

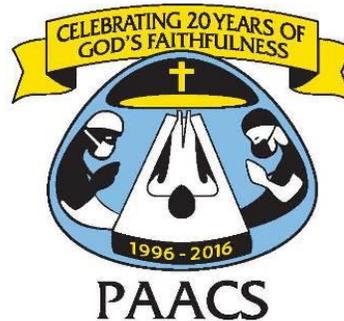
Dear Friends of PAACS:

Some months are just quieter than others – and September has been one of them. But that doesn't mean that this shorter PAACS Bulletin doesn't have interesting information within!

The most important thing going on presently is the selection of the next crop of new trainees. Please pray for the entire selection process – that God's hand will be clearly moving within PAACS and the lives of the potential residents.

Please bathe this entire ministry in prayer! Use your 2016 Fall Prayer Guide faithfully.

The Editor



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #147

September, 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.

PAACS Executive Director Susan Koshy in the OR!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

I recently returned from a trip to our two newest PAACS programs in Arusha, Tanzania (Arusha Lutheran Medical Center) and Makwasa, Malawi (Malamulo SDA Hospital). The purpose of my visits was to learn about the programs in these locations and meet our PAACS residents, program directors, faculty and staff. The visits also provide an opportunity to share and communicate the vision and activities of the PAACS administration and leadership with our residents and faculty.

During my visit, I had an opportunity to tour the hospital at each site, meet with the CEOs of both mission hospitals, participate in PAACS lectures, listen to case presentations, go on surgical rounds, observe several surgeries, attend bible studies, participate in worship services and was especially blessed to hear one of our PAACS residents at Malamulo SDA Hospital preach a sermon at the hospital chapel service. In addition, one of the highlights of my trip was attending a two-day spiritual retreat with the program directors, faculty and residents from the PAACS program at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC). This was a time of spiritual refreshment, time of reflection, growing closer to God and bonding of relationships for all involved.



PAACS is blessed by the program directors at our programs at both ALMC and Malamulo SDA Hospital. Dr. Wendy Willmore and Dr. Frank Madinda are the Co-Program Directors of the ALMC program and Dr. Arega Fekadu is the Assistant Program Director at our PAACS program at Malamulo SDA Hospital.

Unfortunately, I was unable to meet Dr. Ryan Hayton, the Program Director of our Malamulo program because he was on vacation.

I was impressed by the commitment of these program directors to the residents and PAACS. They each place a great value on educational excellence, lifelong learning and a deep commitment to Jesus Christ. Each of the three program directors spoke about the significance of developing relationships with the residents and stressed the importance of mentoring. They felt that building relationships and mentoring is one of the keys to the success of their individual programs. Their residents are free to ask questions, bring forward new ideas and thoughts and share issues in their personal lives.



I also spent time with the individual residents in the programs. These residents are smart, tenacious, love the Lord, and care for the well-being of their patients. Some of the residents are real leaders while others are advocates and fight on behalf of their patients. Some of the residents have a real heart to minister the love of Christ. PAACS has a varying group of residents with variety talents and gifts. All, however, share one thing in common; they each want to use their gifts for the kingdom of God.

During our one-on-one time, many of the residents shared openly their successes, victories, failures, and struggles. I was impressed by their openness and willingness to be candid. I also got an opportunity to spend time praying for the residents. I was especially touched when they prayed for me. I value this time because it gives me an opportunity to learn about our PAACS residents, how we can better serve them and improve our programs.

I was blessed by this time in our PAACS programs at both ALMC and Malamulo SDA Hospital. God is doing a mighty work in our residents and those they serve.

Blessings,

Susan Koshy, Executive Director

NEW RESIDENT SELECTION UNDERWAY

Residents are presently being reviewed, interviewed and selected for slots in the January intake of residents and fellows. All programs except the pediatric surgery fellowship at BethanyKids at Kijabe will be taking a new resident (they took their new fellow in mid-summer 2016).

As of September 29, there were 49 completed applications and 13 incomplete applications for the 17 – 18 training slots to begin in January 2017. The deadline was to have been September 15 but was extended to September 30 in Kenya this year. It is hoped that all selection will be done by the end of October.

If someone who fits the criteria is selected, they will receive the Martin Salia Scholarship Fund for their five years of training. That fund is not completely funded and donations are being sought.

<u>Country of Origin</u>	<u># Applicants</u>	<u>PAACS Program</u>	<u># Slots for training</u>
		PAACS-Egypt	2
Kenya	20		
		PAACS-Ethiopia	2
DRC	10		
		PAACS-Tenwek (Ortho)	2
Tanzania	8		
		PAACS-Tenwek GS	2
Burundi	7		
		PAACS-Kijabe GS	2
Ethiopia	7		
		PAACS-Malawi	1 (??)
Uganda	3		
		PAACS-Tanzania	2
Liberia	2		
		PAACS-Gabon	1
Cameroon	1		
		PAACS-Cameroon	2
Egypt	1		
		PAACS-Cameron H & N	1
Madagascar	1		
		PAACS-Niger	1
Malawi	1		
Nigeria	1		
Rwanda	1		

PAACS-ARUSHA SPIRITUAL RETREAT

By Wendy Willmore

We here in Arusha enjoyed the blessing of some time away with God and fellowship with one another at our 3rd annual long spiritual retreat. It was held in town this year on the beautiful grounds of Njiro Ebenezer retreat lodge (the location of which was certainly a plus as those on call could also attend). We thank Dr. Mari Jyranki, visiting us from Finland, for covering in-house call so (almost) all the residents could be there. We missed Dr. Emmanuel Lema (on elective at Mbingo) and Dr. Minja (at home with the chicken pox) this year; However, if it wasn't for that, perhaps it would have been the best retreat yet. Back by popular demand was Alexis Kwamy from Young Life who, once again, did a great job of pastoring us. It was also wonderful for us to welcome our PAACS CEO, Susan Koshy, who joined us and our families. As we are an urban program without a distinct campus, the spiritual retreats are often the only time when we get to see one another's' spouses and other family members.

We began on Friday night with the award winning movie "Of Gods and Men", followed by a subsequent discussion about the meaning of Christian courage and mission. This theme and discussion continued at odd times over the next day or so.

After a good night's rest on the conference grounds, the morning began with some ice breakers where we discovered that the old adage is indeed true – it is possible for surgeons to bite off more than they can

chew. We then moved into a time of encouragement. It had been planned to be only a 10 minute exercise, but the Spirit moved us to spend about 2 hours encouraging one another by enumerating the uniquely beautiful things we see that God has placed in each of the attendees. After a short break, we set up 5 stations for private prayer as follows: 1) listen to the Spirit and pray for yourself; 2) Draw your handprint and write within it your prayer requests. Lay hands on, and pray for your siblings' handprints. 3) Pray for PAACS (both Arusha and the whole program throughout Africa); 4) Pray for our hospitals; and 5) Pray for your country and the world.



The afternoon was fun for some, duty for others. The Residency Review Committee toiled through our semi-annual meeting while the residents and families played games and football (soccer).

In the evening, we were blessed by each other's' talents and Alexis' devotion from 1 Peter 2:11-17. We shared what we found difficult and what had struck us as very important in the passage.



Sunday started restfully late with a time of singing and a devotion from Mark 5:24-34. We reflected on the personality of Christ who associated with sinners and the unclean, and calls us all not to hide in corners, but bring our issues out into the open, to be healed and to glorify God. We then proceeded to the Lord's Table together and then to embrace one another with the love of God.

After eating too much good food all weekend, we ended with a long walk at the rural edge of our city, enjoying the views of the mountains and the farms before heading back to life as usual. The weekend was invaluable for sharing the Love of God poured into our hearts with one another.

NEWS SHORTS:

Cancellation of LLU Trip: Unexpected post-election violence in Gabon and the threats of terrorism directed at Westerners in Niger caused the cancellation of the planned accreditation trip by the Loma Linda University surgical team. It was scheduled for mid-September but is now being scheduled for April/May of 2017. The next team will likely consist of Dr. Mark Reeves, Dr. Ted Mackett and Dr. Keir Thelander.

Interview of PAACS Surgeon: The following is an excerpt of an interview of Dr. Dan Galat, presently at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya. It was done by PAACS Commissioner Dr. Doug Lundy. The full article can be seen in its entirety at <http://www.aaos.org/AAOSNow/2016/Oct/YourAAOS/youraaos03/?ssopc=1> (you may need to register to sign in).

The Kenyans say that once the red dirt of Africa gets under your skin, it is hard to wash off.

Dr. Lundy: *What do you see is the biggest benefit for short-term orthopaedic surgeons serving in areas such as Kenya?*

Dr. Galat: *The biggest benefit for short-term orthopaedic visitors to our hospital is exposure to the needs in medically underserved areas. I get excited when I see short-term visitors catch the vision, and begin to think about how they may have a long-term impact in Africa. For example, they might sponsor a Kenyan trainee, help to acquire implant donations, donate to our need patient fund, or provide teaching materials for our residents. The Kenyans say that once the red dirt of Africa gets under your skin, it is hard to wash off.*

Dr. Lundy: *What is the biggest need in musculoskeletal medicine/surgery in Africa at this time?*

Dr. Galat: *The world health community is beginning to recognize “global surgery” as a neglected public health crisis and steps are being taken to remedy this problem in terms of funding and access to care. But without question, the biggest need in Africa right now is for more well-trained national surgeons. Tenwek started an accredited orthopaedic training program in 2015 that takes two national residents per year. My most important task is to train these surgeons well so that they can bring orthopaedic care to their own populations. National surgeons are much better equipped culturally to care for their own people than I am. But for this to happen, we not only need to train surgeons, but to train “trainers” of surgeons. In this way, our efforts will be multiplied to affect the greatest number of patients.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Birth Announcement:** Juvenal and Sifa Musavuli have a new baby girl born August 9 at 12 PM. Her full name is Imani (Faith in Swahili) Imani Miriam Musavuli. She weighed 3.6 kilos (7.9 pounds). She was dedicated Sunday, September 11. Juvenal and Sifa already have a son Joshua, age 4, who wanted a brother, but now is happy to have a little sister. Juvenal is a resident at the PAACS program at SIM-Galmi Hospital in Niger.
- **Birth Announcement:** Abigail John was born September 13, 2016 at 3:15 a.m. and weighed 3.2 kilos. Her full name is Nishimwe Abigail John. Her happy new parents are Andrew and Diane John. Andrew is a first year resident at the PAACS program at SIM-Galmi in Niger.

- **Birth Announcement:** Dr. Ngoe Anthony Nesoah and Joy were blessed by the Cesarean-section birth of a son at 5 AM on September 19, 2016. Nesoah gave this explanation of the names: *His names are: Gil-Wiklund, Chukuka, Akanso-chuku, Nesoah Jr [Prof Daniel Wiklund, professor of medicine, Washington State University, Seattle, a good Christian was my class mate in London, and Dr. John Giland, a Christian Dental Surgeon, Arizona. These two Christian gentlemen had very strong Christian influences on me in the dark days of my life as a Muslim. Their down-to-earth Christianity and personal Christian values and relation to Christ challenged my Islam and its Islamism]. Chukuka : “God is greatest”, Aka-nso-chuku : “The Holy hand of God” [Both names are of Ibo origin, Joy is Ika-[inca] Ibo. my mother is mainland Ibo]*



Sifa and Juvenal Musavuli with Imani in arms and little Joshua.



Andrew John holding Abigail, Diane John



Joy, wife of Nesoah, holding Gil-Wiklund, Chukuka, Akanso-chuku, Nesoah Jr

- **New COSECSA Fellow:** Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Chief Medical Officer, has been accepted as an Overseas Fellow for COSECSA (College of Surgery of East, Central and South Africa). This was approved at the COSECSA Half Council Meeting in Entebbe, Uganda. He will be attending the 2016 AGM, Graduation and Annual Scientific Conference, 7 – 9 December, in Mombasa, Kenya.
- **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!

- **CMDA-PAACS Reception at ACS Meeting in Washington:** CMDA Surgical Section and PAACS will hold a joint reception during the American College of Surgery Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. It is scheduled for Monday, October 17 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. It will be in the Renaissance Washington D hotel in Meeting Room 12 on the second floor. The address is 999 Ninth Street NW. Learn more about PAACS, World Medical Missions (short-term surgical opportunities), Medical Education International (MEI – teaching in medical schools and hospitals in the developing world) and Global Health Outreach (short-term missions). For more information, please contact Jen Park at parkcrew6@comcast.net.
- **Mark Your Calendar for November: 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 in Block Room 21 during the supper hour (5:15 – 6:15 PM). Make plans to be there at the conference, to join us Friday night with your box meal and to say “hi” at the booth.

The Fall PAACS Commission Meeting will be held Friday, November 18 – Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Des Plaines, Illinois. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2930 S. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018. It meeting is by invitation only. This meeting will be the first time that most of the Councils will meet with the full Commission. The meeting will begin on Friday, November 18th with Surgical Council meetings. These meetings will take place on Friday morning prior to 11:00 am. If you serve on a Surgical Council the Chair of your Surgical Council will notify you of the exact time of their meeting.

The PAACS Committees will also meet Friday from 11:30-1:30 pm (a box lunch will be provided) and the Commission meeting will start at 1:45 pm on Friday afternoon. Please note that the Committee and Commission meetings will be starting earlier than previous meetings. The Commission meeting will continue on Saturday, November 19th and will conclude by 1:30 pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the December graduates – that God will clearly provide the next place of employment and ministry.
- 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.
- 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 and Wendy Willmore will leave for Canada mid-October) - 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 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 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.
- Pray that the recommendations from the August trip of the accreditation team from Loma Linda University will be focused and incisive and that they will be well-received and implemented.
- Give thanks for God's clear guidance in canceling the September LLU accreditation trip and pray for a successful rescheduling in Spring of 2017.
- 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 the resident selection process. Pray that the right people will be selected. Pray that the new selectees will stay focused on the long-term goal and for their preparation of heart, mind and family. Pray that God will continue to call others to apply in the future and that they will listen.
- Praise God that He has provided a grant to under write the development of a smartphone app for and the improvements in the PAACS case log.
- Please pray for the CMDA-PAACS reception to be held at the ACS general meeting in Washington DC. Pray that hearts will be open to support and involvement with PAACS.
- Please begin to pray for the PAACS Annual Meeting in November – that God will guide in all that needs to be accomplished that weekend.
- Pray for the Global Missions Healthcare Conference in Louisville in November. Pray that God will lay it on the hearts of those who should come, that their hearts will be tender and that God's

name will be glorified throughout the entire conference and for decades to come as a result of the conference.

- Pray for the upcoming Prescription for Renewal Conference in early October. Pray for Joanna Thelander as she speaks to the wives and pray that God will call short-term surgeons to one of the PAACS training hospitals.

Editor:

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