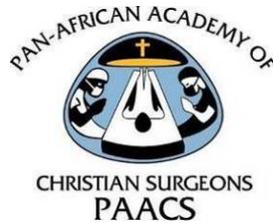


Dear Friends of PAACS:

A slow month for news within the PAACS family, but not a slow month for all those actually doing the work of PAACS! They continue to show God's love to the thousands of patients that show up each month at the PAACS Hospitals. And Seno's story shows us that God continues to work in the lives of our graduates.

We have a new resident – please join me in welcoming him
May God richly bless you all.

The Editor



PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

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.

**No. 166
April, 2018**

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

[From the Executive Director](#)
[Welcome to a New PAACS Resident](#)
[PAACS Graduate Joins Moi](#)
[Revised PAACS Phone App Unveiled](#)
[News Shorts:](#)

[Announcements:](#)

PAACS Commission Meeting
Gerson L'Chaim Prize 2018

[Prayer Requests](#)

Requests for MCS Cases for COSECSA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) states that "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." PAACS is a faith ministry and we place our faith on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. We share our faith---telling those who are suffering about the glorious hope of Christ. We step out in faith---training more surgeons and touching more lives for God's Kingdom. We live by faith---trusting God to provide---residents, faculty, volunteers, partners, wisdom and finances.

Our faith is that God will bring residents into our training program who will serve Him and His people. We trust Him to select those with hearts for excellence in learning and surgery; as well those with a hunger

for His word and a passion to serve God's people in desperate need. Please pray that God will bring His chosen surgical residents into the PAACS programs throughout Africa.

Our faith is that God will bring faculty to our PAACS programs who have a passion to teach and mentor the next generation of surgeons, leaders, and servants of God who will also be preachers and teachers of the Word for the continent of Africa. We need more faculty and we trust God to move upon the hearts of those who want to serve Him. We are praying that God will bring more volunteers into the field to help instill Godly virtues into men and women who have a passion for Christ and also instruct these young residents in providing quality surgical care and sharing the Good News of Christ with those in need. Please pray that God will bring the needed leaders to the PAACS mission field to teach and mentor PAACS surgical residents.

Our faith is that God will open doors for new PAACS programs throughout the continent of Africa. Opportunities are presenting themselves and we need God's wisdom as to which programs to open and the timing for these new programs. Please pray for wisdom and discernment of God's will for new PAACS programs.

We also have faith that God will provide financially and we depend on him to sustain and flourish this ministry. Without His grace and provision, PAACS could not train and mentor surgeons, share the message of Christ with those who are lost and suffering and turn hearts to the one and only living God. This ministry is truly dependent on God for everything that we do and we are blessed!!!!

In His Service,

Susan Koshy

Executive Director, PAACS

WELCOME TO A NEW PAACS RESIDENT

[Editor: Dr. Chidi has joined the PAACS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon to fill a vacancy in the residency.]

Chidi Hanson Otuneme was born in the city of Kano in the north west province of Nigeria to parents of Igbo ethnicity from Owerri in Imo State, Nigeria. He is the first of four children, three of whom are surviving. He was born into a Christian home but gave his life to Christ on the 25th of December after he heard a message by his pastor on the birth of Christ and true repentance. It was a sermon like he had never heard before.

He is a graduate of Ternopil State Medical University, Ukraine graduating class of 2013. After graduating, he did his internship at the Murtala Mohammed specialist hospital in Kano. He also served his country as a medical officer at the General Hospital Burutu, Delta state. Before he joined PAACS, he was a medical officer with Meyphest Specialist Hospital in Owerri.



When Chidi was 13, he lost his immediate younger brother to a ghastly motor accident. He sustained a crush injury to the head and was rushed to the biggest hospital in the city; but nothing much was done because there were doctors but no surgeon to help, it was at this point, he decided he would be a surgeon after enquiring what kind of doctor a surgeon is. Until then, he then nursed the desire to be a doctor.

He first heard about PAACS as a medical student at a Christian medical conference and followed up, researching about PAACS. He decided that one day he would join PAACS because it is a Christian surgical training program and because he believed it will help him realize his dream of providing professional surgical assistance to the many in Nigeria. He aches for the rural people who have surgical problems but who cannot find solutions because there are few trained surgeons or because surgery is costly. He plans to bridge this gap as he considers surgery a ministry.

Chidi believes PAACS has excellent trainers with a Christian focus to affect lives in Africa and that is why he joined.

He's happily married to his soulmate and sweetheart since December 2017, Grace Oghuasuan Addo, a pharmacist. They are expecting a child.

PAACS GRADUATE JOINS MOI

By Seno Saruni (Tenwek Graduate 2016)

When I joined PAACS and COSECSA at Tenwek Hospital as a first-year resident, I had a grand plan. I would get my training and return to Narok, my home county, and I would serve the local community. You see, during my time there as a medical officer intern and then as a medical officer, I noticed a great need for good surgical care and I felt I would fill the gap perfectly. I was a man on a mission.

However, as I journeyed through residency, God had another richer plan for me, one that would end in marriage. Betty, now my wife, and I shared a similar dream, to offer quality health care to the people of Kenya and Africa. It is with this dream in mind that my own journey back to Narok was delayed, I relocated to Eldoret to support my wife as she pursued her Masters studies in internal medicine. I made many job applications to the local government hospitals hoping to be involved in medical education – but none got a positive response. I continued to trust that God had a plan for me as I accepted a job at St. Luke's Orthopedic and Trauma Hospital. This hospital is a private institution. However, I continued to apply to the teaching hospital next door and I continued to ask the Lord to reveal what his plan for me was. The silence seemed deafening.



Seno outside the male ward at Moi after rounds.

After a year without the response I wanted to have, I was discouraged and disappointed – it seemed I would never accomplish my dream and purpose. I continued to pray and I continued to apply despite the lack of a response. Then God showed He had His own way of meeting my prayers in His timing.

One night at around midnight, I got a call from the CEO of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (I had no idea he had my phone number but I didn't ask why). He had a 9-year-old child struggling to breath, in need of an emergency procedure to remove a foreign body in the airway. No other surgeon was available to perform the procedure (in retrospect, this was God's sovereignty at work). He asked if I would help. I said yes, rushed off to the hospital and thankfully, I was able to remove the obstructing foreign body with bronchoscopy. Grateful for my help, the CEO talked a bit more with me and then he asked me to apply one more time for a position.

Interview by bronchoscopy was something I had not thought of trying and the situation clearly was not of my doing. I trusted that it was the Lord's plan and all His doing. I prayed about it, I applied again and I remained hopeful.

To my great joy, about a month later I received my letter of appointment at the Moi teaching and Referral Hospital. I now serve as an attending in the General Surgery department. My weekly duties include teaching rounds, surgery and taking call. I feel that I am back on track and my dream is alive and well. I had also developed a working relationship with the surgeons in Eldoret and in July, we hope to start an American College of Surgeons accredited ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) training site. This will help us improve overall trauma care in the region. I also take call for the cardiothoracic department and I have been working with Urology on developing the renal transplant facilities. I am grateful to PAACS for providing me with adequate training and competence to start out in the world of surgery. I continue to try to live my Christianity out loud. I trust that the Lord shall continue to lead the way in all I do and that I may have the insight to interpret God's leading.

REVISED PAACS PHONE APP UNVEILED

After more than year of development work, the PAACS web-based case log has been revamped and the long-delayed and completely redesigned phone app has been scheduled to be pushed out by the middle of May for beta-testing by selected users. The servers will be updated the first week of May.

The smart-phone application and the revised website case log will soon allow PAACS residents and faculty surgeons to use their smart-phones, tablets and laptops to allow the continued collection of both patient and PAACS educational data while giving unprecedented convenience and accuracy.

The phone or tablet can be taken anywhere and case log records searched, updated or completed without requiring access to the intra- or internet. It is hoped that



this will make the system easier to use and the data will be more accurate.

The system is compatible with both Android and IOS platforms. It is secure, requiring a password-protected account be set up for each user. Because of issues of patient privacy and the real concern about server hacking, it intentionally will not use the internet to synchronize records. It will use the program site intranet systems to communicate and synchronize with the program servers, located physically at each training site.

The new app permits residents on rotations at an away PAACS or non-PAACS hospital to document their experience during their rotation. It will then be uploaded/synchronized when they return to their home intranet system.

The design innovations required for the phone app have been incorporated into the web-based system. The software has been updated on each program site's server to allow interaction with the phone app. Each program will receive a "ticket" from the PAACS Support Ticket system which will notify them of the server update and give them a mechanism to report any glitches identified.

After that, almost 20 PAACS residents and faculty members have agreed to be given the beta versions for testing and will be contacted to obtain ID codes from their phones to allow them to be sent the special app. Once it is installed, their job is to find all the bugs and to "break" the system if possible. The development team is standing by to respond immediately to the issues thus identified. Once the beta-testing is done and the app is ready to be used widely, it will be made available via the IOS App store and via Google Play.

The screenshot shows a web-based application interface for logging operative cases. The form is titled "Case Log - Operative" and is organized into several sections:

- PAACS Site:** A dropdown menu with "Bethany Kids at Kijabe" selected.
- Surgeon Responsible for Chart:** A dropdown menu with "(select)" shown.
- Patient ID:** A text input field.
- Sex:** A dropdown menu with "<- Select a Gender ->" shown.
- Operation Date:** A date picker showing "25/04/2018".
- Surname:** A text input field.
- First Name:** A text input field.
- Age:** A text input field followed by a "Years" dropdown.
- Weight (kg):** A text input field.
- In/Out Patient:** A dropdown menu with "(select)" shown.
- Admission Date:** A date picker.
- Discharge Date:** A date picker.
- Offsite Doctor:** A text input field.
- Rotational Site:** A dropdown menu with "(select)" shown.
- Timing of Case:** A dropdown menu with "(select)" shown.
- Trauma Case?:** A dropdown menu with "-- Select a Value --" shown.
- Type of Case:** A dropdown menu with "(select)" shown.
- Pre-op Diagnosis:** A text area.
- Post-op Diagnosis:** A text area.
- Name of Operation:** A text area.
- Coding Section:** A table with columns: "Select Group", "Procedure", "Laterality", "Primary", "Flag as primary", and "Action". Below this is a "CPT" dropdown menu with "Procedure: (Select a Procedure)" and "Laterality: Not Applicable" shown.
- Buttons:** "New", "Save", "Print", and "Menu" buttons are located at the bottom right of the form.

Screenshot of web-based application

The beta testing will have three phases: access to the software, access to the test server via the internet and then access to the local server.

Printing of operative reports and post-operative orders and the generation of reports is only possible via the web-based system. Continued work will be on-going to create regular reporting to the program directors and to create intermittent reports of various types for use by the residents, faculty and program directors.

A previous attempt to roll-out the phone app several months ago was not successful. Significant design issues that were not easily fixable were

identified and the decision was made by the programming team to start over and rebuilt the system from the ground-up. The improvements in the phone app led to concurrent improvements in the web-based systems as well.

The entire PAACS case log system is designed to eventually synchronize data with the COSECSA e-log system but there have been long delays by COSECSA in determining the final configuration of the case lists. When that has been determined, there will be a push to write the programming necessary to automatically synchronize the PAACS database to that of COSECSA.

The COSECSA e-log is a much simpler system than the PAACS system. The PAACS system is capable of unlimited reporting variation and tracks some desired educational parameters. It also can serve as a “mini-EMR” (electronic medical record) for the patients entered, allowing later search for data and the addition of addendums to the care. The PAACS system is also designed to allow system-wide sharing of information regarding short-term faculty members who may serve at multiple sites.

Such extensive development work has been possible via the generous gift of a PAACS donor family and untold hours of unpaid volunteer hours by the programmer. PAACS is exceedingly grateful to both for their largesse.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **Attention COSECSA Grads and PAACS Faculty** - COSECSA, in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), runs an online surgical training platform called “School for Surgeons.” It can be accessed at www.schoolforsurgeons.net. As well as containing a wealth of useful training tools and information (now including Surgery in Africa reviews), and full access to the RCSI library and journal portal, it contains case studies created by COSECSA fellows. All candidates taking the membership exam and the fellowship exams have to complete a certain number of these case studies in order to be eligible to take the COSECSA exams. These cases are a useful addition to the in-service training that candidates receive and help to standardize the academic element of the COSECSA training program across the twelve-member countries. COSECSA fellows and PAACS Faculty members are entitled to a login to School for Surgeons (contact Chris Minja at exams@cosecsa.org if you need a log-in and password or it is not working).

In order to continue to improve the quality of cases, COSECSA is now looking for fellows who would be interested in submitting cases for each MCS, FCS Neurosurgery, FCS General Surgery, FCS Orthopaedics, FCS Plastic Surgery, FCS Urology, FCS Pediatric Surgery. Each course is coordinated by a COSECSA fellow with overall responsibility for the course who will coordinate the creation of cases.

Submitting a case involves:

- Writing up a real case, including photos and/or x-ray images etc. and questions to which the candidates must respond
- Citing two or three relevant articles for further reading
- Providing detailed generic feedback answering the questions you posed
- Providing brief individual feedback and discussing the case with candidates

Chris Minja, the COSECSA Examinations and Training Officer, wrote, “This is a chance to get involved with a really interesting way to teach and to interact with trainees from all across the COSECSA region. If you are interested in getting involved with this please contact me for further

details. We particularly encourage recent COSECSA Fellows by Examination to engage with this.” You may contact Mr. Minja at exams@cosecsa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **PAACS Semi-Annual Commission Meeting:** Members of the PAACS Commission, Committee Members, Council Members and guests are cordially invited to the May PAACS Commission Meeting. The PAACS Commission Meeting will be held Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Elk Grove Village, 1000 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

The PAACS Commission meeting will begin with Committee meetings at 10:30 am (a box lunch will be provided). No Specialty Councils will meet at the May Commission meeting. The Committees that will be meeting at the May Commission meeting on Friday, May 4th include the Advancement, Spiritual, Program and Curriculum committees. The Faculty Development committee and the Alumni committee will meet early Saturday morning. If you serve on one of these committees, please be prepared to attend the meeting. The Commission meeting will commence on Friday, May 4th at 1:00 pm and adjourn by 6:30 pm. A photo session and dinner will follow the meeting on Friday evening. The Commission meeting will continue on Saturday, May 5th and start by 7:30 am. If you are NOT a Commission member, the meeting will conclude by 10:30 am on Saturday. All Commission members should plan on staying until 1:30 pm because of a planned closed session for PAACS Commission members and administration from 10:30-1:30 pm on Saturday, May 5th.

Please make your reservation at the Holiday Inn Elk Grove Village as soon as possible to ensure the negotiated PAACS hotel rate of \$99 plus tax (this includes breakfast). Please feel free to contact Susan Koshy if you have any questions at Susan.Koshy@paacs.net or [847-571-9926](tel:847-571-9926). Please notify Margaret.Cioch@paacs.net soon of your planned attendance if you have not already done so.

- **Gerson L'Chaim Prize 2018:** Jon Fielder, founder and director of the African Mission Healthcare Foundation has announced on Facebook a change in the application process for the Gerson L'Chaim prize for 2018, “In the first two years, we received a number of strong applications & wanted to give these candidates another opportunity. So we are inviting [only] a small group to apply this year. We anticipate a return to open applications next year.” You can find out more at www.amhf.us/lchaim. Jason Fader, a surgeon at Kibuye Hospital in Rwanda, was the first award recipient and Russ White, a Tenwek surgeon, was the second. The prize for both was \$500,000.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray for peace for Northwest Cameroon and for the employees and patients at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Violence is escalating and the hospital is now seeing several bullet-wounds a week.
- Pray for Chidi Hanson Otuneme, his wife and their unborn child as they settle into life as a PAACS resident and make the cultural and personal adjustments necessary.

- Thank God for opening this new position for Seno Saruni.
- Pray that the roll-out of the revised Case Log software will go smoothly and effectively. Pray that it will be effectively and consistently used by the residents for the many good purposes that are possible.
- Pray for the PAACS residents as they increase their study in preparation for the annual in-service examination in early June.
- Pray for the team assembling the PAACS annual in-service exams.
- Pray for the PAACS representatives attending the COSECSA curriculum and exam workshops in Addis Ababa April 30 – May 2.
- Pray for those attending the upcoming PAACS Commission meeting in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. As always, there are difficult decisions to make as they attempt to discern God's will for PAACS and the various programs. Pray for traveling safety for those attending.
- Please continue to 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.
- Praise God for Dr. Sean Dupont and his family who have just started at Galmi under the World Medical Mission Post-Residency Program (an article will be in the May *PAACS Bulletin* to introduce them). Pray for their adjustment to climate, culture, language and new responsibilities.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment (Russ White and Dylan Nugent in the USA, Sherif Hanna in Canada, 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, Burundi and Kijabe (Orthopaedics) – for wisdom, finances, manpower and governmental approval.
- Pray that God will provide the necessary finances to finish the PAACS fiscal year in the black.

Editor: Bruce C. Steffes, MD, MBA, MA, FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA), FICS