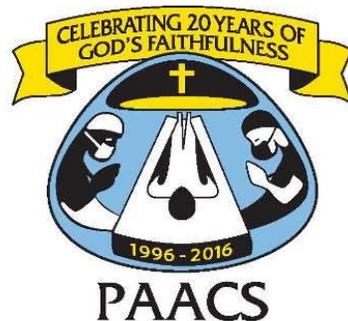


Dear Colleagues,

The newly reconfigured PAACS Commission met during May in Chicago. It was a great time of fellowship and progress. One driving force for the reconfiguration was the desire to create opportunities for others to have a meaningful role in the various specialty programs. If you have an interest in curriculum development, program development or exam-writing, we may need you to serve on the general surgery, orthopedics and pediatric surgery surgical councils. Please contact [bruce.steffes@paacs.net](mailto:bruce.steffes@paacs.net) if you would like to learn more.

Of course, our need for short-term and career faculty surgeons is ongoing. Working with the residents and supporting the faculty is always an exciting and meaningful experience. If you would like to serve, please contact Cathy Burlison ([CBurlison@samaritan.org](mailto:CBurlison@samaritan.org)) at World Medical Mission. We also have a need for coverage the last quarter of the year at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania – please contact Wendy Willmore directly at [gracethewendylady@hotmail.com](mailto:gracethewendylady@hotmail.com).

The Editor



## The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #143

May, 2016



Rich Davis and Morgan Otido – Kijabe Hospital

### ***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.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear PAACS Family:*

*The PAACS Commission met on May 20-21, 2016 in Elk Grove Village, IL. The hand of our gracious Lord was evident and His wisdom and guidance could be seen throughout the meeting. Each person attending this meeting gave selflessly of his or her time and expense to be a part of this meeting to advance God's Kingdom. PAACS is grateful to each person who participated in the meeting and shared of his or her talents, abilities and skills to strengthen the PAACS organization.*

*We were blessed to have Dr. Richard Hart, President of LLU and ex-missionary, present at this meeting. LLU has long been a vital part in the ministry that is PAACS'.*

*The meeting was highly successful and a lot of work was accomplished. We praise God for His continued hand upon this organization and give thanks for His leadership, guidance and grace to PAACS.*

*Blessing to all,*

*Susan A. Koshy*

*Executive Director*

# PAACS COMMISSION MEETING

By Susan Koshy, Bruce Steffes

Thirty-five members of the Commission, Advisory Council, Surgical Councils, staff and guests attended the one and a half day meeting which was held at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove, IL. This was the first Commission meeting after the re-structuring of this group and the election of new officers and Commission members.



Six PAACS committees met prior to the Commission meeting. The Program, Curriculum, Spiritual, Advancement, Faculty Development and the Nominations and Appointment Committees each met for over two hours. These Committees discussed issues concerning the PAACS curricula, programs, spiritual issues, fundraising, new members for the PAACS Commission, and PAACS residents and faculty.

The Friday session of the Commission meeting began with a wonderful devotion by Stan Key from the book of Jeremiah and a time of prayer. There were several visitors at the Commission meeting and each person gave a brief self-introduction.

Dr. Richard Hart, the President of Loma Linda University (LLU), and the new LLU Representative to the PAACS Commission, Dr. Mark Reeves, gave an update on LLU and their work and relationship with PAACS. Dr. Hart flew from California to be a part of this meeting and was only able to attend for a few hours before he had to fly back the



Wayne Koch presenting award to Dr. Dick Hart of LLU

same day. His commitment to the success of PAACS is evident and the PAACS Commission honored Dr. Hart with a plaque for his dedication and work on behalf of PAACS.

Dr. Mark Reeves was approved as the LLU liaison to the PAACS Commission. Reeves is the director of the general surgery residency at LLU and will be leading the three inspection tours covering all the PAACS programs for LLU. Those will be taken in August, September and January.

The PAACS Executive Director, Chief Medical Officer, Academic Dean and Spiritual Dean presented reports and updates on their work for the last several months. In addition, Dr. Keir Thelander, the PAACS incoming Chief Medical Officer spoke about his new role and his vision for the first several months in this position (see his remarks elsewhere in this newsletter). Ms. Monique Wherry, PAACS' new Director of Development also presented a report outlining a strategy for fundraising. Each of the Committee Chairs then presented reports outlining the discussion during their committee meetings earlier in the afternoon. The Friday session concluded with a PAACS group photograph and a time of fellowship and dinner.

The Saturday session commenced with a spiritual challenge from Dr. Rebekah Kim, followed by a discussion on the finances of PAACS for the upcoming fiscal year. The Commission approved the new 2016-2017 budget of \$1.78 million.

Some of the major issues of discussion during the Saturday Commission meeting were the approval of the new PAACS Strategic Plan and the revised Commission Policy Manual. The Commission spent considerable time discussing the various policy and organizational issues impacting the organization. In addition, the new PAACS surgical specialty council chairs reported on the work of each of their respective Councils.

This is a partial list of additional things that were accomplished during this meeting:

- Rev. Stan Key, the Academic Dean, announced the near-completion of Volumes 4 and 5 of the PAACS Spiritual Curriculum. Completion is awaiting the translation of the new introduction into French and the final assembly of the files. The Spiritual Curriculum will be discussed at length in the June edition of the PAACS Bulletin.
- The position of Regional Director for Africa was abolished. All of the duties will be subsumed by the Chief Medical Officer who will create *ad hoc* committees to accomplish any needed thing.
- The proposed MOU with the ABWE Hospital in Togo (the Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Kpele-Tsiko) was approved and is presently awaiting signature from the ABWE officials. General Surgery training will begin there in 2019 or 2020.
- The PAACS-Ethiopia program located at the Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia was removed from probationary status after correcting several problem areas. The proposed orthopedic training program has not yet been reported out of the Orthopedic Council.
- Ken Muma was given provisional status as the Assistant Program Director of the Pediatric Surgery Training Program at BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital. Zachary O'Connor was given provisional status as the Program Director of Bongolo Hospital and Jen O'Connor was given provisional status as the Assistant Program Director of Bongolo Hospital.

- The following faculty members were approved to move from provisional status to full status: Ken Muma (Peds Surg, BethanyKids at Kijabe); Robert and Andrea Parker (GS, Tenwek); Joy Draper (OB-Gyn, Tenwek); Wendy Willmore and Frank Madinda (GS Co-Program Directors, Arusha); Andrew Chew (GS and Program Director, Soddo); Tewodros Tamiru (GS, Soddo), Jana McLeod (GS, Kijabe) and David Nolen (ENT, Kijabe).
- Dr. Casey Graybill (OB-Gyn, Malamulo) was named to provisional faculty member status.
- Dr. Mark Snell announced he will be going to Mbingo Baptist as a full-time missionary surgeon in the summer of 2017. He will resign his treasurer position as of the November meeting.
- As part of the required Commissioner training at each meeting, all attendees were given a copy of the book "Mission Drift: The Unspoken Crisis Facing Leaders, Charities, and Churches" written by Peter Greer and Chris Horst.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2016, scheduled to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn near the O'Hare Airport.

## NEW CMO REMARKS

Keir Thelander ([keir.thelander@paacs.net](mailto:keir.thelander@paacs.net)), who will begin his training time as the new Chief Medical Officer on July 1, addressed the PAACS Commission members. Here are his edited comments:

*The future for the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons is bright. God has already used PAACS to impact 17 countries of the 54 in Africa. Our influence continues to grow. As incoming CMO, it has become clear to me that training superb surgeons alone is not being true to God's call for PAACS. Training surgeons who are merely "Christian" also falls short of the mark. What makes PAACS unique is that not only are superb surgeons being trained, but Christians are DISCIPLINED to be fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*

*Holding the reins as CMO requires a commitment to not just the training programs but to our most valued resource. That is our Program Directors and faculty who are in the trenches doing the teaching and discipling. I have heard it said and have bought in to the approach of "Jesus always, team first, others-centered, and self last". As God clarifies my understanding of His vision for PAACS, those priorities of "Jesus always, team first, others-centered, and self last" will be my foundation.*

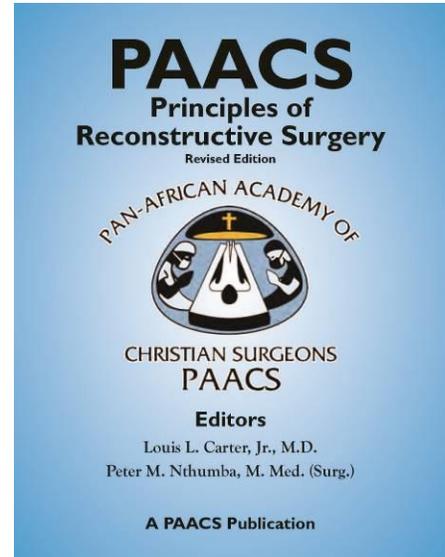
*My hope is that PAACS continues to be an instrument of change in Africa for years to come. As PAACS expands into new territories, our growth and influence is completely dependent on the strength of our desire to see God glorified through us and in our residents and graduates. The task is great, but we serve a God who is greater. God's words through Paul in the 12th chapter of Romans speak to us, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." My prayer for PAACS is that we will all be transformed by the*

*renewing of our minds so as to bring glory to our God and Father through PAACS. May our current seventeen countries of influence be just the beginning – we want to see 20, 30, or even 40 or more African countries transformed for Jesus.*

## NEWS SHORTS:

**Reminder – Revised PAACS Textbook Available for Free** – Drs. Lewis Carter and Peter Nthumba would like to remind all PAACS Bulletin readers of the availability of their latest revision of the “PAACS Principles of Reconstructive Surgery”.

This newly revised edition with its 44 chapters and index has been re-formatted to make it more readable. It has 523 pages (including the cover). This labor of love would have a commercial value of several hundred dollars but can be downloaded for free. The 54 MB edition (with lower resolution graphics) can be [downloaded here](#) and is available on the Resources page of the PAACS website.



**An Upcoming Article about PAACS** - *“Five hundred million heathen have not yet been evangelized, so it is computed! Yet our great Missionary Societies have reached high water-mark, and if they have not already begun to retrench they are seriously thinking of doing so. Meanwhile, the heart of Asia, the heart of Africa, and well nigh the whole continent of South America, are untouched with the Gospel of Christ.*

“C.T. Studd, the famous British cricketer turned missionary, made that statement more than 120 years ago, long before smartphones, internet and international flights. And yet, the statistics he quoted are worse now in 2016, despite the fact that parts of those great continents have been reached with the gospel to varying degrees. There remains hundreds of millions of souls on the continent of Africa who face physical suffering on this earth and an eternity without Christ. In fact, there are billions—not millions, but billions—of people around the world who are still untouched with the gospel.

“These statistics and the philosophy behind Studd’s comments are exactly what drive the mission of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. And it’s something we take extremely seriously as we seek to make a difference in the spiritual and physical health of an entire continent...”

The rest of the article by Bruce Steffes entitled “Making Disciples in Africa for Africa” will soon appear in the Summer edition of the CMDA magazine, [“Today’s Christian Doctor”](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Birth Announcement** – Dr. Jacques Ebhele and his wife have welcomed a new little girl into their family of two previous boys. She was born on May 12 at 6:35 pm at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. She weighed 2560 grams (6 pounds 9 oz) and was 46 cm (18 inches) in length. They named her Rita-Joy Tinia Ebhele. The baby and mother are doing fine. They praise the Lord for the blessing of a normal delivery.



**WACS Inspection Tour Planned** – A team from the West African College of Surgery will inspect the Mbingo Baptist Hospital program in Cameroon and the Bongolo Hospital program in Gabon to accredit them at the Membership level of training. The team will consist of the Chairman of the Faculty of Surgery, Professor Emmanuel Ezeome; the First Vice President of WACS, Professor Kind David Terna Yawe and the Secretary of the Faculty of Surgery, Professor Michael Ohene-Yeboah. Bruce Steffes, the Chief Medical Officer of PAACS, will visit the two programs with them. The schedule is as follows:

June 27th: All arrival Libreville and spend night.

June 28th: Libreville to Bongolo and begin inspection

June 29th: Inspection day at Bongolo.

June 30th: Fly Bongolo - Libreville - Yaoundé.

Meet SIL airplane & continue to Mbingo weather permitting.

July 1st: WACS team in Mbingo.

July 2nd: WACS team return to Yaoundé. Steffes leaves that evening for the US

July 3rd: WACS team leaves early in morning by commercial flights.

Your prayers for this visit would be much appreciated.

**Davis Featured in Newspaper:** Dr. Rich Davis, Kijabe Program Director, gave Grand Rounds at this old training program at Creighton University. He was featured May 11 in the Omaha World-Herald.

[http://www.livewellnebraska.com/health/i-don-t-really-see-it-as-a-sacrifice-creighton/article\\_93c3f3f6-0c26-5686-a287-5f23e7e5561a.html?mode=story](http://www.livewellnebraska.com/health/i-don-t-really-see-it-as-a-sacrifice-creighton/article_93c3f3f6-0c26-5686-a287-5f23e7e5561a.html?mode=story)

**Care for Physicians Retreat:** MedSend has asked all its partners to promote awareness of a wonderful one-week retreat for physicians (including missionaries). Entitled "Care for Physicians", it will be held in Richland, Michigan (near Kalamazoo) from June 26 – July 2, 2016. ALONGSIDE ([www.alongsidecares.net](http://www.alongsidecares.net)) is a counseling ministry that has helped people in ministry for 15 years. People attend ALONGSIDE for many reasons, but these often include burnout, depression, marital difficulty, relational issues, trauma and more. Recently several medical professionals, who face similar concerns, have noted that they needed "an ALONGSIDE" for them.

In response, ALONGSIDE has created a seven-day program specifically geared for medical professionals. Each day will start with a relevant topic followed by group and individual counseling (couples together). The counseling staff are fully licensed, professionally trained counselors with decades

of experience. They have frequently sat with medical missionaries and know some of the challenges that physicians face.

While there will be 10 hours of wellness seminars, five group counseling sessions and five individual counseling sessions, there also will be time to unplug, relax and enjoy the beautiful 125-acre campus of ALONGSIDE. Cost for program and luxurious accommodations for six nights: \$2300 per couple or \$1750 per individual. For more information or to register: contact ALONGSIDE at 269-447-2100 or email [john@alongsidecares.net](mailto:john@alongsidecares.net).

**Restore for Cross-Cultural Workers:** Alongside USA and the Tumaini Counseling Centre of Nairobi are also offering a 2-week intensive counseling retreat for cross-cultural workers to be held in Nairobi, August 15 – 26. There will be 16 participants at a maximum. The retreat format includes daily quiet time; two seminar sessions each morning on topics such as stress-management, burnout/depression, conflict resolution, soul-care, boundaries, Day of Rest, goal-setting, loss & grief, joy, and others; 60-75 minutes of group counseling daily and - a total of 9 hours of couple or individual counseling.

The cost for the program will be \$1475 – 1800 for individuals and \$2,385 - \$2,875 for couples, depending on whether the sending agency has a partnership relationship with TCC.

Registration and questions: [conferences.tcc@gmail.com](mailto:conferences.tcc@gmail.com) or call +254 733 687-050;+254 0728 606-911

**Calendar of Upcoming PAACS Events:** Put these on your calendar!

June 4 – the PAACS written exam  
June 27 – July 2 - WACS inspection tour of Mbingo and Gabon  
July 16 – Mbingo graduation Ceremony  
July 30 – PAACS remediation exam.  
July 30 – Soddo graduation Ceremony  
August 2 – 15 – Malawi, Ethiopia and Egypt programs – LLU inspection tour  
September 7 – MCS and FCS COSECSA written exam  
September 17 – 29 – Cameroon, Gabon and Niger programs - LLU inspection tour  
November 10-12 – GHMC conference in Louisville, KY  
November 18-19 – PAACS commission meeting in Chicago  
December 5 – COSECSA MCS oral exam (Mombasa, Kenya) - may be moved to December 3  
December 6 – COSECSA FCS oral exam (Mombasa, Kenya)  
December 7 – COSECSA graduation (Mombasa, Kenya)  
December 8 – 10 – Annual General Meeting (Mombasa, Kenya)  
December 10 – Harpur Memorial graduation ceremony  
December 12 – Kijabe Hospital graduation ceremony (includes Mbingo H & N)  
January 12, 2017 – Tenwek Hospital graduation ceremony  
January 14-27 – Tanzania and Kenya programs - LLU inspection tour  
January 29– February 9 – The basic science conference at the Brackenhurst International Conference Centre, Limuru, Kenya.  
February 26 – March 4 – WACS meeting; International Conference Center Ouaga 200; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso – [info@wacs2017burkina.org](mailto:info@wacs2017burkina.org)

**Surgical Opportunity in Somaliland:** A new COSECSA MCS (the first two years) surgical training program in Hargeisa, Somaliland, needs short-term coverage during the early months of 2017. There are currently 3 junior residents in the program, trained by a British colorectal surgeon (who will be away on home leave during that time).

The training is at Edna Aden University Hospital, Somaliland's best-known charity hospital, started by global health advocate Madame Edna Aden (<http://ednahospitalfoundation.org/>). The hospital has good operating rooms and a low surgical volume, allowing a visitor to focus on surgical training. Unlike Somalia, Somaliland is a stable region in the Horn of Africa with good access and security. Good accommodation for visitors is provided right in the hospital, and the hospital arranges visas and transport from the local airport.

Anyone interested in exploring this unique creative-access opportunity, please contact Dr. Joy Robinson ([joyrobinson@fastmail.fm](mailto:joyrobinson@fastmail.fm)) and Dan Poenaru ([dpoenaru@gmail.com](mailto:dpoenaru@gmail.com)). It is critical that only secular terms be used in the communication with them.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray to God that some of our trainees will be called to serve in the mission hospitals as a career.
- Pray for all our graduates – as they serve their patients and their Lord. Pray that God will provide strength, resources and wisdom.
- Pray for those on home assignment (Dan Galat, Rich Davis, Carol Spears, and Heath Many are in the US now) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work.
- 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.
- Praise God that Dr. Mark Snell will be joining the faculty at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Pray that God will provide his funds and take care of the many details between now and then.
- 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.
- Praise God that the General Surgery program at Soddo Christian Hospital has been removed from probation.
- 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 southern Togo as they work to begin training in 2019. Pray for wisdom and the requisite development of the hospital and the surgical faculty. Pray that the funding for

the hospital renovations and housing will become available. Pray that God will bless the efforts to raise funds to support the resident stipends.

- Pray that God will provide someone to cover the absence later this year of Dr. Willmore at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center.
- Ask God to supply the short-term surgeons necessary to keep Tenwek Hospital in Kenya fully functional during the absence of their surgeons on home assignment (May 2016 – June 2017).
- Praise God that we have passed the first step in the formal approval of PAACS from the West African College of Surgeons. Pray for His hand to continue to guide as the next steps are accomplished and that the required inspection trip beginning June 26 will be accomplished without difficulty. Pray that God will provide appropriate candidates for training whose example will ease the way for the residents to follow.
- Pray for Dr. Thelander as he and his family makes the transition of cultures and ministries this summer and fall and he assumes full responsibility in January as the new Chief Medical Officer. They moved to the US in mid-May and Thelander will begin with PAACS in July.
- Pray for the trainees taking the PAACS annual exams the first Saturday of June. May God give them peace of mind and recall of what they have learned, blessing in proportion to their amount of study.
- PAACS has requested a non-voting seat on the COSECSA Executive Council. Pray that God will grant this request if it is His will.
- Ask God to bless the new PAACS textbook of rehabilitative and plastic surgery as it is used around the world to take care of patients.
- Pray as we plan for three accreditation tours later this year with the Loma Linda University team.
- Pray for those students and surgical residents who wish to join PAACS in the future. Pray for an ability to stay focused on the long-term goal and for their preparation of heart, mind and family. Pray that God will continue to call others and that they will listen.

Editor:

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