).

The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI) has had a fruitful decades' long association with COSECSA, the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa. Both are working with the UN Global Surgery Learning Hub, <u>SurgHub</u>, launched by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in 2023. This collaborative effort includes interactive courses not only in surgery but also importantly anesthesiology, obstetrics and gynecology, and more.

Open Access Medical and Surgery Education Resources Online (including Hinari) is available at <u>this link</u> and includes links to free databases, books, journals, and educational materials.

Hard copy materials still abound (sometimes in both paper and electronic format) and may require purchase but are worthwhile. For potential and even experienced PAACS volunteer faculty, please see *Global Surgery: The Essentials*, 2017 by Dr. Adrian Park, chair of the PAACS research committee, and Dr. Ray Price.



#### APPLY TODAY: AFRICAN SURGEONS TO UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITIES

Deborah Eisenhut, MD Faculty, Mbingo Baptist Hospital

African Surgeons to Under-Served Communities (ASUC) is an initiative spearheaded by SIM, PAACS and MedSend intended to help PAACS graduate surgeons and related specialists consider missionary service and serve in remote and unreached areas of Africa. Such postings are challenging for many reasons. African missionaries can find it difficult to raise financial support from within Africa. Small hospitals desperately in need of surgical care often cannot afford to pay the salary of a qualified surgeon. Also, PAACS surgeons can find it challenging to educate their children in such places. For this reason, such positions often go unfilled despite the great need.

Many people in Africa find it nearly impossible to access safe and affordable surgical and anesthetic care. There is no controversy regarding how necessary it is that these regions be provided with such care. How to accomplish this requires new and innovative programs. ASUC is such a program.

ASUC intends to provide a portion of the salary/support for a PAACS surgeon who is open to serve as a missionary in such needy locations and who are accepted into the support program for the first five years in the new position. The actual amount will vary depending on support needs and location. The African missionary surgeon will be able to step immediately into his/her role as a surgeon at such an under-served hospital giving him or her an additional five years to raise the needed support or for the hospital to develop the capacity to pay a full salary. The hospital will benefit by having a surgical specialist on staff. The presence of the surgeon or related specialist will allow the hospital revenue from such services to increase. If such funds are managed properly, the hospital should then be able to provide most of the full salary for the missionary at the end of the five-year period.

Participants in the program need to be missionaries with a mission agency that provides quality training and excellent member care. The ASUC program is administered by SIM in collaboration with PAACS but such missionaries do not need to be with SIM. Any qualifying mission organization will suffice.

Some might question the requirement that the PAACS graduate be with a mission organization. After all, are we not all called to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus? (Matthew 28:18 – 20) Are we not all missionaries? Yes, in a sense we are. But there are many advantages to serving with a mission organization.

PAACS graduates serving in remote areas can be very isolated—physically by the geography, emotionally by being distant from family and spiritually as the local church may be in its infancy. Scripture does not call us to be 'lone wolves' in Christian service. We need spiritual companionship, soul care and accountability. Missionaries in Acts (Paul and his colleagues) traveled in groups and regularly returned to their home church for rest and report. There were no 'lone wolf' missionaries in the early Church.

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A mission agency provides training for serving in remote and unreached areas. Even after the missionary has become a member of a mission organization there is the opportunity to update skills in multiple areas including medical education, mission educational modules and biblical studies.

As a member of a mission agency, the missionary has a vote and a voice in policy making and future mission initiatives. Someone serving in remote locations may have great ideas but no way to implement them. A mission agency provides a place to discuss such ideas and bring them to fruition.

The mission agency provides some level of protection for the missionary. If he/she is not being properly utilized, or even abused, by the hospital system, the mission agency can advocate, correct, make site visits and even place the missionary in a new position. The missionary has the backing of an organization with the means to make needed changes in difficult circumstances. This provides the hospital with some accountability and encourages the administration to follow through on promises and improvements.

Mission agencies also provide accountability to the missionary. Is the missionary thriving spiritually? Is he/she in God's Word regularly and developing in his/her prayer life? Is he/she meeting the needs of his/her family? Is the family thriving? Most mission agencies such as SIM offer regular meetings (such as Spiritual Life Conferences) with other missionaries in the same area providing respite, relationship-building and networking.

A major challenge for PAACS graduates working in remote areas is finding a way to educate their children. The local schools are often unacceptable. Most mission agencies have a wealth of material, resources and assistance for their missionaries to help them educate their families. These resources may not be available to PAACS graduates who are not members of a mission organization.

ASUC does not want to simply provide salary support to PAACS graduates. We wish to see participants in the program and their families thrive. For this reason, we require that participants be members of a mission organization.

Applicants may apply to the ASUC program and a mission agency concurrently. Mission agency acceptance can take time—often a year or so. If accepted to the ASUC program, a PAACS graduate can still be in the process of the mission agency application. ASUC can mentor and walk through the mission agency process with the PAACS graduate as needed. The PAACS graduate would have one year after acceptance into the ASUC program to be accepted into a mission agency.

We hope that many PAACS graduates will be encouraged to consider working in underserved and unreached areas knowing that the ASUC program is a resource to help make it possible. Pray about your involvement! Applications close February 29, 2024. For more questions, contact Dr. Deborah Eisenhut at <u>Deborah.eisenhut@sim.org</u>.

#### CLICK HERE FOR THE APPLICATION

### MARRIAGE CELEBRATION AT MBINGO



Congratulations to PAACS Resident Dr. Dingong Hiega Picard on his marriage to Dr. Onana Messi Marie on December 16. May God bless their union.

Dr. Dingong will continue his training as an orthopedic resident at Tenwek Hospital in 2024.

### PAACS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT MBINGO



The PAACS Program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital held a Christmas party on December 29th. The new residents had just arrived the day before and joined the party with their wives and children.

#### WHITE COAT CEREMONY AT MBINGO



The PAACS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital held a White Coat Ceremony on January 11th, welcoming two new residents, Drs. Konde Gildas and Sonfack Elvis.

### **PRAYER & PRAISE**

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs across Africa. Pray for the PAACS Programs in Gabon, Niger, and Togo specifically as the countries are under strain.
- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors, leadership, and administrative staff as they seek to faithfully lead the PAACS ministry.
- Pray for first-year PAACS residents, along with the speakers and facilitators, as they travel to Kenya for the Basic Science Conference in February.
- 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.
- Praise from Mbingo for the successful pass of MCS for Drs. Masango, Keba, Dingong and Telelen. In addition, a successful pass of FCS by Dr. Armia.

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

- Abraham Camara
- Armah Toko Wilson
- Noble Tinashe Kufa
- Junior Lubanda
- Benjamin Sylvere Hamidou
- Jacques Maomy

### GIVE

DONATE - OUTSIDE U.S. & CANADA

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

#### Method of Anesthesia and Perioperative <u>Risk Factors, Maternal Anesthesia</u> <u>Complications, and Neonatal Mortality</u>

changed?

<u>Complications, and Neonatal Mortality</u> <u>Following Cesarean Delivery in Africa: A</u> <u>Substudy of a 7-Day Prospective</u> <u>Observational Cohort Study.</u>

ARTICLES

**ON SURGERY** 

*Compiled by Margaret Tarpley* 

retention in the COSECSA region after

• A cross-sectional survey on surgeon

specialist training: Have things

- <u>Benefits of Breast Cancer Screening and</u> <u>Treatment on Mortality.</u>
- <u>The neoadjuvant approach in resectable</u> <u>pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma:</u> <u>lessons learned.</u>
- <u>Telehealth for general surgery</u> postoperative care.
- <u>SurgAfrica Publications from several</u> journals. Open Access.
- <u>Adaptation and validation of the</u> <u>Children's Surgical Assessment Tool for</u> <u>Rwandan district hospitals.</u>
- <u>Trends in unicompartmental knee</u> <u>arthroplasty among 138 international</u> <u>experienced arthroplasty knee</u> <u>surgeons.</u>

Read more articles compiled by Margaret Tarpley by <u>clicking here!</u>

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