

Dear Friends of PAACS:

In my state of North Carolina, we recently experienced the lull before the storm. In our anticipation, it felt like we were awaiting a vicious attack from a turtle. For PAACS, September has been one of those lull months. Deceptively calm on the surface, much is happening under the surface and will come to fruition in the next few months.

Prayer is the lifeline of PAACS. Get the new Prayer Guide and join us on October 8 in a day of prayer and fasting.

The Editor



PAACS PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

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

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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:

The PAACS 2018-19 Daily Prayer Guide is completed and was mailed to over 1150 people in early September. If you did not receive the prayer guide and would like a copy, please contact Margaret Cioch at Margaret.Cioch@paacs.net or download the prayer guide at <https://www.paacs.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PAACS-Prayer-Guide-2019.pdf>. Please use this handy tool to pray daily for the PAACS family. We covet your prayers for our PAACS residents, faculty, programs, graduates and leadership. It is truly prayer that sustains all that we do and impacts not only this ministry but God's people in need in Africa.

Over 130 applications for the proposed 28 new trainee slots in January have been received. The selection interviews are underway. We are excited to see who God will bring to join us.

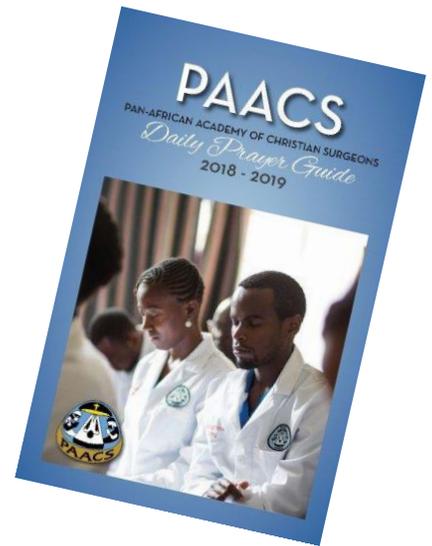
Please mark Monday, October 8, on your calendar as the PAACS 2nd Annual Day of Fasting and Prayer. Information about the day of fasting and the prayer points are included in the first article in this Bulletin. Please prayerfully consider joining us in fasting and prayer.

If you are attending the meeting at the American College of Surgeons meeting October 21-25, please plan on visiting the PAACS exhibit at the meeting. Please stop by and meet the PAACS team and learn more about what is going on in this ministry. Also mark your calendar to attend the PAACS/CMDA Surgical Section Reception. This reception will be held on Monday, October 22 from 5:30 pm-7:00 pm at the Sheraton Boston Hotel—Room Liberty A. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Margaret Cioch at Margaret.Cioch@paacs.net.

May God bless you for your continued prayers and support of PAACS. We are grateful for each of you and hold you before God in our prayers.

Blessings,

Susan Koshy
Executive Director



PAACS DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

PAACS will be holding its 2nd Annual Day of Fasting and Prayer on Monday, October 8th. Prayer when combined with fasting is very powerful and can help us to focus our minds and hearts on God. Fasting is when we voluntarily choose to sacrifice something of value for the purpose of seeking God with more intensity. Some people may choose to fast from food but others may choose to abstain from participating in something of significance to them (tv, social media etc.) on that day and focus their hearts on God and prayer.



We would be blessed if you join us in fasting and praying for PAACS. We have been blessed by the Lord and are seeing the hand of God move greatly upon this ministry as we seek Him. If you feel led by the Holy Spirit, please join us on October 8th or any day that week in fasting and praying for this ministry. In addition to those prayer requests found at the end of this Bulletin, please consider these points as well as you pray for:

- Wisdom, knowledge, understanding and blessings upon the PAACS residents in their studies, exams and balancing their lives.
- Strength, stamina, wisdom and blessings upon the PAACS faculty as they seek to train and mentor PAACS residents.
- Success and needed help for all of the 13 current PAACS programs and the 2 new programs that will begin in January 2019.
- Peace and stability in the 8 countries with PAACS programs.
- God will bring healing and help to the people within the PAACS family that are ill and facing difficulties.
- PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- God's grace, mercy, protection and provision will be upon all PAACS graduates and their families.
- God will bring His chosen long and short-term missionary and national surgeons to help train African residents in the PAACS training programs.
- God will bring His chosen and qualified African physicians to be trained as surgeons through the PAACS programs.
- God will provide wisdom and guidance to the PAACS Commission and administration to lead this organization. Pray for the Commission meeting to be led by the Holy Spirit on November 2-3.
- God will increase the finances of PAACS to be able to achieve all that He has called us to accomplish for His Kingdom. God will provide so we can train more residents and open needed programs throughout Africa.
- God will bless the PAACS donors and partners for the sacrificial giving of their finances, time and talent.
- Lea Scarce, wife of Ed Scarce, PAACS Spiritual Dean, underwent a bowel resection for a neuroendocrine tumor, praise God the surgeon seems to have gotten all the disease with no evidence of spread. Pray for her complete healing from the tumor and the surgery.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer. We are grateful for you. Please let me know if you have any questions at Susan.koshy@paacs.net.

STEFFES TO RECEIVE ACS-PFIZER AWARD

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Board of Governors (B/G) Surgical Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awards Workgroup has announced the recipients of the 2018 ACS/Pfizer Surgical Humanitarian Awards and Surgical Volunteerism Awards (<http://bulletin.facs.org/2018/09/surgeons-honored-for-volunteerism-and-humanitarianism-2/>).

The award recipients will be formally recognized at the Clinical Congress 2018 in Boston, MA, during the annual B/G reception and dinner October 23. Clinical Congress attendees are invited to hear the honorees speak at a Panel Session, Humanitarian Surgical Outreach at Home and Abroad: Reports of the 2018 Volunteerism and Humanitarian Award Recipients, at 9:45–11:15 AM on October 22 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, room 257AB.

Bruce C. Steffes, MD, FACS, a general surgeon from Linden, NC, will receive an International Surgical Volunteerism Award for his more than 20 years of providing surgical and administrative skill to underserved areas of the world.

Steffes, presently a part-time assistant professor of anatomy and surgery, Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lillington, NC, changed the focus of his life in 1997, retiring from his practice in Fayetteville, NC, to dedicate the rest of his career to international volunteerism. From 1998 to 2005, Steffes worked in many countries throughout Africa, Asia, and Central and South America in multiple mission hospitals, assisted the work of Samaritan's Purse in Afghanistan in 2002, and provided surgical services on Mercy Ships on several occasions.



Some of Dr. Steffes' most impactful work has been in Africa, working with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) since 2003. He was chief executive officer/executive director of PAACS from 2006 to 2014 and medical director from 2014 to 2016. Under his leadership, the organization grew from two sites in two countries to 12 sites in nine countries; from nine trainees per year to 76; from three graduates to 63 (55 general surgeons, seven pediatric surgeons, and

one head and neck surgeon); from eight volunteer short-term faculty to more than 200 per year; from one specialty program to four; and from two approved missionary faculty to 59. Notably, all PAACS graduates have stayed in Africa to practice and expand the surgical workforce in the continent. Many are interested in providing surgical training themselves, which represents the only sustainable solution to the workforce crisis throughout Africa.

Steffes continues to volunteer with PAACS as the editor of the PAACS Bulletin; as a consultant to the present chief medical officer, Dr. Thelander; and as a member of the general surgery advisory council. He is the PAACS liaison to COSECSA and is the deputy head of the COSECSA MCS examinations. He also directs the COSECSA School for Surgeons MCS cases for surgeons and has contributed to the new MCS curriculum. He serves as an FCS examiner for the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa and occasionally for the West African College of Surgery, both of which are close partners with PAACS with influence on the design of surgical community training in Africa.

On a personal ministry level, Steffes continues to coordinate the purchase or donation of medical equipment and surgical instruments to mission hospitals around the world. He also travels throughout the U.S., recruiting young surgeons interested in mission work, mentoring and guiding many of them regardless of his other time commitments.

Several people associated with PAACS have been past recipients of these Humanitarian Award and the International Volunteer Award. Dr. Dick Bransford from Kijabe Hospital won the Humanitarian award in 2010; Dr. Louis Carter, a missionary to Nigeria and editor of the PAACS textbook on rehabilitative surgery, won in 2011, Dr. Russ White of Tenwek Hospital won in 2014 and Dr. Dan Poenaru of BethanyKids won in 2015. Dr. Rebecca Naylor, a missionary to India and PAACS Council Member, won in 2016. Dr. Bob Cropsey, PAACS Advisory Council member was the Humanitarian Award winner last year. The very first International Volunteerism award was awarded in 2003 to Dr. Lowell Furman, one of the founders of World Medical Mission. Other past International Volunteerism Award winners who have served with PAACS include Dr. John Tarpley (2006), James O'Neill (2016) and Sherry Wren (2017)

An African missionary surgeon, **Roland R. Stephens, MD, FACS**, a general surgeon from Berrien Springs, MI, will receive a Surgical Humanitarian Award for his 50 combined years of surgical care to underserved populations around the world, primarily at the Karanda Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe.

Beyond direct surgical and medical treatment, Dr. Stephens was instrumental in starting the Karanda School of Nursing in 1964 alongside a nurse from the hospital. Through the school, Stephens assisted in training medical assistants, general nurses, and midwives who worked in the hospital and the community. Additionally, he initiated the hydrocephalus treatment program, which today treats more than 100 hydrocephalic children annually and oversaw the construction and opening of the hospital's tuberculosis ward, outpatient waiting shelter, and airstrip.

Dr. Stephens was forced to leave Karanda in 1978 because of the increasing danger of the war. While he practiced in Michigan from 1978–1995, he frequently traveled overseas on volunteer missions to underserved locations including Kenya, Rwanda, and Bangladesh. After retiring from active practice in the U.S. in 1995, he returned to Karanda to continue volunteering alongside his son, Daniel Stephens, MD, FACS, who had become, and remains, a leader at Karanda. The senior Dr. Stephens chose to work for the next 18 years, through his retirement and without remuneration, at Karanda to help fill the hospital's needs.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **PAACS Orthopaedic Surgeons Receive Board Certification:** PAACS Orthopaedic faculty members, Dr. Dan Galat (Kijabe Hospital) and Dr. Dylan Nugent, (Tenwek Hospital) took the oral exam for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) in late July. This was a precedent-setting event since they are the first orthopaedic surgeons to sit for this exam while practicing primarily in another country. The ABOS exam was held in Chicago, IL. They passed! PAACS is proud of the incredible work, energy and time that Drs. Galat and Nugent put into preparing for this exam and very thankful to those on the American Board of Surgery who helped change their rules, thereby making it possible for overseas physicians to sit the exam.



Galat (L) and Nugent (R)



(L to R): Susan Koshy (CEO), Keir Thelander (CMO), Mike Chupp (CMDA Executive VP), Bruce Steffes, Stan Key (previous spiritual dean), Bruce MacFadyen, and David Stevens (CMDA CEO)

- **PAACS Represented at Conference:** The CMDA-MedSend 2018 Healthcare Missions Leadership Summit was held once again at the SIM headquarters near Charlotte, NC on September 5- 7. Dozens of sending agencies focused on medical missions were there to participate. Rev. Stan Key was the spiritual speaker for the third year in a row. The theme of the conference was “Partnership” but there were good sessions on burnout, conflict resolution techniques and the need for healthcare administration in mission hospitals. Multiple small affinity groups also met.
- **PAACS Faculty in Train the Trainers Course:** Dr. Russ White and Dr. Frank Madinda, PAACS Program Directors, participated in the COSECSA Train the Trainers Course in Tanzania, September 10-14th. Dr. White was a facilitator at the course and Dr. Madinda attended to be trained as a future Master Trainer for COSECSA.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Errata:** Some received a version of last month’s *PAACS Bulletin* which stated that Juvenal Musavuli was from Rwanda. That was in error. He had been working there prior to arrival with PAACS but is from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **CMDA Announces New CEO:** Christian Medical & Dental Associations, the parent organization of PAACS, has announced that Dr. Mike Chupp will become the new Chief Executive Officer of CMDA. Chupp has a long history of leadership and service. He served, as a missionary surgeon for 20 years at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya (an integral part of the PAACS surgical faculty) and for many of those years was the medical superintendent of the hospital. In that role, he successfully led hundreds of missionary and national staff. He also actively practiced general surgery for seven years with a large Christian group in Michigan before his time in Kenya and during stateside homeland ministry assignments. Approximately two years ago, Chupp was asked to join CMDA in the Executive VP position. Mike will be inaugurated at the National Convention in May. Dave Stevens, previous missionary to Tenwek Hospital, has served 25 years as CEO with CMDA. Congratulations to Dr. Chupp!
- **Mark your calendar** for the following events you may wish to attend:
 - **Annual Day of Fasting and Prayer – October 8.** PAACS will also be holding our second annual day of fasting and prayer on Monday, October 8th with the corporate prayer call to follow in the evening. Please join us. If you are unable to fast and pray on October 8th, would you please consider another day that week.
 - **Prescription for Renewal, October 12 – 14, 2018.** In addition to the usual program of spiritual encouragement focused on medical missions, Dr. Lou Zirkle will oversee a SIGN nail course on

the Saturday afternoon. Register at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/prescription-for-renewal/>

- **American College of Surgeons PAACS/CMDA Reception**, Monday October 22, 2018. It will be held from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton Street, Boston, MA in Room Liberty A. Please respond to Margaret.cioch@paacs.net by October 8th if you plan to attend.
- **PAACS Commission and Council meetings** will be held November 2-3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, IL. Commission, Specialty Council and PAACS Committee members are invited to attend this meeting. All PAACS Program Directors and faculty in the US at the time are also invited to attend. We are asking that the Program Directors and faculty let us know (susan.koshy@paacs.net) that they will be in the US because we would like them to present about their program at the meeting.
- **Global Health Mission Conference**, Louisville, Kentucky, November 8 – 10, 2018. Register at <https://www.medicalmissions.com/events/gmhc-2018>. The sister conference, **Remedy**, will be held March 28 – 20, 2019 at the First Baptist Orlando Church in Florida.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the resident selection process that started this month – approximately 28 people will ultimately be selected! Pray that God will lead the right men and women to this training program and that the program directors and their teams will make the right decision as led by the Spirit.
- 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.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment in October (David Halter, Tim Berg, Rich Davis, Zach and Jen O'Connor, Ryan Hayton [also in Australia] and Debbie Eisenhut in the USA) – for their rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Pray for the programs which must cover their absence.
- We ask again for special prayer for Adam Davis and his family. His family has announced that the doctors feel that this is not a viral myocarditis but rather a genetic dilatory cardiomyopathy. Adam will face a heart transplant at some point in the future. The family is facing genetic testing and counseling as well as a likely disruption of their mission service. This is clearly a great shock. Pray for Adam's healing and for peace and wisdom for each family member of the Davis family as they respond to this serious health issue for Adam. Pray for Rich as he prepares for surgical practice in the US.
- Young Zoe mentioned in last month's PAACS Bulletin has arrived in Kenya from Galmi, Niger. Dr. Allison Calbalka, a pediatric cardiologist there on short term mission, confirmed that she has a ventricular septal defect and she has been scheduled for surgery in November when a congenital surgery team comes to Tenwek. Her father, Elvis, is using the time to take a rotation at Tenwek and Baby Zoe is thriving, gaining weight as she awaits surgery. Pray for them, please.

- Pray for Dr. Thelander who will be undergoing surgery in October 4th for a cervical disc problem. Please pray for skill and wisdom for the surgeon and for a prompt and unremarkable recovery and regaining of neurological function. Obviously, he will be out of touch for a while following the surgery.
- Praise God that both Dan Galat and Dylan Nugent passed their American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery boards – they are the first people to do so who did not collect their cases in N. America. This was after a decision by the Board to make this possible. This is a precedent setting event for missionary orthopaedic surgeons.

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