

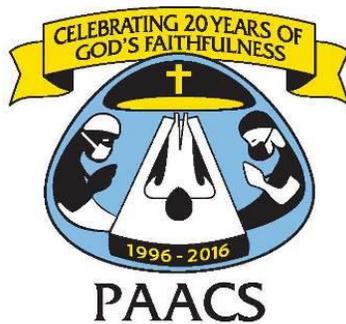
Dear Friends of PAACS:

We are in the middle of the transition to an academic year that coincides with the calendar year, but we still accepted two new residents this month and celebrated the graduation of another (our 46th general surgery graduate and 48th who have completed the five years). God is so good!

The first of three Loma Linda University Accreditation team visits was completed this month – and we eagerly await their report.

The new 2016 Fall Prayer Guide has been completed and will be mailed in September – please use it to faithfully pray for PAACS!

The Editor



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #146

August, 2016

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.



Fabruce & his family celebrate!

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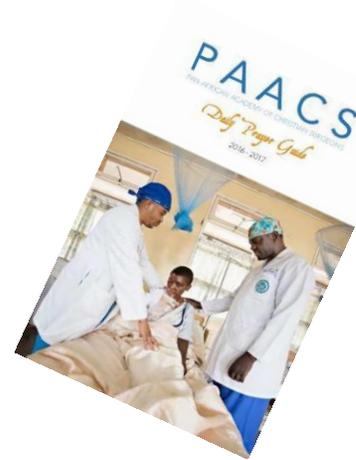
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

The PAACS 2016-2017 30-day Prayer Guide is completed and is in the process of being sent out. Thank you to all who sent in photos and prayer requests and for helping us to complete this important prayer document in a timely manner. The prayer guide will be released in mid-September. So monitor your mailboxes.

It is a great privilege to pray for one another. Throughout the pages of the prayer guide, PAACS faculty and residents have submitted their heart's request to be lifted in prayer. I ask that when you receive the prayer guide, you will spend time praying daily for a PAACS program, its faculty and residents. Your prayers will make a difference in the lives of all these people who are sacrificially serving God and His people. PAACS is blessed by its immense family (prayer supporters, donors, faculty, residents, commission members, administrators and more), who by coming together in prayer, will touch the heart of God and can change the most impossible of situations. I invite you to be a part of making a difference through prayer in the lives of many men and women serving God by caring for His precious children in Africa.



May God bless you for lifting up the many prayer requests before God's throne of grace.

Susan A. Koshy

Executive Director

ANOTHER PAACS SURGEON!

By Zack O'Connor

On Sunday August 21, 2016, an atypically clear dry season afternoon, Bongolo Hospital celebrated the graduation of its 14th PAACS general surgeon, Doctor Ramaherimamonjy Ndriamanalintsoa Fabruce Liliyas

Richard. Hailing from Madagascar, Dr. Fabruce is the 3rd Bongolo PAACS graduate from that country. The ceremony was attended by the program director and assistant program director, Drs. Zachary and Jennifer O'Connor; the Bongolo Hospital Medical Director, Dr. Renee Valach; and the President of the Gabonese Surgical Society, Professor Ondong Ndong. Dr. Ramaherimamonjy was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Iasy Ramaherimamonjy, and their three children, Fiti, Noah, and Rinna. The additional five general surgery residents, several personal friends, as well as local officials were in attendance as well.



The PAACS-Bongolo team surrounds the graduate: From L. to R.: Elyse Nkuzimana, Sam Fabiano, Dieudonne Lemfuka, Alliance Niyukuri, Marco Faniriko, Prof. Ndong, Fabruce Ramaherimamonjy, Zachary and Jen O'Connor.

The program director shared three verses from the Bible with the graduate: Psalm 119:105, Philippians 1:6, and II Timothy 2:1, 2. From Psalms, he encouraged Dr. Fabruce that God's Word would provide light and vision for him for the journey ahead. From Philippians, he challenged the graduate to take courage in God's faithfulness to see the good work to its glorious end. Lastly, he charged the new PAACS surgeon with the mission to be strong in God's powerful grace and to train others just as he had been trained.

Dr. Fabruce shared with the congregation the faithfulness that God demonstrated to him during his time at Bongolo as well as thanking the staff of the hospital for their goodness to him that he will never forget. He congratulated PAACS for the good work it does throughout the continent of Africa. His most moving words were saved for his devoted wife, Iasy. His voice choked with emotion, he thanked her for her support and love over the prior five years.

Being active in youth ministry and worship teams prior to and during their training at Bongolo, the ceremony was filled with singing. The PAACS family, the youth group that his family leads, and several youth from the local church all serenaded the new graduate with songs attributing all of the glory to God.

The day was complete only after several rounds of photographs as well as a large meal taken together with the PAACS family, invited guests, and the majority of the hospital staff. It was an unforgettable day of celebration. All who attended agreed that it was a day of worship celebrating a good and faithful God who is the only One with the power to have accomplished what we were celebrating. Congratulations to you, Dr. Fabruce, and may all of the glory be to our Creator!

NEW RESIDENTS AT MBINGO

Mbingo Baptist Hospital received two new first year residents on the first of August, both from Nigeria, and both married less than a month before they arrived to begin surgical training.

Dr. Franklin Umenze graduated from medical school at the University of Nigeria in 2010. He worked at several hospitals in Nigeria after graduation. He had passed the Primary Exams for the West African College of Surgery but was unable to get a residency slot in Nigeria. In early 2015, he volunteered to work with the African Union in Liberia in response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. During this time, he learned about PAACS from Dr. Jerry Brown, a graduate of the PAACS program at Mbingo in 2013. In 2016, Dr. Umenze volunteered with an NGO that provided relief work to victims of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria. He completed this work in June of this year, returned home to get married, and arrived at Mbingo at the end of July with his wife, Kachim, who is a nurse midwife. After his commitment to PAACS is met, he has dreams of creating an NGO which would provide care to the poor.



Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Ogbonnaya also went to medical school in Nigeria, graduating in 2011. After internship in a teaching hospital, he worked at Presbyterian Joint Hospital of Uburu, a mission hospital in the region where he grew up. He learned about PAACS online, and wrote asking to receive the PAACS Bulletin. From those Bulletins, he was impressed with PAACS' work in many countries, training African surgeons in Africa. He had seen the great need of his people for surgical care and was drawn to PAACS as the ideal place to obtain the skills he needed to better serve the people in his region. He and his wife, Joy, arrived in early August to start the PAACS program.

Both new residents speak of their attraction to PAACS for its reputation for academic excellence in surgical training comingled with an emphasis on spiritual growth and ministry.

FIRST 2016 LLU TOUR ACCOMPLISHED

An accreditation team from Loma Linda University covered approximately 20,000 miles in 13 days to inspect the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeon programs in Malawi, Ethiopia and Egypt. The team consisted of Dr. Mark Reeves, a Surgical Oncologist and Head of LLU General Surgery Residency; Dr. Richard “Dick” Catalano, a Trauma Surgeon, LLU; his wife, Ms. Patti Catalano, a Cardiothoracic OR nurse, LLU; Dr. Bruce Steffes, the Chief Medical Officer of PAACS and Dr. Keir Thelander, the Incoming CMO, PAACS.

The schedule was rigorous with little time for rest. Leaving the US in the wee hours of August 3, the intrepid band landed in Blantyre on the 4th and was promptly transferred to the Malamulo SDA Hospital in Makwasa, nestled in the tea-growing area of southern Malawi. On the 5th, they met with the administration, toured the hospital, met with the faculty and residents and reviewed the program records. On the 6th, they flew onward to Addis Ababa, arriving at the SIM guesthouse late in the evening.

Because of political demonstrations and warnings from the US embassy, the travel plans were altered. On the 7th, meeting with pediatric orthopedic surgeon Tim Nunn, the team toured the CURE-Addis Ababa hospital before they flew by Air Ethiopia on a domestic flight to Arba Minch. They were met by the hospital van driver and carried west for 2 hours to Soddo. The next day, the same inspection itinerary was followed at Soddo.



Ryan Hayton talks to OR staff while Catalano, Arega, Thelander and Reeves look on.



Reeves and Catalano look on during morning rounds at SCH



Front (L to R) – Chew, Catalano, Reeves, Lealem; Back (L to R) - Yates, Steffes, Canfield, Thelander, Gebeyehu

On the 9th, they rode in the hospital van for the six hours back to Addis. No demonstrations were seen, although several demonstrators had been killed during the brouhaha. That afternoon, the team took an informal tour of the

Myungsung Christian Medical Centre in Addis Ababa, guided by the hospital CEO Dr. Chulsoo Kim and accompanied by PAACS faculty surgeon Dr. Dongsoo Shin. The team left late that evening by air for Cairo.

The first two sites had been pleasantly cool but the hot humid air of Egypt hit them like a wall when they landed in Egypt in the early hours of the 10th. The driver showed up after a short wait and they were driven 75 kilometers north to arrive at Harpur Memorial Hospital about 4:00 AM. Even the loud calls to worship echoing from three separate loudspeaker systems could keep them from getting some sleep that morning! That day was used for rest



Visit to Harpur Memorial. (L to R) – Steffes, Catalano, Reeves, Samir, Thompson and Thelander

and an interview of one faculty member. Most of the team took advantage of the reliable internet there to catch up on huge backlogs and to write reports.

On the 11th, a similar itinerary was again followed at Harpur. The plans for the new 9 story hospital expansion were impressive. Having completed all their inspections, they were chauffeured back on the 12th to the Anglican Guest House on the island of Zamalek within central Cairo. Dr. Thelander flew out at 3:30 on Sunday morning. The rest of team had planned two days of tourism, visiting the pyramids and the Egyptian museum, but what was presumed to be gastroenteritis or food poisoning took a toll on the party – one member was not able to see the sights after flying all that way and a couple were a bit woozy. The remaining four returned to the US on the 15th.

Two of the three programs visited on this trip began to train residents in January of 2014. The growth in the hospital services and patients served were dramatic at Malamulo. The results were not seen just in the surgery department but across the entire hospitals. Dr. Samir, the hospital administrator at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, told the team that, “PAACS has changed the image of the hospital and has been a factor in the peace between Muslims and Christians”. He felt that they as a teaching hospital were capturing some cases that would otherwise have gone elsewhere.

The team will submit a report to each hospital and ask for a reply at six weeks with a follow-up at a year.

This is the fourth inspection trip from LLU, the last being held in 2012. A trip to visit the three programs (Bongolo, Mbingo and SIM-Galmi) will be held in September and the remaining programs in Kenya and Tanzania will be visited in January, 2017.

NEWS SHORTS:

ALMC Graduates First Nursing Class: The Arusha Lutheran Medical Center graduated its first nursing students on August 10, 2016. This historic event included three separate classes participating in the first-ever graduation. There were 78 nursing graduates as well as 9 who finished the ALMC Assistant Medical Officer Training Program.



There were three nursing classes, included the class of 19 who had begun in March of 2014, the second class of 22 who started in September of 2014, and a third class who undertook a one-year course in Community Health Technician training and graduated 37 students.

The complete exam results were only available for the first class that had an amazing success rate of 99.9% success in the exams! Eleven of the first graduates will join ALMC for employment and 5 will join nearby Selian Lutheran Hospital starting September 1st.

The PAACS General Surgery training program there has six trainees and will add two more in January, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The 27th Annual Prescription for Renewal Conference** is scheduled for October 14-16 at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina. Continuing Medical Education credit will be available for physicians, dentists, and nurses through our optional Missionary Medicine Seminar, beginning October 13.

Coordinated by World Medical Mission, the medical arm of Samaritan's Purse, Prescription for Renewal offers Christian doctors, dentists, nurses, and their spouses an opportunity to explore the world of missionary medicine in a peaceful retreat setting in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Since 1977, World Medical Mission has helped thousands of physicians serve on short-term assignments in mission hospitals and clinics around the world. They are a valued partner of PAACS.

Michael Youssef will be the keynote speaker. Find out more at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/prescription-for-renewal/> . See you there!

- Keep your calendar free for November 10 – 12. The **Global Missions Health Conference** (www.medicalmissions.com), sponsored by Christian Medical and Dental Associations, will draw more than 3,000 people to Louisville, Kentucky – people who wish to explore what God has for them to do in medical missions around the globe. On Friday, November 11, will be the Friends of PAACS meeting during the supper hour. Make plans to be there, to join us Friday night and to say “hi” at the booth.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the graduates as they make the transition to full surgeons at their new hospitals. Some continue to struggle with finding appropriate employment opportunities. May they demonstrate the love of Christ as they practice their skills for the benefit of the least of these.
- Pray to God that some of our trainees will be called to serve in underserved mission hospitals as a career.
- Pray for all our graduates as they serve in 17 countries of Africa – as they serve their patients and their Lord. Pray that God will provide strength, resources and wisdom.
- Pray for the residents who face the written COSECSA exams (both MCS and FCS level) on Wednesday September 7. Pray that the Lord will help them study effectively.

- Bless the expanding families of the PAACS residents and pray that God would help them all as they balance the many responsibilities of training and family.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment (Carol Spears, Sherif Hanna and Heath & Angela Many are in N. America now) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Pray for those programs which have faculty members absent – that God will give them strength and rest to continue.
- Pray for those faculty members who have returned from home assignment (Erik Hansen and Rich Davis). In particular, pray for Rich Davis as he takes over the new role (for him) as Medical Director at Kijabe Hospital and for Tim Berg, as he steps into temporary program director role for the Kijabe General Surgery program.
- Pray for Dr. Jeff Lane and his wife, Amy, as they begin language school in Albertville, France prior to going to Bongolo Hospital as an anesthesiologist in mid-2017.
- Pray for Jack Barasa as he begins a two-year general surgery and urology fellowship in the UK.
- Pray for Solomon Endrias as he has finished his five year obligation and is being trained in urology in Tanzania.
- Pray for Agneta Odera as she pursues pediatric surgical training in S. Africa.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties: The manpower situations in Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Gabon and Niger are particularly of concern over the next 6 – 36 months. Pray for God to call surgeons to join the training program in those areas and to guide and direct those who are already called and in preparation.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo Hospital and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year. Pray for God's blessing and the favor of men in this.
- Ask God to provide the short-term surgical faculty members that are so needed at our hospitals.
- Pray that God will provide someone to cover the absence later this year of Dr. Willmore at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center while she is on home assignment.
- Pray that the report from the West African College of Surgeons will be favorable. Improvements will be inevitably suggested and we will need wisdom and resources to implement them.
- Praise God for the safe trip of the accreditation team from Loma Linda University and pray that the trip September 17 – 29 to Gabon, Cameroon and Niger will be equally safe and worthwhile. Pray that the recommendations from the August trip will be focused and incisive and that they will be well-received and implemented.
- PAACS has requested a non-voting seat on the COSECSA Executive Council but still has not yet heard. Pray that God will grant this request if it is His will.
- Pray for Dr. Thelander as he continues making the transition into his new role as Chief Medical Officer.

- 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