

Dear Friends of PAACS:

A busy month for PAACS – lots to read about! A new surgeon at Galmi, four new programs approved, PAACS involvement with COSECSA and a very productive Commission meeting are all part of this month's report. At that meeting in Chicago, Dave Thompson, the founder of PAACS, was celebrated for his accomplishments with PAACS and a new training fund was set up to honor Dave and Becki for all they have done for PAACS. Our fiscal year ends in one month on June 30 and we are behind our budgeted giving – a generous gift to PAACS by June 30 would be a great way to both help PAACS and honor two amazing people.

Can you hear those knees knocking? The first Saturday of June is always reckoning day for our residents as they face the in-service exam. Please pray for them – that their performance would fairly reflect their study and work.

Please continue to pray for the country of Cameroon and decisions to be made about continued training at Mbingo.

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.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

God is good and His tangible guidance and counsel was present at the May PAACS Commission meeting held in Elk Grove Village, IL, May 4-5. Forty-five Commission members, Surgical and Advisory Council leaders and guests, attended this one and half-day meeting to discuss ideas, share experiences, fellowship, and make some very critical decisions regarding PAACS.

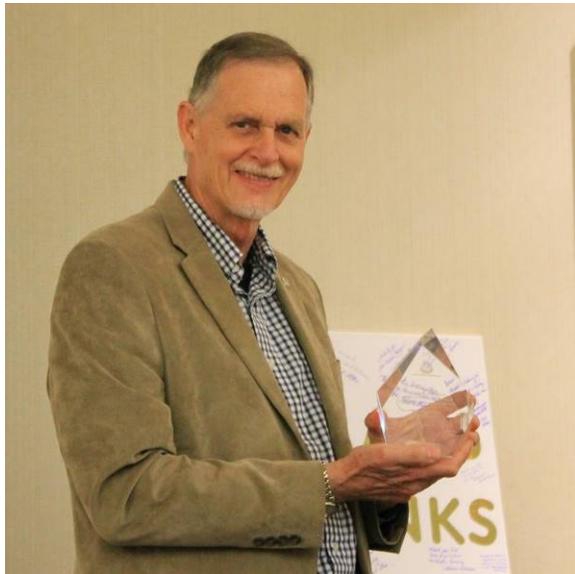


The May Commission meeting had a new format that allowed for greater discussion, more outside presenters and increased time to discuss and pray for PAACS programs, residents and faculty. The Commission meeting commenced with a devotion on Faith, Wisdom and Courage followed by a time of prayer by our new Spiritual Dean, Rev. Ed Searce. The members of the administration team then each provided a report on their individual areas of responsibility. Susan Koshy, PAACS Executive Director, provided an overview of PAACS, its programs, the Commission and finances. Dr. Keir Thelander, Chief Medical Officer, spoke about each of the PAACS programs, the residents, faculty and exams. Rev. Ed Searce, Spiritual Dean, provided an update on his work and progress on revising the Spiritual Curriculum. This was followed by Dr. Bill Wood, Academic Dean, who discussed the academic curriculum.

The PAACS committees that met on Friday prior to the start of the Commission meeting (Spiritual Development, Program, Curriculum and Advancement) each reported on the work of their committees. Each committee Chair then had an opportunity to raise issues to the participants and request feedback. This allowed for greater discussion, new ideas and possible direction for the future work of these committees.

Alisa Dyson, D.Ed., Assistant Professor of Medical Education at Director of Faculty Development and Continuing Medical Education (CME) at Liberty University, then spoke to the group on the topic of

“Today’s Challenge, Tomorrow’s Solution, A Bird’s Eye View of Faculty Development for Global Surgery”. Dr. Dyson’s presentation provided insight into this issue and the potential challenges and avenues for the work of PAACS in this area. The Friday portion of meeting concluded with reports by each of the Specialty Councils. This was followed by a time of group photos and fellowship.



During the Friday fellowship dinner, PAACS honored its Founder, Dr. David Thompson. He was presented with a gift to thank him for his sacrificial work in Africa on surgical training. At this time, the Dr. David and Rebecca Thompson Surgical Training Fund, a memorial to honor Dr. and Mrs. Thompson’s lifelong work, was unveiled. Dr. Doug Lundy, PAACS Chair, presented the award and Drs. Thomas Robey and Keir Thelander each honored Dr. Thompson’s work by speaking about their time serving with him at Bongolo Hospital. Dr. Thompson, then spoke to the attendees, inspiring them further with his words and humility and talking about how God has used him over the last 40 years. Dr. Thompson’s speech was moving and stirred the hearts of many in the audience to consider following God’s call for their lives.

On Saturday May 5th, the Commission meeting commenced with a devotion by Dr. Rebekah Naylor. Dr. Naylor talked about how God is always with us in every circumstance and nothing takes God by surprise. This was followed by a guest presenter, Mary Lederleitner, who presented on “Growing in Cultural Intelligence When Partnering.” This interactive session allowed for discussion about the partnerships we have in Africa and maximizing their effectiveness. Mary T. Lederleitner is founder and executive director of Missional Intelligence. She has a PhD from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and an MA in intercultural studies from Wheaton College, and teaches as an adjunct professor at both institutions. She is a veteran mission leader and researcher who has served for two decades with the Wycliffe Global Alliance in a variety of international leadership roles. She serves on the OM Global Board and as a board member for Catalyst Services. She is also the author of “Cross-Cultural Partnerships”.

The highlight of the morning came when three PAACS program directors, Dr. Tim Berg, Program Director at AIC Kijabe Hospital, Dr. David Thompson, the former Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital and Dr. Joe Starke, the Program Director at SIM Galmi Hospital, each spoke about their individual programs and discussed their successes and challenges. After these presentations, the PAACS Commission and Leadership prayed together for each of these programs and program directors.

These sessions were followed by an impassioned speech from Dr. Ken Rutledge about getting the local church involved in supporting PAACS. He discussed the need for everyone to speak with their missions board about supporting the PAACS ministry. Two additional reports by the Faculty Development and the Alumni Liaison committees rounded out the meeting. The main portion of the May PAACS Commission meeting concluded by 10:30 am. The PAACS Commission members and administration then met in closed session to talk issues requiring debate and discussion and to make decisions about the future of PAACS.

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

Blessings to all of you,

Susan Koshy

Executive Director, PAACS

WELCOME TO A NEW PAACS SURGEON

By Sean Dupont

[Editor's Note: We welcome Sean Dupont and his family to SIM-Galmi Hospital. He is the first answer to our corporate prayer for more manpower at this PAACS training program. He is coming as a Post-Residency surgeon but with the intent of a career there. Please keep he and his family in your prayers.]

We first felt called to medical missions in 2009, when I was a second-year medical student at Texas A&M. Interestingly, my wife and I felt called at the same time, but neither one of us mentioned it to the other for nearly a month. One day before school, I said, "Heather, we need to talk when you get home." She replied, "Yes, we do, because I also have something we need to talk about." God had been working on our hearts at the same time, which remains a great encouragement and reminder for us today. We attended the missions conference in Louisville (where Bruce Steffes, the PAACS CEO at the time, prayed for me at the PAACS booth as I wrestled with the decision of choosing a specialty). I eventually decided to specialize in general surgery and matched to a residency in Minnesota in 2012.

Through relationships I developed at work, I began to feel called to minister to African Moslems. I took a trip to Tenwek in 2014 and had the opportunity to work with PAACS. After that experience, Heather and I wanted to find a location in an unreached African Islamic country with a PAACS residency. I felt particularly convicted about working with PAACS as I knew that wherever we decided to serve, it would be in a capacity that would enable Africans to care for and evangelize to other Africans, and that would improve the African healthcare infrastructure from the ground up.

As it happened, a couple at our church was friends with missionaries at a hospital in Niger named Galmi, which had a PAACS residency. I spoke with the husband and decided to take a 6-week elective there my 4th year of residency. After our time there, we were certain that this was where God was calling us. We applied and were accepted with the Samaritan's Purse Post-Residency Program for two years of service in Niger. Our hopes are to:



- 1) Build relationships with Moslem non-believers and intentionally share the good news with them.
- 2) Mentor, educate, and disciple the PAACS residents as well as come alongside their families during the difficult season that is residency.
- 3) Contribute to the improvement and delivery of surgical care for all Africans.

We and our three boys (Calvin, Sam, and Zeke) are delighted to be where we are, doing what we are doing. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to be here, and thankful for an organization like PAACS.

FOUR NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED

By Keir Thelander

The PAACS Commission is pleased to announce the approval of 4 new programs to come under the PAACS umbrella of surgical training and discipleship. A cardiothoracic fellowship, two orthopedic surgery training programs and another general surgery program was approved.

Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, has had a growing cardiothoracic practice under the leadership of Dr. Russ White. As the volume has grown, the need for this type of training in East Africa has been clearly demonstrated. When he arrived at Tenwek Hospital over two decades ago, White never dreamed that a day would come when he would make use of his fellowship training to train others in cardiothoracic surgery. Yet, in the Lord's timing a program has begun. PAACS was asked to give academic and spiritual oversight of this new 3-year fellowship training program. Dr. Arega Fekadu, a PAACS 2012 grad from the Tenwek PAACS program, has arrived back in Kenya and his training has commenced. In this region of Africa with such a high prevalence of esophageal cancer, the volume of esophageal work is enormous. There is a large volume of thoracic work and large volume of heart valves damaged by rheumatic fever and other causes. The cardiothoracic council is being formed soon to oversee the training and the program will officially join PAACS at that time.

Orthopaedic training started in Kijabe in 2007, hosted at the Kijabe Hospital and CURE Kijabe Hospital. They already have graduates placed in Kijabe as well as at the CURE Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and even 1 graduate at Mutengene Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. The program has grown over the years and now has 9 trainees. As their training is based at Kijabe Hospital, their residents are already familiar with the PAACS system as they came through their MCS years of COSECSA under the authority of our PAACS program director at Kijabe Hospital (previously Rich Davis and now Tim Berg). Given the burdens and challenges of running a residency, the Kijabe and CURE Orthopaedic training staff have asked PAACS to come alongside their program to offer support and oversight in the academic and spiritual components. In many ways, this is a very natural and easy transition as their program and approach already align very closely with the PAACS philosophy. We are thankful to Dr. Dan Galat for his engagement and the current/future program director Dr. Francis Mbugua for their faithful leadership of the training program. We look forward to seeing how the growing network of PAACS Orthopaedic training programs will exemplify the body of Christ as they collaborate and support one another in this coordinated effort of orthopaedic training in East Africa. This program will join PAACS in 2019.

As well, Soddo Christian Hospital(SCH) has expressed interest for years in beginning orthopaedic training. Dr. Duane Anderson has led a very active orthopaedic service essentially functioning as an orthopaedic trauma referral center for much of Ethiopia which has a population of over 100 million. The recent addition of a full time orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Brian Hodges, has provided an opportunity to begin officially training orthopaedic surgeons under the PAACS banner at SCH. This program will include a strong affiliation with the CURE Hospital in Addis Ababa as 1/3 of the orthopaedic training time will occur at that site under the leadership of Drs. Tim Nunn and Richard Gardner. As with any startup program, we recognize the risk, yet trust that our courage is God inspired and will bear fruit in His time. We look forward to being a part of this unified training of orthopaedic surgeons at SCH, CURE – Addis, Kijabe Hospital, CURE – Kijabe, and our initial program at Tenwek Hospital. Please pray that the Lord will direct and guide in these endeavors to influence East Africa for His glory and the growth of His kingdom. This program will become an active part of PAACS in 2019.

Kibuye Hope Hospital (KHH) in Burundi was founded 1980 after serving as a dispensary for about 40 years. KHH is the training site for the medical students of Hope Africa University. This is a university that was begun in Kenya by refugees there who moved back to Burundi and subsequently began a medical school. Today, PAACS has 6 Burundians in our training programs and 1 Burundian graduate, so the desire for training has well been noted by us. In fact, the country has not had a surgical graduate in years from their university system as most complete their training in France and none have returned for a number of years. KHH has investigated governmental recognition, partnership with COSECSA, and PAACS. God continues to move each of those forward. During our recent commission meeting, PAACS approved a program at KHH under the leadership of Dr. Jason Fader. Dr. Fader arrived at KHH about 5 years ago with a team of physicians and other personnel to reinforce the services of KHH. They have worked to see the Lord expand the services and influence in a country with only 20 surgeons for 11 million people – 19 of which live in the capital city. Fader was the first recipient of the L'Chaim prize, and part of that money will be used to improve the physical facilities, thereby creating an environment ready to train surgeons at KHH. They have 3 more surgeons in the pipeline, two in language school and 1 completing his PAACS training at Bongolo Hospital. All will arrive by the end of 2018. There is still much to be determined about the beginning of this program, not the least of which is the right timing to begin this training. Please pray with PAACS and KHH as we seek the Lord's direction for the right timing of beginning this much needed training and discipleship program.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **David and Rebecca Thompson Surgical Training Fund.** This fund has been created to honor God and the sacrificial and life changing work of Dr. Dave Thompson and his wife Rebecca (Becki).

Dave and Becki are the visionaries who founded the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). They were instrumental in its formation and developing the 5-year surgical and spiritual program by which African Christian physicians are



trained as surgeons to provide quality and compassionate care to those in need.

Dr. Thompson and his wife started training one African surgeon in the jungles of Gabon 22 years ago. This modest beginning has blossomed into 80 surgical residents in our 12 training programs plus 73 graduated surgeons serving in the under-resourced areas of 19 countries in Africa.

Dave recently retired from his position as PAACS' Program Director at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt. PAACS wants to recognize and honor the work of these two extraordinary persons and their dedication to serving God and His people by creating the David and Rebecca Thompson Surgical Training Fund. All donations to honor them will be used to cover the costs of training and discipling African surgeons.

Please join us in honoring the extraordinary life and work of Dr. Dave and Becki Thompson by giving to this fund. Remember, every new surgeon PAACS trains means more lives saved and more hearts turned to Christ. Please give generously.

<https://give.cornerstone.cc/cmda-donate/checkout?memo=PAACS>. Be sure to put "David and Rebecca Thompson Surgical Training Fund" in the memo line.

- **PAACS, ACS and COSECSA:** PAACS surgeons who are fellows of the American College of Surgeon were mentioned in an ACS Bulletin article entitled, "ACS: Global engagement for the care of the surgical patient" written by Girma Tefera and Patricia L. Turner. The participation of the ACS in the COSECSA last December in Maputo, Mozambique was the focus of this part of the story.



ACS Fellows participating as external examiners, December 2017. Front row, from left (all ACS Fellows pictured are MD, FACS): Bruce Steffes, Dr. Helder de Miranda (COSECSA member), Keir Thelander, Stephen Bickler, Dr. O'Rourke, Neil Wetzig (Australia), and Andrew Chew (PAACS Australia). Middle row: Timothy Berg, Jim Brown, John Tarpley, Adrian Park, Dr. Sanfey, Dr. Wren, Ohwofiemu Nwariaku, Dr. Tefera, and Benedict Nwomeh. Back row: Three unidentified COSECSA fellows, Marilyn W. Butler, Erik Hansen, Doruk Ozgediz, and Russ White.

- **PAACS Represented at COSECSA Workshops in Ethiopia:** The second Curriculum Development workshop and the second OSCE Writing Workshop were held in Bishoftu (Debre Zeit), Ethiopia at the Kurifter Resort and Spa from April 30 - May 2. Drs Russ White, Andrea Parker and Katherine Hill (missing from photo) helped to direct the curriculum development workshop. Dr. Bob Parker participated in the workshop. Drs. Seno Saruni and Frank Madinda participated in the OSCE writing workshop for the second year. Dr. Bruce Steffes helped lead that workshop.

The OSCEs that were written will be polished and used in the 2018 MCS oral examination in Rwanda and in future years. The Curriculum development was part of a revamping of the very first two-year curriculum and will create a uniform two-year remote-learning program that is integrated with the local training programs.



From L to R: Russ White, Senor Saruni, Bob Parker, Andrea Parker, Bruce Steffes, Frank Madinda. Katherine Hill was missing.

- **Lindsay Stewart Research Prize Offered by COSECSA:** The Lindsay Stewart Prize is open to all **COSECSA** trainees who are engaged in Research activities. The topic may be on any subject related to surgery. The deadline for submission of the completed papers is August 31, 2018.

The Lindsay Stewart Prize is available only to young surgeons who are in a COSECSA Training Program and who wish to present a scientific paper at the COSECSA-ASEA Scientific Conference held in December of each year. 1,000 sterling from which one or more awards will be made to cover fares to the conference venue, accommodation and conference registration fees.

The conditions are:

- The content of the paper is original and the presenter is the 1st author.
- University dissertation projects are acceptable.

- A covering letter from the Head of Department should accompany the submission.
- The paper must reach the Secretariat for adjudication by 31 August of each year.
- The awardee(s) will be informed of the decision before the end of October.
- The paper must be accepted for presentation by the scientific committee of the conference.
- The paper must be presented by the author in person at the conference and the award will be made at the time of the conference.
- The Prize will include a Certificate.
- The award will be announced at the closing ceremony of the AGM.

Submissions, marked Lindsay Stewart Award, should be made by e-mail to the Scholarship Board at scholarships@cosecsa.org with copies to the Registrar registrar@cosecsa.org and the Senior Program Officer at info@cosecsa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **PAACS In-Service Examination:** On Saturday, June 2, the junior and senior level in-service examinations will be given at all PAACS training sites (some programs may give on June 1). This five-hour, 200 multiple-choice question exam is an annual event designed to help assess the progress of the trainees and to help prepare them for the COSECSA MCS (member of the college of surgery) and FCS (fellow of the college of surgery) exams scheduled in September of each year. Please pray that the residents' performances reflect their study and abilities.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray for peace for Northwest Cameroon and for the employees and patients at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Violence is escalating. Decisions are being made about possible evacuation of personnel.
- Pray for the PAACS residents as they increase their study in preparation for the annual in-service examination in early June.
- Praise for the team which has assembled the PAACS In-Service Exam. Pray for them as they grade and assess the ones to be given in early June and for them as they create the remediation exam to be given in late July.
- 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. 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, Soddo and Kijabe (the last two Orthopaedics) and the plastic surgery program at Kijabe – for wisdom, finances, manpower and governmental approval. Pray for ongoing meetings in Togo with various officials – that God will give wisdom and direct the outcome
- 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