

Dear Friends of PAACS:

*It always fun and a blessing to meet the new trainees that have joined PAACS. Please add their names to your Daily Prayer Guide and pray for them as you pray for the others from their training sites.*

*Likewise, it is always good to rejoice with those who graduate. Two more Kenyan surgeons are now full-fledged PAACS general surgeons (#64 and 65). Pray for them as they establish their practice and their witness in a new place.*

*Thanks so much for partnering with us as we train and disciple African physicians!*

*The Editor*



# PAACS PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

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

**No. 163**  
**January, 2018**

**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.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear PAACS Family:*

*2017 was a wonderful year for PAACS but, with God firmly at the helm of our ministry, we believe that 2018 will be greater still. We are excited to see what He has ahead for us. His plans are good and PAACS wants to be at the center of God's will to help His people and bring even greater glory to Him in 2018.*

*PAACS goes into 2018 with several changes in the organization. We have new leaders on the PAACS Commission, a new Spiritual Dean, new PAACS faculty and leadership at some PAACS programs, opportunities for new training programs and 20 new residents to train. We will be training 80 residents in 2018 and 73 surgeons have graduated through our programs over nearly 22 years. These graduates are now serving in 19 countries in Africa and it is our hope to eventually have PAACS surgeons serving God's children in every country on this continent. By the end of 2018, PAACS plans to have graduated 88 surgeons, bringing us closer to our goal of training 100 surgeons by 2020.*

*God is blessing us with opportunities to share this ministry at multiple meetings and conferences around the country in 2018. PAACS will be presenting and/or exhibiting this year at the Mobilizing Medical Missions Conference, the Christian Academic Surgeons meeting, the Christian Medical and Dental Associations meeting, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting, the American College of Surgeons meeting – just to name a few. We will be highlighting and educating people about God's work through PAACS. If your church or organization has an opportunity for us to exhibit or present about PAACS in 2018, please contact me [susan.koshy@paacs.net](mailto:susan.koshy@paacs.net). Please help us to share more information about this wonderful ministry with others.*

*Thank you for being a part of the PAACS ministry. Clearly all glory goes to God, but we cannot do all that we do without each of you. We ask for your continued prayers for PAACS during 2018, for it is truly prayer that sustains all that we do.*

*Blessings,*

*Susan Koshy, JD, MPH  
Executive Director, PAACS*

## PAACS-TENWEK GRADUATION

By Heath Many

Tenwek surgery resident graduation is one of the highlights of our year. This fact is obviously true for our graduating residents who have spent five intense years of training with us. However, it is also true for our PAACS faculty as graduation serves as a reminder of God's provision for our program. It also provides a moment of satisfaction where we see the vision of PAACS become a reality. For the junior residents who remain behind to continue their education, graduation marks progression to the next level of training and the realization that they are one step closer to becoming a surgeon. This graduation was especially

important at Tenwek as it marks the tenth anniversary of the start of the Tenwek surgical residency program and the graduation of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> surgeons from Tenwek.



Front Row (L to R): Heath Many, Mark Oloo, Valentine Mbithi; Back Row (L to R): Michael Mwachiro, Dylan Nugent, Mike Ganey.

Our two graduates from this year will be greatly missed in the hallways and operating theaters at Tenwek. Dr, Mark Oloo came to Tenwek in 2013 after learning about Tenwek from one of his friends who happened to be a surgical resident – Dr. Seno Saruni who graduated last year. Mark is originally from Kisumu, Kenya and is the son of physician parents who continue to practice medicine in that city. One of Mark's many gifts is humor. He constantly tells stories, cracks jokes, and generates laughter from those around him. Despite his comedic tendencies, he has a subtle serious side especially when it comes to taking care of patients. As a chief resident, he expected quality work from his junior residents and he led this by example. Mark is returning to Kisumu where he hopes to work at a county hospital which, compared to many private hospitals in the city, provides care to the underserved of Western Kenya.

Dr. Valentine Mbithi also graduated this year. Valentine is from Kericho, Kenya which is about a 90-minute drive from Tenwek. She completed her medical officer internship there and then stayed on as a general medical officer before coming to Tenwek in 2013. I have been repeatedly amazed by Valentine's many gifts. Most noticeable to those of us who have gotten to know her is that she is an incredible servant. This is reflected in her care to patients and also in her devotion to her family. Valentine was married to her husband Peter during her residency and gave birth to her son Adriel when she was a fourth-year resident. Despite the demands of being a resident, a wife, a mother, and a family care giver, she received the award for best FCS student after successfully passing her board exams with COSECSA. Valentine will be completing an extra 3 months with us to make up for lost time during her maternity leave. Her hope is to join two of our other graduates at a mission hospital in western Kenya

## INTRODUCING THE NEW PAACS TRAINEES

### HARPUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - EGYPT

**Armia Samuel** (Harpur Memorial, Egypt) was born in Egypt. He graduated from Beni-Seuf Medical School, South of Cairo, in 2012. After his internship and obligatory government service, he worked as a Vascular Surgery Resident in a hospital in Cairo. In February 2014, he first heard about PAACS at a conference where David Thompson spoke. Sometime later, while sitting on a beach in Dahaba, a city on the Sinai Peninsula, he overheard a woman singing Christian songs in Spanish. Intrigued, he began talking to her. It was Eloisa, the Venezuelan nurse from Harpur. That brought to his mind what he had heard from Dave Thompson previously and so he contacted Dr. Thompson. He applied to PAACS, and was accepted as a first-year resident commencing December 2018.



Armia Samuel

He was raised in a Coptic Orthodox Christian home. As a teenager, he faced a couple of major challenges to his faith. In 2009, he attended a Christian conference and purchased and read the book “Disappointed with God” by Philip Yancey. Reading this book set him on a journey of renewing his faith.

He chose surgery because he loves anatomy, and is attracted to the innovation and imagination required of surgeons. He chose PAACS because he wanted to be trained properly as a broad based General Surgeon since his future hope is to serve somewhere in Africa.

We welcome Armia as a PAACS- Harpur first year resident.

### SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL - ETHIOPIA



**Dr. Mehret Desalegn Enaro** (Soddo, Ethiopia) is the first female PAACS Ethiopian resident. She was born into a God-fearing Christian family in Awassa, southern Ethiopia. At the tender age of 14, she lost her mother to cancer and that shook her faith to the core, with feelings of anger toward God and questioning His heart. However, the Lord helped her through this difficult time and she came out the other end much the stronger. An unexplained desire to become a physician was realized when she enrolled at Hayat Medical College in Addis Ababa, graduating as valedictorian of the school in 2012. Even though Mehret had an offer, amongst others, to commence neurosurgery training immediately after internship, thereby bypassing the obligatory government service, she turned it down because of a great need for general practitioners at Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH). It was there that she rubbed shoulders with PAACS residents and got introduced to the PAACS program. Apart from observing it as being a highly organized and well-structured program, the one thing which made the PAACS program stand out was its discipleship and spiritual elements, demonstrated to her and others by the transformation of the lives of PAACS residents passing through.

Dr Mehret's initial love had been pediatrics and initially pursued this pathway but the doors seemed to close on her. Finally, it dawned on her that she could combine both surgery and her love for children through pediatric surgery, an option offered by PAACS. Dr Mehret's heart after surgical training is to work in the underserved parts of Ethiopia, to partner with PAACS training surgeons and to help transform the landscape of health in Ethiopia. Not wishful thinking, Dr Mehret's keen interest in research and assisting the SCH trauma registry before her entry into the PAACS program saw her involvement in 3 meetings over the space of 3 days. addressing over 450 people including high ranking officials and police officers in training about the alarming epidemic of road trauma in Ethiopia.

Why PAACS? Simply because she believes it is the best surgical training program in the country in many ways.

### **BETHANYKIDS AT KIJABE HOSPITAL - KENYA**

My name is **Amon Miji Ngongola** from Zambia. I am 37 years old, and I've been married to my Lovely wife Ruth for 9 years and we have three boys. I did my medical training at the University of Zambia where I graduated in 2008 then served for 3 years in a rural district hospital after my internship. I then enrolled into a surgical residency program at the University of Zambia as a surgical resident in Zambia working in the University Teaching Hospital in the country.

I got saved while at high school through the ministry of friends in the Scripture Union. God found me during a time of low self-esteem and a lot of fear of the unknown and He has really changed my life since I surrendered to Jesus in 1998. I live because of His grace and always desire to serve God with my life and reach people with His love.

I became interested in surgery while doing my rural posting and seeing the need for surgical skill and feeling inadequate to help the people God brought into my care, especially the children, so I decided to train as a surgeon with the University of Zambia. When the University of Zambia introduced the pediatric surgery program in 2015, I was one of the first to enroll in it because of my desire to serve children with surgical needs. However, the program has limitations because it's a new program and has few trainers. I saw a great God-given opportunity when I was offered to train in pediatric Surgery with PAACS, because of the great reputation of great quality of surgical training in Christian environment. It is my hope that I can provide good quality surgical care to the children that God brings my way and to train other surgeons to provide the same service in Zambia where there are only 3 qualified pediatric surgeons for a country with over 14 million people and 50% of them are children below 15-years-old. It is my prayer that I will be part of the solution to the surgical deficit in my country and at the same time impart the necessary training to provide safe pediatric surgical care to the children in Zambia.



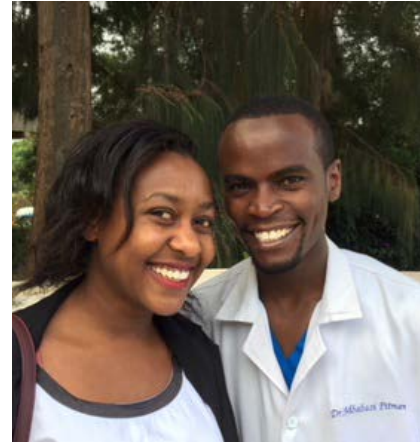


## KIJABE GENERAL SURGERY – KENYA

Pitman Mbabazi hails from Uganda and attended Mbarara University of Science and Technology. After graduation, he worked at Hoima Regional Hospital (Hoima) and Wentz Medical Center (Kampala, Uganda) before coming to Kijabe to work with the Pediatric Neurosurgery Team this last year. It was during that time that he finalized his application and was accepted to the PAACS program at Kijabe.

Pitman's faith began at home with exposure to church but it was in secondary school after hearing the moving testimony of one of his childhood celebrity idols, that he made a serious commitment. Initially immature in his walk, he wandered with "bad" company and was nearly expelled from school after a certain event. This "wake up" call caused him to repent and renew his commitment. As a result, his grades improved and he was awarded a Medical University scholarship. More importantly, he found good Christian fellowship and at university, he grew in his faith – blessed with mentors and mission opportunities which challenged and inspired him. It was at university that he met Dr. Dan Poenaru who first introduced him to the PAACS organization.

During one of his holiday placements, he witnessed a number of patients die due to lack of a surgeon. Despite having made the right diagnosis, he realized that he could not offer appropriate interventions because medical officers often could not perform the necessary operations, and sadly, most of these patients could not afford referral to bigger health facilities for better health care. He always prayed to God to help him develop the skill to treat such patients. It's because of this need that he desired to become a surgeon, not only to treat the patients but also to inspire other doctors to pursue the same discipline and work to lessen the scarcity of surgeons in rural regions and the morbidity and mortality due to surgical conditions. He knew that PAACS would offer him the training to become the surgeon he felt called to be.



Just before Pitman started residency, he married his lovely fiancé whom he met at the university. His wife, Wendy Nyamusana, who is a pharmacist, has now joined him at Kijabe. When he is not studying or working, he enjoys creating graphic designs, doing photography, traveling and visiting with his friends. He hopes to eventually become a pediatric surgeon.



**Manakhe Nassiuma** is from Kenya and went to Medical School in Tanzania at the International Medical and Technological University in Dar Es Salem. Her abilities and good attitude were noticed when she did her internship at Kijabe Hospital and she was quickly hired by the Hospital to continue work as a Medical Officer when she finished. With her interest and aptitude for surgery, she was noticed and became a unanimous choice to join PAACS at Kijabe Hospital.

Manakhe shares how as a child her family gently encouraged her growth in faith but she recalls the commitment of her life to Christ early on in secondary school. She remembers the book of James as a special

influence during that time. Several years later, it was the influence and challenge of her friends in a Bible Study that led her to a more serious commitment to Christ.

In medical school, she recalls the thrill of assisting with one of her first operations, a thyroidectomy. It was then that she realized that surgery was where she wanted to focus her professional life. During her internship, she recalls the mentoring from PAACS residents and consultants who went out of their way to invest in her life and learning. Their teamwork and attitude inspired her to make joining PAACS her goal. When Manakhe is not studying or trying to first assist on a case, she relaxes by reading. Her Kindle is full of books that she is currently reading, which includes everything from Novels to Inspirational Books.

## ARUSHA LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTRE – TANZANIA

My name is Dr. **Erick Ramson Mulla**. I was born 28 years ago in Arusha, Tanzania. I went to Muhimbili University of Health and allied sciences where I graduated as a doctor of medicine in 2015. I then joined Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and Selian Lutheran Hospital where I did my internship for one year from 2015 to 2016. After my internship, I joined the department of surgery at ALMC where I worked for one year before joining PAACS this year. I expect to get married on May of this year to my lovely fiancé, Ms. Hidaya Mkwizu.

My love for medicine started 17 years ago. My mother passed away with breast cancer but the experience inspired me to become a doctor and help those who are suffering, bringing hope for them.

I love the idea of being a surgeon. Ever since I was in the first year of medical school, I loved subjects



New Arusha trainees: Eric Mulla (left) and Elirehema Kimaro (right)

related to surgery (like anatomy – I liked to spend my time in cadaver room). I will use surgery as the ministry to glorify God through healing and that's why I chose PAACS. After finishing general surgery training, I will use all of my surgical skills, dedicating them to those who will need my help to regain a normal and happy life. I love both playing and watching football (soccer).

**Elirehema Kristonsia Kimaro**, a Tanzanian, was educated at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College. For the past 3 years, he worked at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital. From a Christian family, he met Jesus fully at a children's camp in Imbaseni Arusha. He married last December 16th. His wife is named Deborah and she is a medical officer.

He wrote, "I choose PAACS because it has two elements that are very important to me. It offers me the opportunity to be trained well in the art of surgery, and it also teaches me how to minister and share the love of Christ with the patients to whom I attend. My father, the late doctor Kristonsia K. Kimaro, served as a missionary doctor with the Living Water Mission for almost 7 years in the heart of the Maasailand, at

the mission center placed in Orkesumet, Simanjoro, Manyara, He was able to practice medicine and still demonstrate the love of Christ and that has always been an inspiration to me.”

Kimaro has dreams of someday becoming a pediatric heart surgeon and help the vast majority of children whose lives are threatened because of operable heart conditions.

## **SIM GALMI HOSPITAL – NIGER**

**Noel Ndayisenge** is Burundian, the 4<sup>th</sup> child of a big family. He has 10 siblings. He graduated from Medical School in 2016 from University of Ngozi in Burundi. His interest in medicine started early. In secondary school, he served at the school infirmary and was trained to give primary healthcare to the other students. During medical school, a surgeon inspired him. He was hard-working, taught with love, shared prayer with the sick in the wards and prayed before procedures. He was what a true Christian surgeon was like - and Noel wanted to be one.

After his graduation, he worked successively at Don Fleury Medical Center in his home town and then at National Police Hospital in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. In both hospitals, there were no surgeons, He had to use little knowledge he had but could not help his patients well. He wrote, “This situation was too challenging for me and I was eager to learn more surgery in order to help the many people in need.”



He realized later that the surgeon who inspired him had trained with PAACS and he sought to know more about PAACS. The first attempt to submit an application was rejected, but he persisted and was accepted for this year’s class.

He is married to Edissa Kwizera, a fellow Burundian, and they are expecting their first baby in February. His hobbies include basketball and listening to Gospel music.



**Audry Banza** is the eldest in his family. He was born in Lubumbashi, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), and grew up in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He returned the DRC to attend medical school at the Protestant University of Congo and graduated in 2016.

Born and raised in a Christian family, his personal relationship with Jesus became serious and strengthened about six years ago. Active in his local church, he is very interested in sharing the gospel, especially with the youth.

His love for surgery sent him to Togo for five months of internship at the Hôpital Baptiste Biblique [an ABWE hospital which is soon to start training its own cadre of PAACS residents). There, he began his knowledge in basic general surgery and it was also here that he heard about PAACS training from the missionaries. He wrote, “The fact of combining a good surgical training program with discipleship pleased me a lot, and encouraged me to apply for this program.”



During his free time, he likes playing or watching soccer and taking pictures of nature.

## **MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL – CAMEROON**



**Prosper Ngwang**, one of the new residents at PAACS-Mbingo, grew up in a single-parent home in Cameroon. His mother, a nurse, worked hard to put food on the table and educate her children. Even though his grandfather was a minister of the Gospel, the family hedged their bets as the traditional medicine man/sorcerer visited the home every once in a while to ‘bless and protect’ it.

It was only when his mother developed advanced breast cancer that the uselessness of the witch doctors became apparent and a local pastor came to pray for her. He destroyed all fetish poultices they had in the home and invited them to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. The family came to the Lord and yet despite fervent prayer, his mother went home to glory.

Over the next few years, his young faith grew and he moved to another town to live with his sister. There, he met Dr. and Mrs. Eugene (Pokey) Cleek, the previous PAACS Program Director at Banzo Hospital. They further shaped his life, disciplined him, and inspired him to work hard and to become a physician. They helped to sponsor his education through medical school.

As medical school neared completion, God helped him realize that he could indeed join PAACS and someday serve as a surgeon. While praying and waiting for this vision to materialize, God gave him temporary work with the Cameroon Bible Convention where he continued to grow professionally and spiritually. He was recently baptized.

His plans for the future are still unsettled. Prosper writes, “I will serve wherever PAACS proposes and God commissions.”

**Chukwuemeka Gerald Nwegbu**, from Nigeria, has joined PAACS-Mbingo in Cameroon. He did his medical training at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu, Nigeria and has worked in the interim at the Premier Specialists' Medical Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. He is married to Christiana Debora Nwegbu and they are expecting their first child in March

PAACS came highly recommended to Chukwuemeka by two of his Christian medical mentors, Prof. Musa Dankyau of Bingham University Teaching Hospital in Jos, Nigeria and Prof. Tina Slusher of the University of Minnesota, U.S.A. He wrote, “It was said to be the best residency training program outside the United States and for me, it is also a great opportunity to get



Deborah and Chukwuemeka Nwegbu

Christian mentorship and missionary training in a community of believers.”

Trusting in God for guidance, their future plans are uncertain. Further training, a return to Nigeria to work in an underserved part of the country or going to South Sudan to work with the Akot Medical Mission are all options they are presently considering. Deborah is planning to enroll for an online M.Sc. course in Biomimicry from Arizona State University, U.S.A.



**Deng Kok Mol Malek**, from South Sudan, was trapped as a child in the politics and civil war of the time. His parents were Christian, but his father died in 1991 during the civil war, leaving his mother stranded as a single mother in Ethiopia. When only seven, he and his family were driven by the fighting forces to the Ethiopian-Sudan border and they were stranded on the bank of Gelo River. Behind them was heavy fighting and before them the river – and they couldn’t swim. After passionate prayer, God showed them how to cross the river safely and they escaped. This delivery came to his mind later when he was a secondary student and it led him to a personal introduction to the God his mother served so faithfully.

Fellowship became part of his life, including membership in Fellowship of Christian University Students (FOCUS) and the student body Juba University Bible Study Association (JUBSA) and currently with Christian Medical and Dental association – South Sudan (CMDA SS)

He obtained his MBBS degree from Juba University in Khartoum, graduating in 2014, and has served as medical officer at the Lous Specialized Clinic in Juba, the Juba Teaching Hospital and the Friendship Hospital in Palouch.

He is married to Nyankat Achuil Majak and they have one child, Manasseh Deng. Their arrival in Cameroon was delayed due to visa issues but they arrived in Cameroon January 29 to begin their training.

## **MBINGO HEAD AND NECK**

**Faniriko Marco Bien Aime**, from Madagascar, was accepted as the third H&N fellow at Mbingo Hospital, Last year, he completed 5 years PAACS general surgery training at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. He is married and his wife, Marguerite, is an accountant. He wants to have more experience in head and neck surgery to add to his general surgery training in order to help many patients in his country. He believes that the H&N program at Mbingo is a great program. His desire is always to provide surgical care to those who are in need, especially those within his own country. He thanks God for allowing him to be the H&N fellow at Mbingo.



## TENWEK HOSPITAL – KENYA



**Daniel Moenga** is from Kenya and attended Kampala International University for medical school. After medical school, he worked in Kajiado and then Machakos as a medical officer. For the past year, he has worked at Tenwek as a cardiac surgery medical officer helping to manage our cardiac surgery patients. His goal has been to join the Tenwek/PAACS program due to the high level of training that the program offers. His goal is to use his training to improve access to surgical care in Kenya. Heath Many, the Program Director, writes, “Because we have been privileged to work with Daniel over the past year as a cardiac MO, we are looking forward to having him as a surgical resident in our program.”

**Emmanuel Kiniga** is from Kenya and attended the University of Nairobi for medical school. He completed his medical officer internship at Tenwek in 2016 and has just completed a GI endoscopy fellowship at the end of 2017. He now joins us for his first two years of residency in general surgery with plans to complete his surgical training in urology. Although Kiniga was raised in a Christian household, he did not commit his life to following Christ until high school. He now joins the Tenwek/PAACS surgical training program because of the holistic approach to caring for patients that is taught. Ultimately, he hopes to return to Western Kenya to practice urology and to teach others.



**Danson Mogaka** is from Kisii, Kenya and attended Makerere University in Kampala for medical school. Since 2013, he has worked at Kisii Level 6 hospital and Aga Khan in Kisumu as a senior house officer. Danson came to Christ in part through tele-evangelism and he has taken an active role in his home church over the years. He sees medicine as a ministry and specifically he sees using surgery in a ministry role which has led him to the Tenwek/PAACS program. Heath Many writes, “We are excited to have him join us this year and by all early indicators, he is a great addition to our program.”



**Emmanuel Wafula** is from Kenya and attended Kenyatta University in Nairobi. Following medical school, he completed medical officer internship in Kapenguria County Hospital. Starting in January 2017, he began working at Tenwek as a cardiac surgery medical officer where those in the PAACS program have had a chance to get to know him. Throughout Emmanuel’s life, he has experienced God at work, both through his brother’s healing at a young age as well as his own healing a few years later. It was during medical school that he truly committed his life to following Christ. His goal in



joining the Tenwek/PAACS general surgery program is to develop his surgical skills so that he can “work for the people.



**Danny Araka** is the intern slotted for the Tenwek Orthopedic program. He is 30 years old and trained at the University of Nairobi, graduating in 2013. He did his internship at the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital from 2014 to 2015. He was then posted as a medical officer to Nakuru County where he has been working since 2015. He was a medical superintendent at Kabazi Sub County Hospital but was transferred back to Rift Valley PGH in Jan 2016 upon his request due to his interest in orthopedics. He hopes to return to his community to provide orthopedic services after his training and to be a mentor to other surgeons. He is single and loves traveling and cycling.

### **MALAMULO SDA HOSPITAL - MALAWI**

William Lamptey, Ghanaian, has joined the PAACS-Malamulo program. Although raised in a Christian home, the influence of his grandfather, a paramount chief, seemed to destine William as a future king. Smuggled away from that ungodly influence at age 10, he soon came to know the Lord personally and has served Him since that time.

The ‘avoidable’ death of friends due to the lack of surgical care set him on the path of medicine during his early teen years. His medical training was in the Ukraine from 2008 – 2015 at the Ternopil State Medical University where he obtained both a doctor of medicine degree and a postgraduate diploma in clinical research. During that time, he was active in and served on the leadership council of the International Christian Medical Association of Ukraine. A medical student elective was at Tenwek, Kenya and there he saw PAACS in full flower before he applied to be part of it.



Since that time, he has been employed at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital for 2 years and Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Clinic for 10 months. He chose to train with PAACS because of the holistic surgical approach (mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being of my patients) and opportunity to share Christ Jesus with others.

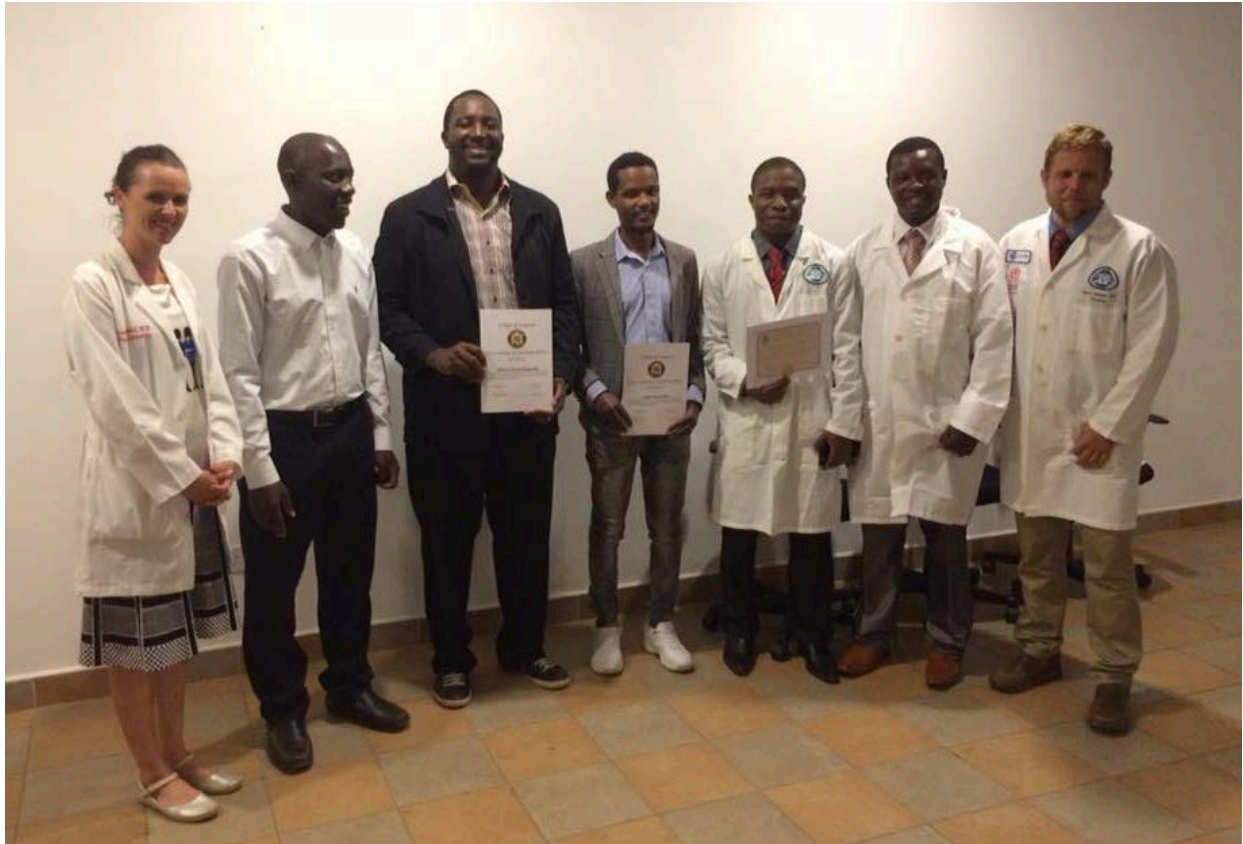
He has been married since 2012 to his wife, Dr. Yevhenia Lamptey. They have one daughter, Diana.



## MALAMULO WHITE COAT CEREMONY

*[Editor: This was taken from their Facebook post of January 26.]*

The 2018 White Coat and Certificates ceremony welcomed and dedicated Dr. William Lamptey into our Malamulo-PAACS training program. He'll grow in compassion, knowledge, skills, and servanthood over the next 5 years.



(L to R): Drs. Graybill, Kasumba, Kamwendo, Lijalem, Kokulol, Lamptey and Hayton.

We also presented the MCS COSECSA certification to Drs. Kamwendo and Lijalem. We are very proud of their first step accomplishment.

Dr. Kokulol was officially advanced to his second year of training after successfully completing his PGY1 year.

Thanks to Drs. Hayton, Moses, and Graybill for the mentorship and teaching.

## PAACS GRADUATE EXPERIENCES WHO

*By Moses Kasumba, 2017 PAACS Graduate from Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon*

From September 8 to December 2, 2017 I had an amazing opportunity as an Intern at WHO (World Health Organization) Headquarters in the Management of Noncommunicable Diseases Unit, specifically focusing on cancer and surgery. I gained insight about the inner-workings of the organization and developed hands-on experience in public health.

While at WHO, I supported the team focusing on researching cancer surgery through literature reviews and additional WHO library resources and also was involved in supporting international partner organization meetings and guideline reviews.



(L to R): Dr. Andre Ilbawi (WHO Technical Officer in Cancer, Dr. Moses Kasumba and Dr. Victoria Charlotte (Medical oncologist from University of Oslo, PhD)

I also undertook several research topics, both long-term and short-term projects. One focus was on strategies on how to build cancer workforce by an extensive literature review and expert input to complete of the workforce metrics table. This will be used in complex calculations to determine the unmet need in a country's cancer workforce. The metrics comprised of the time spent and percentage of patients that required a given competence among 60 pre-selected core competences within cancer care trajectory and distributed between stage-specific inputs for 15 priority cancers.

Additionally, I performed a systematic literature review on the quality of cancer surgery indicators, assessing the quality of cancer care (QoCC) and validity of quality improvement, using MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms, reviewing 3,069 articles and selecting 100 for full review from various databases. The preliminary findings are that in cancer care, while many indicators for assessment and improvement of quality of care are being used as national and international benchmarks at hospital and patient level, the vast majority do not have high levels of scientific evidence and most lacked validation.

Finally, we completed a research protocol intended to analyze the current state of cancer surgical workforce and service delivery at 9 PAACS training hospitals across Africa and describe the current site-specific variation in capacity and the resultant impact on vital facility policy and planning.

My experience with WHO was an incredible learning opportunity that has broadened my knowledge about global healthcare delivery and further solidified my commitment to global health.

The contribution of PAACS is an experience in improving access to care that governments and partners around the world can learn from.

My experience with WHO was an incredible learning opportunity that has broadened my knowledge about global healthcare delivery and further solidified my commitment to global health. I am most grateful to the donors who contributed financially through Dr Jim Brown. May God bless you abundantly, I am very grateful to Dr. Andre Ilbawi at the WHO cancer office for the guidance, and the other dedicated individuals who share curiosity and a passion for improving global healthcare delivery.

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **Visit to DRC:** Dr. Jim Brown (Program Director at PAACS-Mbingo), Dr. Keir Thelander (Chief Medical Officer of PAACS) and PAACS resident Sammy Lemery Nigo visited the north-eastern section of DRC in an attempt to help Nigo achieve a satisfactory working relationship there after graduation as well as assess the medical institutions and their possible fitness for placement of other PAACS residents. Meeting at the Centre Medical Evangelique in Bunia and then two other days at the mission hospital in Nyankunde, they spent parts of 3 days negotiating a contract that was acceptable to the Congolese administrators and that they hope will enable Nigo to function successfully. They also visited Nebobongo (where 2011 PAACS-Bongolo graduate Jean Claude Bataneni has been faithfully working) and Nyankunde hospitals.



L to R: Brown, Nigo, Bataneni and Thelander

Sammy has been sponsored for his salary during training by the Canadian branch of WEC (Worldwide Evangelism for Christ) International and he has agreed to work at the Bunia hospital to repay his obligation.

Brown observed, "That whole northeastern part of DRC is still showing the devastation of years of war and political instability, and great poverty and deprivation. It will be tough for Nigo but I see him taking ownership and developing a vision for the long haul. I pray he will sustain this. I believe that PAACS Program Directors must be proactive in the placement of graduates, and hospitals need to know that PAACS will stay engaged giving counsel and overseeing the process even after the graduate returns."

- **Steffes Visits Royal College of Surgery of Ireland** - Bruce Steffes, serving presently as the PAACS representative to the COSECSA Examinations and Credentialing Committee visited Dublin, Ireland, January 4-6, to observe the College's MRCS Part B Preparation Course held in their new state of the art medical school building. A course designed to help their candidates for training



succeed in the Membership of the Royal College of Surgery (MRCS) course, it consisted of more than a day of review lectures and another near-full day of OSCE (Observed Structured Clinical Exams) practice exams. The MRCS varies from the COSECSA MCS in that the MRCS is an entrance exam determining entry to specialty training and it is taken a few years after finishing their internship. The COSECSA MCS is a combination of an entrance exam for the FCS (Fellowship) portion of training and is taken after two years of broad general surgical training. Steffes commented, "My Irish hosts were very generous with their time and expertise. I have learned a great deal that I hope will improve the experience for the COSECSA trainees and will help in my new COSECSA role overseeing the MCS oral exams to bring the exam process itself to a higher standard."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Late Announcement: Dr. Michael Mwachiro Wins Lindsay Stewart Award.** The winners of the Lindsay Stewart Award for 2017 given during the December COSECSA Annual General Meeting were Dr. Michael Mwachiro from Kenya and Dr. Lydia Nanjula from Uganda. They both presented their papers at the scientific conference held in Maputo on 07th December. Dr. Mwachiro's presentation was on "Endoscopic screening with Lugol's chromoendoscopy". Dr. Nanjula's paper was on "Competence based training – the hernioplasty prototype". The Lindsay Stewart Award is available only to young surgeons in training, working in the constituent COSECSA countries, who wish to present a scientific paper at the COSECSA-ASEA Scientific Conference held in December each year.



Mr. Stewart died in 2012 at the age of 86. A chartered accountant who spent his entire career with health product firm Ethicon (now part of J & J), Stewart was active in the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh (RCSEd) for more than 30 years, making a major contribution to the growth of its international network through the formation and development of the Ethicon Foundation, which has enabled hundreds of young surgeons to travel to surgical centers internationally. Mr. Denis Johnson, formerly of J & J and currently sitting on the steering committee of the RCSI/COSECSA collaboration, presented the award this year to Dr. Mwachiro.

- Ebhele Recognized as DRC Specialist:** Jacques Ebhele, graduate of Bongolo Hospital, Gabon, in January 2015 and attending surgeon at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, has finally received his recognition as a General Surgeon Specialist from the DRC





Medical Council. This was based solely on his PAACS certificate. He traveled to Kinshasa in March of 2015 to make the application and the letter was signed in March of 2017. Ebhele writes, “We thank the Almighty for His faithfulness. We thank all the prayer warriors within PAACS. May the name of our Lord be glorified and honored.”

- **Tenwek Eye & Dental Center Opens:** The long-awaited Eye and Dental Center has opened at Tenwek. Take a video tour by [Clicking Here](#).

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the two new PAACS surgeons, Dr. Valentine Mbithi and Dr. Mark Oloo. Pray that they will make the transition to practice and that their Christian testimony and surgical abilities will shine for God’s glory.
- Pray for the new trainees who have left home and hearth to start this great adventure. Pray for their (and their family’s) adjustment to new cultures, new training paradigms, new levels of fatigue and study and all the stresses of training. Pray that they will always taste the sweetness of God in their day to day activities and help them look for someone with whom to share the gospel.
- Praise God for those who gave generously (and sometimes sacrificially) at the end of the calendar year. We are nearly back on track for this time of the year in our budgeted giving and ahead of our expenses. We are on a pathway of solid growth with the plans for full resident complements at our present programs and the upcoming two new programs. Praise to Jehovah-Jireh for the reality of His name!
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties. The manpower situations in Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, and Niger are particularly of concern and some situations (Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger) are critical.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment (Robert & Andrea Parker and Russ White in the USA, Debbie Eisenhut in French Language School; Andrew Chew in Australia) – for their 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 God’s hand and leading regarding the potential new programs in Togo and Burundi – for wisdom, finances, manpower and governmental approval.
- Pray for the team deep in the tedious process of assembling three 200 multiple-choice question exams and for the PAACS people working on the MCS exam for COSECSA.
- Please pray for Moses Kasumba and his family as they adjust to Malawi and the new faculty responsibilities.
- Pray for Sammy Nigo Lemery as he and the hospital continue to prepare for his return to Bunia, DRC.

- Pray for the upcoming CMDA-CMDE conference in Greece in March. Visas for our residents are again proving to be a problem. Pray for the removal of all hurdles to travel, for safety and for a prepared heart.

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