

Dear Colleagues,

We are rapidly approaching the 20th year anniversary of the decision to begin the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. We look forward to this New Year to see what the Lord will do and in February, we will look forward to the new decade of training African surgeons.

As of this month, we have graduated our 41st – 45th general surgeons with the last two from Tenwek having their ceremony in early January. It appears that the Lord will grant our goal of 100 surgeons by 2020!

If you haven't given to PAACS this year, there is still time if you use the web. Go to <http://www.paacs.net/donate/> by midnight January 31.

We at PAACS wish you a very blessed and prosperous New Year! We hope to see you in Africa at one of our training programs this year!

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #138

December, 2015



Changing the spiritual and physical health of a continent

Our vision: PAACS trained surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick.

Our Mission: PAACS exists to train and disciple African surgeons to glorify God and to provide excellent, compassionate care to those most in need.

Our goal: To train and disciple 100 African surgeons by 2020.

Five residents graduate this December (the two from Tenwek will graduate in early January)

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

2015 has been a year of tremendous blessings for PAACS. Thank you for your support, prayers, encouragement and love. Thank you for all that you have done to help PAACS grow and impact Africa for God's people and His Kingdom.

In 2015, our 11 surgical training programs in 8 countries and 10 mission hospitals trained 60 surgeons and graduated 11 PAACS surgeons. In addition, PAACS consisted of 9 general surgery-training programs along with 1 orthopedic and 1 pediatric surgery training program. A new PAACS Head and Neck Fellowship will start in January of 2016 at Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon.

2015 also brought change to the PAACS leadership. I began my tenure as Executive Director and Dr. Bruce Steffes assumed the new role of Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the PAACS Commission restructured creating four new surgical councils:

*General surgery,
Orthopedic surgery,
Pediatric surgery, and
Head and Neck surgery*

The new PAACS leadership structure allows opportunities for diversity and involvement by more people--- bringing new ideas, talents and skills into the organization. The PAACS leadership also elected new Officers and Commission members at the end of 2015. These include:

*Chair: Dr. Wayne Koch (see article)
Vice Chair: Dr. Doug Lundy
Secretary: Dr. Lelan Sillin
Treasurer: Dr. Mark Snell
Member at Large: Dr. Thomas Robey
Member at Large: Dr. Louis Pistors
Member at Large (General Surgery): Dr. Bruce MacFadyen
General Surgery Council Chair: Dr. Carl Haisch (see article)
Pediatric Surgery Council Chair: Dr. Dan Poenaru*

*Orthopedic Surgery Council Chair: Dr. Doug Lundy
Head and Neck Surgery Council Chair: Dr. Wayne Koch*

In 2015, PAACS worked to increase its visibility both within the Christian and secular communities. PAACS developed two new videos highlighting the work of our ministry and impact in Africa. These videos had over 49,000 views and have been shared widely. We also exhibited at three major conferences in 2015 (the Global Leadership Conference, the American College of Surgeons and the Global Health Missions Conference) and will be continuing to exhibit and share our vision and mission with the public at more conferences in 2016.

God also blessed our finances in 2015 allowing us to continue to train African surgeons to bring healing to the sick and hope to the hopeless. We are praying that God will continue to bless the work of our hands and use PAACS in 2016 to persist in all that we do and bring Him glory.

Thank you for being a part of PAACS in 2015 and throughout the years. We pray that God will bless each member of the PAACS family and that 2016 will be a year of tremendous joy and happiness.

In His Name

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH

PAACS Executive Director

PAACS AT COSECSA MEETING

PAACS was well represented at the 16th COSECSA-ASEA Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference held in Blantyre, Malawi November 30 – December 4, 2015. It was also the 7th College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) graduation ceremony. A record number of COSECSA trainees sat the exams. Eighty-six COSECSA trainees sat the written exam in early September; 51 sat the MCS oral exam and 40 sat the FCS oral exam in all specialties. Eighteen sat the FCS oral exam in general surgery. PAACS was responsible for 27 of those sitting the oral exams (30% of the total; 35% of the MCS oral exams and 55% of the general surgery FCS oral exams).

On November 30 and December 1, the membership and fellowship exams for the College of Surgery of East Central and Southern Africa were held in Blantyre, Malawi. PAACS had 18 people sitting the MCS exam and 10 the FCS exam. The passage rate for PAACS for the MCS exam was identical to the overall passage rate (73%) and the passage rate for PAACS for the FCS exam was somewhat better for the FCS exam (90% compared to 83%). The following people passed the MCS exam (listed in no particular order)

Fabruce Ramaherimamonjy (Bongolo)
Steve Kyoto Kasereka (Mbingo)
Juana Kabba (Mbingo)
Shelmith Gichuki Muthee (Kijabe)
Wairimu Ndegwa (Tenwek)
Justus Obonyo Lando (Tenwek)
Victor Sowayi Alubokho (Tenwek)
Fasto Ladu Theoplose Yugusuk (Tenwek)
Surafel Mulatu (Ethiopia)

Ebenezer Gezahegn (Ethiopia)
Gezahegn Tilahun (Ethiopia)
Yves Mpongo (Galmi)
Emmanuel Dawson Lema (Arusha)

The following passed the FCS level exam:

Jacques Ebhele (Bongolo)
Chege Amos Macharia (Kijabe)
Damaris Ndambuki (Tenwek)
Philip Blasto Ooko (Tenwek)
Tewodros Tamiru (Ethiopia)
Dejene Desalegn (Ethiopia)
Segni Bekele (Ethiopia)
George Ngock (Mbingo)
Tony Mwenyemali (Mbingo)

The record number of 51 people sitting the MCS and 40 sitting all types of the FCS exam was a record-high number for COSECSA. PAACS faculty participating in the exam included Bruce Steffes, Ryan Hayton, Arega Fekadu, Andrew Chew, Joe Starke, Paul Kisanga, Dan Galat, Jim Brown and Dan Poenaru. Dr. Russ White, in his role as Kenyan representative to COSECSA, helped run both portions of the exam. Erik Hansen, Peter Bird, Mike Mara and Mark Newton all later attended the COSECSA conference from Kijabe.

Philip Blasto Ooko held up the PAACS tradition by winning the prizes for the best student in the FCS-General Surgery section and the best student overall. He also received a grant for surgical research. The MCS-GS Best Student award was won by Peter Watson, a COSECSA orthopedic resident at Kijabe (who trains with the Kijabe-PAACS residents). PAACS had no one else testing in the other categories this year. The Gerald O'Sullivan award, from the Royal College of Surgery of Ireland, is awarded to the student who scored the highest marks in Part I and Part II examinations, an exemplary logbook, completion of all requirements and good recommendations.

In 2009, Jack Barasa from Kijabe won the best MCS-General Surgery award.



In 2012, Jack Barasa from Kijabe won the Gerald O'Sullivan award and began the tradition. Agneta Odera won the best FCS-GS award and Philip Ooko won the best MCS-GS award.

In 2013, Gerald Ekwen from Mbingo won the best FCS award. Faculty member Dan Galat won the best FCS-Ortho award and the Gerald O'Sullivan award (this would be the last time they would award this to anyone but a resident). Dr. Martin Situma from Bethany-Kids at Kijabe won the best FCS-Pediatric Surgery.

In 2014, Jack Okumu from Tenwek won the Gerald O'Sullivan award. Elijah Mwaura from Tenwek would win the best FCS-GS award and Dr. Ken Muma the best FCS-Pediatric Surgery award.



(L to R): Jacques Ebhele, Philip Blasto Ooko, Tewodros Tamiru, George Ngock, Damaris Ndambuki Mbalu, Tony Mwenyemali, Aiah Lebbie, Segni Bekele, Dejene Desalegn, Chege Macharia

The following papers by PAACS personnel were presented during the scientific session.

Dan Poenaru. Measuring and addressing the global burden of surgical disease.

Damaris Ndambuki. The natural history of post esophagectomy anastomotic strictures in a peripheral Referral facility in Western Kenya

Arega Fekadu. Modified bladder neck repair in suprapubic prostatectomy can safely avoid post-operative continuous irrigation.

Poster:

Philip Ooko. Ileo-sigmoid Knotting: A review of 61 cases in Kenya.

Dr. Aiah Lebbie had graduated in 2013 but was unable to attend the graduation ceremony in 2014 because of the Ebola crisis in his country. He was able to participate this year in Malawi.

One of the graduates wrote to his trainers, PAACs and his sponsor:

Dear Doctors

It is a real pleasure for me to get this opportunity to write to you all. I would like to express my deep appreciation to PAACS for selecting me, training me in General Surgery and to the donor organization which sponsored me financially.

Yesterday, I sat the FCS clinical and oral exam for general surgery here in Blantyre, Malawi, and the Lord granted me success! I am so grateful and thankful to Him. "It is by The Grace of God that I am what I am..."

I was so privileged to graduate today morning among the fellows of COSECSA. To God be the glory!

Thanks a lot to all of you for your great contributions to my training in diverse ways and for your continuous support even after training.

God bless you!!!!

GRADUATION PAACS ETHIOPIA

The graduation commenced with appropriate pomp and ceremony, with Dr. Sok Hui GOH, medical director of Soddo Christian Hospital asking the 80+ visitors to stand as the PAACS faculty and 2 graduates entered the small chapel at Myungsung Christian Medical Center, Addis Ababa. This graduation ceremony was a milestone – it was the first time PAACS Ethiopia graduated more than one resident, and not only that, the graduates were awarded fellows of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) in General Surgery 3 days earlier after successfully undertaking the oral exams (FCS) in Malawi. Of particular significance was the presence of Professor Abebe Bekele, Dean of the School of Medicine, Addis Ababa University who kindly agreed to give an address during the ceremony.



Segni Bekele and Dejene Desalegn graduate.

After a warm welcome by Dr. Kim Chulsoo, Dr. Mark Karnes opened in prayer. Dr. Duane Anderson, the Master of Ceremonies, applauded the achievements of the graduates and noted the success of the

PAACS Ethiopian program. He went on to thank the previous PAACS Ethiopia Program Director Dr. Paul Gray, who was instrumental in raising the academic standards of the PAACS program, and also thanked him for the mammoth effort in complying with the rigorous paperwork demanded by HERQA, the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance body which accredits private educational institutions such as PAACS. Of note PAACS was awarded a 5 year license this year, thanks to the foundational work done by Paul Gray over the past few years.

Dr. Andrew Chew gave a brief history of PAACS, and went on to state that

'We believe that our faith in a living God defines PAACS. What made Dr. Thompson leave the comforts of his home country and live for decades in Africa in the steamy jungles of Bongolo in Gabon? And also the many who work as faculty for PAACS scattered across Africa? God, a God of mercy, love and justice come to earth in the form of a human being and both taught and healed the sick. Throughout the Bible, themes of God defending the poor, marginalized and the oppressed come through. It is because of this that has shaped PAACS. God is gracious and willing to associate with imperfect individuals such as us. Not only willing to share resources and skills, we would invite individuals to come to know such a God as ours'.

He went on to expound on the PAACS Surgeon's prayer which was printed in the program.

Professor Abebe Bekele, Dean of the Medical School in Addis Ababa acknowledged the significant contribution of PAACS to Ethiopia and encouraged PAACS to expand its program. He went on to address the residents, reminding them that God had chosen them out of the 90+ million Ethiopians to be surgeons. As much has been invested in them, they should pay back in service to the people, that graduation is not the pinnacle but only the beginning of a journey of life-long learning and lastly to devote their lives to teach others.



(L to R): Frehun Ayele, Chulsoo Kim, Andrew Chew, Tewodros Tamiru, Dejene Desalegn, Solomon Bekele Assefa (Myungsung surgeon), Segni Bekele, Dan Poenaru, Duane Anderson, Mark Karnes, Prof. Abebe Bekele

After presenting Dr. Segni Bekele and Dr. Dejene Desalegn their PAACS diploma, a PAACS tie, a copy of 'Top Knife' and a surgical headlight, they had their feet washed by Drs. Andrew Chew and Tewodros Tamiru.

The residents responded by thanking God, faculty members and especially their spouses for supporting them through their training. A buffet lunch was served afterwards.

Dejene has been selected with a few others to enter a cardiothoracic surgery training program that will consist of three years of training both in Korea and at Myungsung Christian Medical Centre. It is a new program, designed to build an open-heart program at Myungsung.

Segni Bekele intends to join previous PAACS graduate Haileyesus in Nekempte but until that hospital is prepared to hire him, he will be working at the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Ghimbie. They were without a surgeon and Segni answered their SOS. Arega Fekadu had previously worked at that hospital after his training was finished (before going to Soddo and then to Malawi). There has been some unrest in Addis Ababa and its surroundings -. Segni is unable to get his family to Ghimbie.

GRADUATION KIJABE HOSPITAL

December marks the graduation of the third general surgeon from the PAACS-Kijabe program in Kijabe, Kenya. Kijabe Hospital is proud to announce that Amos Chege Macharia successfully finished his five year residency in December 2015.

They celebrated his accomplishment with two events. The first was a formal daytime graduation ceremony on December 10 that included about forty professionals at Kijabe Hospital who had completed

various educational programs in the past year. Dr. Richard Davis, PAACS Program Director, was among the speakers. He read from 2 Corinthians 3:2-4: "You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on the tablets of human hearts."

Some of the PAACS residents felt that Chege, being one of 40 graduates, had not been properly individually celebrated by the PAACS family. A second ceremony was promptly organized by Dr. Beryl



Dr. Davis presents Dr. Macharia with his PAACS Certificate.

Akinyi and Dr. Shelmith Gichuki. This evening meeting was more informal and “warm,” with many members of the staff standing up to tell their favorite stories and memories about Chege’s time at Kijabe. Chege himself closed out the night by thanking his colleagues, his teachers, and most of all his wife Nyambura for her love and support.

Macharia successfully passed his COSECSA Fellowship exam on December 1 and participated in the COSECSA graduation ceremony on December 2.

Macharia has been accepted as the first trainee in the new Head & Neck Fellowship starting in January, 2016 at Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon. He hopes to return to join Dr. David Nolen at Kijabe Hospital after his training.

Kijabe has previously graduated Jack Barasa in 2013 and Kamene Elsie Mwanzia in 2014.



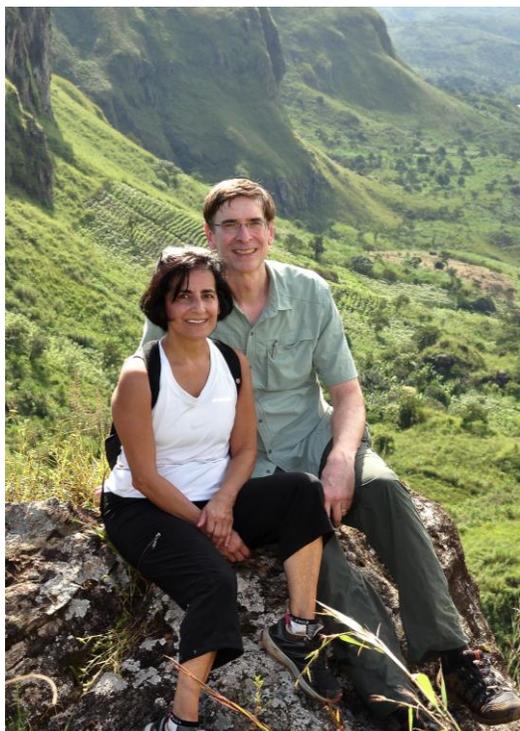
Some of the Kijabe PAACS Residents and Faculty. L-R: Dr. Mark Waitaha, 4th year Resident, Dr. Jack Barasa, Assistant Program Director, Dr. Richard Davis, Program Director, Dr. Chege Macharia, Dr. Beryl Akinyi, 4th year Resident, Dr. Shelmith Gichuki, 2nd year Resident, Dr. Kenneth Shinga, 1st year Resident, Dr. Mark Snell, PAACS Treasurer and visiting Faculty.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PAACS OFFICIALS

[Editor’s Note: This month we will introduce two of the recently elected officials of the PAACS Commission and will follow with two more next month. Wayne Koch is a head and neck surgical oncologist who has spent his entire professional career at the Johns Hopkins Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He has been involved as director of their training programs

(residency and fellowship) for the past 24 years. He is also the director of the division. He was recently elected as the chair of the PAACS Commission. He is beginning a new Head & Neck Fellowship at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in January of 2016.]

Wayne Koch:



In the 7 years that I have been involved, PAACS has undergone substantial growth and change, built on the solid foundation of a dedication to serve the Lord on the part of many men and women. It is poised now to enact even more growth and change; growth and change in size, in organizational structure, and in breadth of surgical specialty training, as we have planned and imagined, but also in response to cultural, political, and educational forces from outside our group and our control. It is this critical place in our history that this next leadership team has stepped into.

And so, it is vital that we do not lose our steady hold on the principles and Power that constitute that solid foundation. The chief end of PAACS must be to glorify God (to paraphrase the Westminster catechism). We do that by working for justice and mercy (Zechariah 7:9) through training surgeons to do works of mercy for those who cannot afford healthcare. We glorify Him by training them not just as surgeons but as disciples (Mt 28:18-20), by trusting and depending on Christ alone (Psalm 9:10), and by doing all that we do in love for one another (John

17: 26). If we lose sight of these principles and this goal, the organization will change in directions that will ultimately lead to its ruin as an instrument for Kingdom building, even if it continues to enjoy worldly success.

My priorities as chair of the PAACS commission are:

- 1) to help guide the organization through administrative change that has already been set in motion and will continue with the identification and training of a new Chief Medical Officer, the re-organization of Commission and Councils, and the further establishment of the work of our CEO, Development officer, and committees;
- 2) to focus our resources toward measured, sustainable growth while seeking to do all we can to better strengthen and support our existing programs and people; and
- 3) to seek ways to further our influence for bringing surgical care and training to areas of great need by encouraging our nascent efforts to support our graduates as they become established in new communities of service including service as PAACS faculty.

Since my first volunteer trip to Mbingo in 2008, I have been certain that PAACS was the ideal context for me to bring my loaves and fish to the Lord to see what He would use them for. I

continue in that posture, ready to give my best for whatever task He calls me to do and I am excited to see what He has in store.

Carl Haisch

[Editor's note: Carl Haisch is a transplant surgeon who has spent much of his professional career between the University of Vermont and the Eastern Carolina University. At ECU, he has served as the director of the surgical residency program, the director of the division of surgical education and the Associate Dean of Faculty Development. He has been active in PAACS since late 2003. In November, he was voted in as the chair of the newly formed general surgical council of PAACS.]

I have been humbled and gratified to see the hand of Christ in the work of PAACS. As Doug Lundy indicated at the board meeting in which he explained the new organizational structure, one cannot deny that what we have seen is outside the realm of human work. I have been involved with PAACS since November 2003.

The work of PAACS has been something which I believe the Lord has been preparing me. I have been interested in medical missions since medical school, but got sidetracked into an academic career. Tom Hale, the well-known surgical missionary to Nepal, indicated to me that God still had something for me to do when I questioned him about my decisions. I believe that PAACS has been the answer to that question. With my experience teaching medical students, working with faculty as an Associate Dean, being a program director and working as director of surgical education in the department of surgery, I believe all of these experiences have given me a background which has been rich and helpful as I have worked with PAACS.



I am committed to the general surgery work of PAACS and to the curriculum in general. This applies to the outline which is followed by the residents, evaluating their work, reviewing case numbers and working on the examinations which we have developed. Dr. Bruce Steffes has been a huge component of the examination success of PAACS, a contribution which cannot be underestimated.

As we changed the governance of PAACS I have spoken to a number of people and sought the counsel of my wife. I am eager to begin work with the general surgery council and to work with others to apply my years of experience to improve the quality of PAACS training in Africa.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **BKKH Received Full Accreditation!** This past October 31, the Pediatric Surgery Program at Bethany Kids Hospital was inspected by Professor Pankaj Jani and Professor Milliard Derbew of COSECSA. One December 7, Program Director, Dr. Erik Hansen, received word that the Pediatric Surgery Fellowship training program had achieved full accreditation (for all three

years). This means that rotations to other countries are no longer mandatory for training although they will be continued to some degree for training purposes.

- **Mobilizing Medical Missions Conference** – The Mobilizing Medical Missions (M3) Conference will have its inaugural meeting in Houston, February 19th and 20th, 2016. The conference is designed to: 1) Bring together healthcare professionals who have a desire to be involved in medical missions; 2) Let them be inspired and challenged as they hear from men and women who are actively engaged in medical missions; and 3) Give practical ways that they can be involved.

They are inviting physicians, nurses, dentists, and those in residency training. They have lined up the following speakers (partial list):

Kent Brantly, MD—ELWA Mission Hospital in Liberia, Ebola survivor
Dick Furman, MD—Co-founder, World Medical Mission
Russ White—Tenwek Mission Hospital, Kenya
Mary Hermiz RN, PhD—Career missionary nurse and educator
Issam Ra'ad, MD—Founder, Health Outreach to the Middle East
Carlan Wendler, MD—Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi
Bob Goff—Founder, Restore International and author Love Does
Jenny Dyer, PhD—Executive Director, Hope through Healing Hands (Gates Foundation)
Todd Price, MD—Founder, International Medical Outreach
Mark Topazian, MD—Mayo Clinic, active in short-term missions
Allan Sawyer, MD—Glendale Arizona, active in short-term missions
Steve James, CRNA—Founder, Kenya Relief

The format of the conference will include plenary and breakout sessions. PAACS will be a sponsor of this conference. More information and discounted early-bird (before January 3) registration is possible at www.m3missions.com.

- **Global Humanitarian Surgery Course** - The Center for Global Health and Innovation at Stanford University School of Medicine (SUSM), CA, will host a one-and-a-half-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) course, February 27–28, on humanitarian surgery missions in developing countries. The fourth annual international humanitarian aid skills course will review common conditions encountered in resource-limited environment. Through a variety of techniques, including skill stations and simulation, the course will provide instruction on common procedures performed in resource-limited environments. The course also will offer the essential elements of surgical safety, ethics, and cultural considerations in such settings. Specific skill areas that will be taught include orthopedic dislocations and fracture management with traction pins and external fixation, cesarean sections, post-partum hemorrhage, burn management and hand cutting of skin grafts, burr holes, and hysterectomy. The course is open to both physicians and interested allied health professionals.

Register by January 24. Space is limited. SUSM designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Find more information about the course online, including

discounted hotel information. [<http://cme.stanford.edu/humanitarian/>] For registration assistance, e-mail stanfordcme@stanford.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Birth announcement.**
Titus Jeremiah Axt was born on December 26, 2015, 08:43. He weighed 7 lb. 9 oz. (3.4 kg) and was 20 inches (51 cm) in length! The proud parents, Jason and Meridith, and his older brothers, Nathaniel and Ezekiel, welcome him to their family. All are well.

The Axts recently left Mbingo Baptist Hospital

to begin training in pediatric surgery with the intent of returning to Cameroon after their training.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for the good performance on the COSECSA oral exams and that Christ was honored. Please pray for those who did not pass, that they will be able to correct their deficits and perform well next year.
- Pray for the new residents as they make their transition to their new training sites. Pray for safety in travel and pray for the adjustment of their families.
- Pray that God will begin to open the eyes, minds and hearts of the PAACS trainees – that they will see the fields white unto harvest and that they might seek to serve Him as missionary surgeons.
- Praise God for the nine new general surgeons that graduated this year and pray for God's hand upon them as they select and settle into the next stages of their lives.
- Pray for Chege Macharia as he moves to Cameroon and becomes the first fellow in the new Head & Neck one year fellowship at Mbingo Hospital. Pray for Dr. Wayne Koch as he directs this new program.
- Pray for those on home assignment (Dave Thompson, Dan Galat who are in the US now) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Pray that the three faculty members (Dave Thompson, Keir Thelander and Debbie Eisenhut) will receive news that they passed their recertification exams for the American Board of Surgery. Dr.

Thompson may require some more surgery before returning to the field – pray for wisdom for his surgeons and for rapid healing.

- Pray for the need for orthopedic coverage at Tenwek through July 2016 while Dan Galat is on home assignment. Pray for the successful start of the new orthopedic FCS training at Tenwek, starting in July.
- Pray for Harpur Hospital, its residents and its faculty members. Please pray for strength for Sherif as he carries on as the only PAACS surgeon until the Thompsons return in late January.
- Give thanks to God for the full accreditation of the BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital Pediatric Surgery Fellowship training program.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital (Pediatric Surgery) in Kenya, Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia (both general surgery and orthopedics), Malamulo SDA hospital in Malawi and Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt.
- Pray for all of our faculty members as they wear many hats juggling so many responsibilities. Pray for the career PAACS faculty members who are under great personal and/or family stress. Pray for healing and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their day to day lives.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year. Pray for the ongoing negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mbingo Baptist Hospital and the University of Yaoundé that will permit recognition of their program by the government.
- Pray that the obstacles to starting a new orthopedic training program at Soddo Christian Hospital and the CURE hospital in Addis will be overcome by next January.
- Pray for the Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Togo as they work to begin training in 2018 or 2019. Pray for wisdom and the requisite development of the hospital and the surgical faculty. Pray that the funding will become available.
- Pray for the continued and full recovery for Mrs. Katy Key, wife of Rev. Stan Key the PAACS Spiritual Dean. She suffered a serious stroke while convalescing from a pulmonary resection.
- Pray that God will provide the necessary finances for PAACS this academic year.
- Pray for our PAACS Commissioners as they too juggle many responsibilities and strive to serve in their PAACS role.
- Pray for the PAACS Commission and the new specialty councils – that God would direct the deliberations, decisions and the recruitment of people to assist.
- Pray for the planned meeting in Atlanta on January 9 for the Strategic Planning workforce. Pray that God will direct in our planning for the future.

- Pray for the ongoing search for the new Chief Medical Officer. Pray for the selection of God's choice.

Editors:

Bruce Steffes, MD, MBA, MA (Bib. Min), FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA), FICS
David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS