

Dear Friends of PAACS:

During the recent Global Surgery sessions at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, PAACS received several shout-outs. In one remarkable instance, Girma Tefera, the head of the ACS Operation Giving Back, stated that PAACS deserved credit as a stimulus for the new ACS-COSECESA global surgery program beginning in Hawassa, Ethiopia in 2019. God will receive the glory due Him! Ezekiel 37:5-6 reads, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath[a] enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord." Over the past 22 years, God has done exactly that with PAACS – clothing a barebones program with tendons and flesh to create a program that strives to give Him glory. Read on to meet three more faculty surgeons (more tendons!) joining PAACS and rejoice with us as to what God is doing system wide!

The Editor



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

PAACS PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

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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:

October was a month filled with blessings and tremendous fruit!

PAACS residents took the COSESCA written exams in early September. PAACS residents did extraordinarily well on the exams (see the first "News Short" article for details). Our residents are hard-working men and women who studied and put their trust in the Lord. The result of their dedication, diligence and faith is tremendous. They are remarkable people and we praise God for the accomplishments of these residents.

On October 8th, the PAACS family all over the world fasted and prayed for this ministry. It was a day focused on the Lord, praying for His blessings, love, strength, protection, provision and most of all His will to be done for all associated with PAACS. The day concluded with a time of corporate prayer where the PAACS leadership worshipped God and prayed and surrendered this ministry into His hands. It was a GREAT blessing.

Dr. Keir Thelander, Dr. David Thompson and I had the opportunity to meet with Admiral Tim Ziemer, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID in mid-October in Washington DC and to speak with him about the PAACS ministry. Later in the day, we presented PAACS to various USAID officials and shared the vision and mission of this ministry. We are exploring the feasibility of collaborations between PAACS and USAID for projects in the near future.

PAACS exhibited at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) meeting in Boston--October 22-24. Many people stopped by the PAACS booth to talk and learn about our work. The PAACS reception, held on the evening of October 22nd, was also well attended with our guests sharing fellowship and showing their support for this ministry. The PAACS events at the ACS were a great success and we were able to share our vision and work with many interested people.

PAACS released its 2017-18 Annual Report in October which details the work of PAACS between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. Thank you to the entire PAACS family for your prayers and support that is helping this ministry to grow and flourish. <https://www.paacs.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Annual-Report-2018.pdf>

Please pray for the upcoming PAACS Commission meeting to be held November 2-3 in Des Plaines, IL. Over 100 attendees registered to attend. Please pray for God's hand to be upon this meeting and that He will provide guidance and wisdom to the PAACS leadership. I am grateful for your prayers.

Blessings,

*Susan Koshy
Executive Director*

SELECTION OF NEW 2019 TRAINEES ONGOING

The selection of new trainees to begin training at the various PAACS sites in January of 2019 is ongoing. For many PAACS sites, the selection process is already complete but most applicants have not yet been notified awaiting completion at all sites. This increasingly complex undertaking should be completed in the next few weeks in time for them to announce their departure from their present positions and to move to their new sites of training.

PAACS received over 130 applications for 29 PAACS training slots. This is the largest number of applicants to date for the largest intake class to date. Keir Thelander, PAACS Chief Medical Officer, wrote, "This is the greatest number we have ever received and a reflection on how PAACS training is viewed in Africa."

The applicants come from 17 African countries and represent a diversity of backgrounds. The overall quality of academic performance of these candidates continues to increase as well. This year, PAACS has attempted to increase the number of applicants sitting the entrance exam. Though this has had some logistical challenges, in most situations it has added one more datum point to use in evaluating the resident for acceptance.

Overall, the training slots for the coming year breakdown into the following: 19 General Surgery, 2 Pediatric Surgery, 6 Orthopaedic, 1 Head and Neck Surgery, and 1 Cardiothoracic Surgery.

PLASTIC SURGEON JOINS BONGOLO HOSPITAL

by anDrew Huang

[Editor's Note: Andrew Huang, MD, FACS, FRCSC, prefers to go by "Drew". He is a plastic surgeon in the World Medical Mission Post-Residency Program. He is joined by his wife, Kimberley L. Huang, MBBS, MD, CCFP-FPA, who is an anesthetist. They and their children, Nolen and Solène, have recently arrived at Bongolo Hospital in the jungles of Gabon.]

In 2002, when I was starting medical school, I was unaware that Dave Thompson had recently given the keynote speech at the GMHC (Global Missions Health Conference) in Louisville: "The Doctor Must Die". I wasn't there to hear it; I had no thoughts or ambitions in missions. I was simply a preclinical medical student. A year later, a student named Kevin El-Hayek, who had briefly been my roommate during medical school, gave me the speech on cassette, implored me to listen it, and convinced me to attend the Louisville conference. It was there where I first heard about PAACS, first thought about missions, and first considered my role in God's kingdom as both a physician and a disciple of Christ.

The next decade saw me go on various mission trips on four continents, trying to figure out if long-term missions was a real possibility for me. I decided that I needed to have a fuller experience beyond just a few months in a hospital, so halfway through my residency, I decided to take a full year off and work with Bill Rhodes, a plastic surgeon at Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya. At the time (and still to this day), he was one of the few American-trained plastic surgeons (my chosen specialty) working in Africa.

My time at Kapsowar was a watershed moment for me in more ways than one. Halfway through my year there, I met a visiting medical student from Australia named Kimberley (who was, to my surprise, not actually Australian, but instead was Taiwanese-Canadian). After she left Kapsowar, we started dating long-distance between Kenya and Australia and then later (when I returned to the States to complete my residency) between California and Australia. We dated like that for three years before getting married in 2012. We wed three weeks after I had finished my residency and after I had begun my plastic surgery fellowship in St Louis.

Immediately after finishing my fellowship in 2013, Kim started her family practice residency in upstate New York. As she progressed through residency and we discussed various options of how to get onto the medical mission field, we decided to apply to go through the Samaritan's Purse Post-Residency Program, since Kim was soon finishing residency. We deferred entry into the program for a year after Kim got into a Family Practice Anesthesia fellowship spot in Saskatchewan, Canada. (FPA is a recognized subspecialty of general/family practice; historically more common to Commonwealth countries like the UK, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.)



I am by training a plastic surgeon with a fellowship in craniofacial surgery, board-certified in plastic surgery both in the US and in Canada. Kimberley is a family physician, also dually certified in the US and Canada, and she holds a Certificate of Added Competence in Family Practice Anesthesia (CFPC). We have two children now: Nolan (born 2015 during Kim's residency in New York) and Solène (born 2017 during our time in France while in language school).

We chose Bongolo Hospital in large part because of its PAACS residency program and the opportunity to not only teach but also to learn from the residents and other surgeons the wide breadth of surgery common to the African hospital. Bongolo also has a nascent program for anesthesiologists (good for Kimberley). Too, it gave us the opportunity to learn French. Our friends at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi (who I first met while living in Kapsowar) made an excellent argument for working in francophone Africa, and their example spurred us on to think likewise. Our 2017-2018 school year was spent in Albertville, France, in full-time language school.

Our desires are, of course, to stay long-term in Africa: to dedicate ourselves to mutually encouraging training, teaching, treatment, and discipleship. However, after finally landing in Gabon a couple weeks ago, we are more acutely aware (now more than ever) of the need to not think or plan too far ahead, but rather to day-by-day by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for us as we:

- Acclimate to the heat, humidity and bugs.
- Learn and navigate the complexities of the local Gabonese culture.
- Figure out schooling options for Nolan and develop a relationship with our nanny.
- Find balance between the demands of the hospital as a dual physician couple and the needs of our marriage and young children.

We continue to fundraise while with Samaritan's Purse, hoping to reach 100% of our anticipated career missionary budget by the time we finish with the Post-Residency Program and make the transition to a long-term sending agency. SP supports donations to our account in five currencies, and more information can be found at www.bit.ly/Huangs.

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

Helen Keller

NEW PAACS SURGEON SLATED FOR CAMEROON

By Michael Harling

[Editor's Note: Michael was born in Niger, West Africa to missionary parents. (Michael is a 4th generation SIM missionary!) His dad, Dave Harling, flew planes for SIM. Michael's family moved all over during his early childhood years but ended up in South Carolina. He attended Case Western Reserve University for college and the Medical University of South Carolina for medical school. He completed his 5-year surgical training at Greenville Health System as of June 2017. Jennifer was born and raised in Atlanta, GA. She went to the University of Georgia for undergrad and Mercer University School of Medicine for medical school. She did her pediatric residency training at Greenville Health System which she finished in June 2015. She practiced pediatrics in Anderson, SC, before moving to France. You can follow their blog at [This Harling Life](#), read more about their story at [About Us](#) and support them financially at [Give Now](#). They need to raise the \$50,000 to build their home at Mbingo.]

When I started university in 2004, I had no intention of becoming a doctor, let alone a surgeon. I was certain that I was destined to don a lab coat and work in a research laboratory for the rest of my life as a biomedical engineer. God had other plans. Through the circumstances of my first year at university, I ended up on a trip to Diriamba, Nicaragua with a group of people I barely knew at the time. God granted me an overwhelming sense of peace there and I knew in those moments I was supposed to serve Him overseas. It was shortly after that trip that I came to the realization that the type of benchtop research I thought I wanted to do does not transfer well to the developing world. Although God was slowly changing my trajectory, it was not until a mission trip to Galmi hospital during the summer after my third year of university that I had clarity about God's calling in my life -- I felt God calling me to medicine. By the time I went on a second trip to Galmi between my third and fourth years of medical school I was captivated by surgery and convinced God would have me serve with PAACS.

I met my wife, Jenn, a pediatrician, during our first year of residency. I told her about where I felt God leading me on our second date. It went something like: "Hey, I know this is only our second date, but I wanted to let you know that God is calling me to be a missionary surgeon in Africa and if you don't think that's something you are ok with, we probably shouldn't continue dating." Fortunately, that was not an

insurmountable hurdle. Jenn, in addition to being a great pediatrician, is a wonderful wife and an amazing mother to our two girls, Amelia (3) and Madelyn (16 months).



Our journey to serve at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Northwest Cameroon really started back during my fourth year of medical school when I was applying to surgical residency. I looked at many programs but only applied to ones that had some sort of international connection because of my desire to eventually go overseas. The program at Greenville Health System was a great fit. The program director, Dr. Dane Smith, was a missionary himself in Zimbabwe for some years and residents from the program are allowed to do month-long rotations at Mbingo. While I was never able to make it there during residency, I did see many of my co-residents come back from Cameroon, having been changed by the ministry going on there. I was fortunate to have great Christian mentors during my training. I realize how important that mentorship is both during the trials of becoming a

surgeon and in our walks of faith. I'm excited to be a part of that while training others with PAACS.

Because of the civil unrest in Cameroon, we have delayed our arrival there until sometime in 2019 and are currently studying French in Massy, France. Please pray that we will have effective language acquisition during our time in France and that God will open the doors for us to go to Mbingo at the end of our studies. Please pray that God will sustain both our medical knowledge and technical skills as we are outside the practice of medicine this year. Finally, please pray for our family during this season of transitions, that we would always seek Him first and rest in His promises.

At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."

Mother Theresa

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON JOINS TENWEK

[Editor's Note: Dr. McCoy has arrived in Kenya a few weeks ago as part of the Samaritan's Purse Post-Residency program. She did her undergraduate work at Harvard, her medical school at Duke, her MPH at University of North Carolina, her orthopedic residency at Harvard and her pediatric orthopaedic fellowship at Baylor U. This information was taken from her fund-raising page:

<https://www.wqm.org/missionary/mccoy>. She and Dr. Kiprono will be the only two faculty orthopedic

surgeons until the Nugents return next summer. She will begin her collection of cases for her board exam beginning in April – a huge task!}

By Amanda McCoy

I have been blessed with the wonderful privilege of embarking on a medical career, and God has led me every step of the way. I accepted God as my Savior when I was 12 years old. A few years later, I was introduced to missionary work as a physician when Dr. Chuck Bemm came to speak at Allegheny Center Alliance Church about his work at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya. Another influential figure God placed in my life was my father. My father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) when he was 42 years old. Witnessing my father's struggle with the loss of musculoskeletal function as a result of his MS was a formative influence on my life and my desire to pursue caring for patients with musculoskeletal conditions.



During college, God developed in my heart an interest in public health and advocating for and caring for the needs of underserved patients in service to Him and in love for others. By God's grace, I was accepted into a combined medical school and master's in public health program. During this period of great joy, I also experienced great sorrow. Shortly after I was accepted into medical school, my father passed away from MS at 58 years old. Even in the midst of the sorrow of losing my father, God used this to develop my passion for musculoskeletal care because I had witnessed firsthand the effects of the loss of lower and upper extremity function.

During my medical school training, God developed in me a passion and aptitude for surgery. Through the mentorship and encouragement of my academic mentors, I applied to orthopedic surgery residency. I have always been drawn to exploring how we can provide quality care to the neediest of patients as we as Christians are called to serve the children, the poor, and the widows. I have also felt a special connection with children both inside and outside of the hospital. As a result, I felt called to pursue additional orthopaedic training with a focus on pediatric musculoskeletal conditions.

In my last year of orthopaedic surgery residency, I went to Tenwek for seven weeks. During my time at Tenwek, I was awed by God's divine work there. However, I was also impressed by the continued needs, particularly for musculoskeletal health care and orthopaedic surgical education. God ignited a passion in me to return to Tenwek. I look forward to returning to Tenwek in the fall of 2018 to serve and care for patients in need of musculoskeletal care as well as to pursue surgical education as a form of ministry and encouragement.

SODDO RECEIVES \$500K USAID GRANT

The St. Luke's Health Care Foundation, which owns the Soddo Christian Hospital (www.soddo.org) in Soddo, Ethiopia, has announced the receipt a USAID/ASHA (United States Agency for International Development/American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) grant in the amount of \$500,000. The grant will allow the replacement of four operating rooms build in 2005 with a new 8-unit operation room complex.

Soddo Christian Hospital as been open since 2005 and has served over 260,000 patients and performed over 48,000 surgical procedures. The hospital has a staff of 375 and operates one of 10 surgical training hospitals in Africa. They have already graduated 13 surgeons through PAACS and have additional Ethiopian medical residents in various stages of training.

The 12,600 square foot building will replace the currently outdated 4 OR's built in 2005. SCH and St Luke's have leverage funds of \$484,000 to raise to complete the project. They have \$166,000 already in hand.

Originally, the request for funding had been for 2 million-dollar USAID grant for a 2-story building incorporating new OPD clinics, 8 ORs, lecture/conference rooms, library and on call rooms. The USAID did not grant that entire amount and there has been a scramble to plan differently.

Until the new building comes online in 2-3 years, the former ICU will be remodeled into a 5th and 6th operating room to relieve some of the stress for Ortho, General Surgery, OB/GYN and ophthalmology procedures.

In the planned new construction, there will be 2 rooms allocated to general surgery, 3 rooms for orthopedics, one for obstetrics and gynecology, one for emergencies and one for scopes. It is envisaged that general surgery rooms will be fitted out for laparoscopic surgery, endourology as well as for gastroscopy and colonoscopy. A dedicated area for cleaning and storing scopes adjacent to the OR has been designed. All this will improve efficiency and patient flow.

This new OR complex will dovetail with the newly opened post-anesthesia care (PACU) unit which, when fully developed with the present OR complex, will act as a pre-op and PACU unit, allowing a holding area for preanesthetic consultations as well as an area to perform local anesthetic blocks. This will hopefully decrease turnover times.

The present operating room complex will be remodeled to include on call rooms, male and female change rooms, and offices.

SEEN AROUND



Left: 2013 PAACS Graduate Jerry Brown (center) talks with Bob Cropsey (left) and Carl Haisch (right) at the PAACS reception at the American College of Surgery meeting.

Below: PAACS had a booth on the exhibit hall floor at the ACS meeting in Boston. (From L to R), Keir Thelander, Deborah Pedziwol, Bruce Steffes, Unidentified, Rosemary McFadyen, Bruce MacFadyen and Susan Koshy.



NEWS SHORTS:

- **All PAACS Candidates Pass COSECSA Written Exams:** Nine of the 30 FCS candidates for the COSECSA written exam were from PAACS and 100% passed (one was a graduate who was taking it a few years after he graduates). The overall passage rate for the FCS exam was 93.3% (28 of 30). On the MCS (Membership level) exam, 16 of the 72 candidates (22.2%) were from PAACS programs and all of them also passed. The overall passage rate for the MCS exam was 59 of 72 (82%). Daniel Joseph, a second-year resident from Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, had the highest score, achieving a grade 10% higher than anyone else in the MCS group. They will be taking the oral exams in December. The MCS exam will be on Monday, December 3 and the FCS exam on Tuesday, December 4. Both exams will be held in Kigali, Rwanda.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!

- **Tenwek Resident Presents at Association of Women Surgeons.** Wairimu N. Mugambi, chief resident at Tenwek Hospital, gave a paper on October 20 entitled, "Laparoscopic Heller Esophagomyotomy is Safe and Effective in Rural East Africa". This was part of the Starr Medical Student & Resident Poster Contest. The contest was named for Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, and is designed to facilitate interaction and idea exchange between students interested in surgery, surgical residents, and faculty members of various institutions. The Annual AWS meeting was held in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, October 20 – 23.

Nina Starr Braunwald, M.D., was one of the first women to train as a general surgeon at New York's Bellevue Hospital, from 1952 to 1955. A pioneer in the field of heart surgery, she led the team that was the first to replace a human heart valve (a valve which she has also designed). She was the first woman to be certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and the first woman to be elected to the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.



- **PAACS Neurosurgeon to Sit for Boards:** Dr. Will Copeland, a neurosurgeon at Tenwek Hospital, will be sitting his national boards in neurosurgery on Friday, November 3, after attending part of the PAACS Commission Meeting on Thursday. His precedent-setting situation is analogous to that of the two orthopaedic surgeons, Dr. Galat and Dr. Nugent, who recently sat their boards in orthopaedics. This is apparently the first time that an international neurosurgeon is using cases from his country of service as the center point of his examination. Please pray for his performance and peace during this examination.

- **Surgical Volunteerism International Award:** Bruce C. Steffes, MD, FACS, a general surgeon from Linden, NC, received the Surgical Volunteerism International Award from the American College of Surgery for his more than 20 years of providing surgical and administrative skill to underserved areas of the world. Steffes has served with PAACS in various roles since 2003. The award recipients were recognized at the Clinical Congress 2018 in Boston, MA, during the annual Board of Governors' reception and dinner October 23. Steffes spoke at a Panel Session, Humanitarian Surgical Outreach at Home and Abroad: Reports of the 2018 Volunteerism and Humanitarian Award Recipients, on October 22.



Celebrating with Bruce and Micky Steffes (seated) are (standing L to R) Prof King-David Terna Yawe (president of WACS), Prof Pankaj Jani (president of COSECSA) and Dr. Walt Johnson (Head of the WHO The WHO Programme for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (EESC)).

Several people associated with PAACS have been past recipients of these Humanitarian Award and the Surgical Volunteerism International 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).

- **Haisch Received International Teaching Award:** Carl Haisch, chairman of PAACS' general surgery council and long-time commissioner, was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Achievement in International Teaching Award for ECU university in Greenville, NC. The ceremony will be held on November 15th at the Murphy Center on Campus. In his letter to Haisch, Dr. Jon Rezek, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs at ECU, wrote, "It is clear from your application packet that you are among a select group of faculty [members] working to expand ECU's global impact and establish ECU as America's Next Great National University. The activities you are engaging in as a teacher, researcher, and leader are critical to building ECU's national and international reputation. Our students, our constituents in Eastern North Carolina, communities abroad, and the scientific and academic community worldwide benefit substantially from your endeavors."

It was his work with PAACS that impressed the committee. Haisch is also active in the exam process and faculty development efforts within PAACS.

- **Nugent in US Making Transition:** Dylan Nugent, his wife Jessica and his family returned home in May from Tenwek on their first home assignment and will be in the US until next summer. Besides all the adjustment and recovery to be made, they are also making the transition from being a post-resident missionary under Samaritan's Purse to a career missionary under World Gospel Mission. In

a recent newsletter, they wrote, “The remaining piece of the puzzle that sometimes looms large in our view is the need to be fully supported financially in order to return. We are grateful for the partial financial support that we had our first two years through Samaritan’s Purse’s Post-residency Program but now it is time for our support network to make up that difference. We **currently need an additional \$4,500** of monthly support so that we can set a return date and continue the good work that the Lord has started. Pray for us to not be discouraged but to continue to faithfully engage others and trust God to provide. It is a place of deep humility and dependence. Pray that many would be bold, trusting God, and partner with us. We would be delighted if our monthly needs were covered by the end of the year.”



If you would like to help, you can go directly to <https://www.wgm.org/missionary/nugent> and give there. Their blog address is www.dylannugentkenya.wordpress.com and that contains all their former posts.

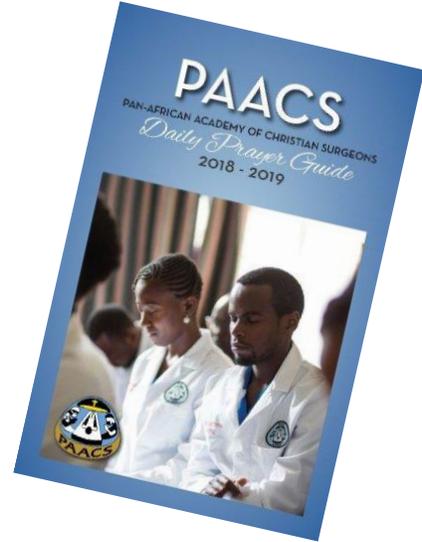
- **Article About PAACS Published:** Caleb Van Essen, a general surgery resident in Seattle, was the lead author on a newly published article about PAACS. “Increasing and retaining African surgeons working in rural hospitals: An analysis of PAACS surgeons with twenty-year program follow-up”. It was published online in early September and the abstract can be viewed at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00268-018-4781-9>. Co-authors included Keir Thelander, Bruce Steffes, Hsin-Fang Li and Margaret Tarpley. The study is a follow-up of a previously reported study. The abstract states (in part):

“The goal of our study was to define characteristics of PAACS alumni surgeons working in rural hospitals, documenting successes and illuminating strategies for trainee recruitment and retention.... PAACS’ twenty-year surgery residency database was reviewed for 12 programs throughout Africa regarding trainee demographics and graduate outcomes. Characteristics of PAACS’ graduate surgeons were further analyzed with a 42-question survey.

Results: Among active PAACS graduates, 100% practice in Africa and 79% within their home country. PAACS graduates had 51% short-term and 35% long-term (beyond 5 years) rural retention rate (less than 50,000 population).

Conclusion: Our study shows that PAACS general surgery training program has a high retention rate of African surgeons in rural settings compared to all programs reported to date, highlighting a multifaceted, rural-focused approach that could be emulated by surgical training programs worldwide.”

- **The PAACS 2018-19 Daily Prayer Guide** was completed and was mailed to over 1150 people in early September. If you did not receive the prayer guide and would like a printed copy, please contact Margaret Cioch at Margaret.Cioch@paacs.net or download the prayer guide at <https://www.paacs.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/PAACS-Prayer-Guide-2019.pdf>. Please use this handy tool to pray daily for the PAACS family.



- **PAACS Phone App Available:**

The PAACS Case Log has been rolled out in a fully functional form for use by registered faculty member and trainees. It is already available for Android users.

If you have been using the Android beta version, please let us know if there is any problem with its use. Use the <http://paacs.mydevstatus.info/> support ticket system to report any malfunction.

If you have an Android and NOT using the beta version, you can now download the Android version of the PAACS software from Google Play. Please do so at your earliest convenience.

If you have an I-Phone or I-Pad (IOS), it is available in the APP Store. Please download it and let us know if there are any issues. Use the <http://paacs.mydevstatus.info/> support ticket system to report any malfunction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Mark your calendar** for the following events you may wish to attend:
 - **PAACS Commission and Council meetings** will be held November 2-3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, IL.
 - **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.
 - **The 2019 M3 Conference** (Mobilizing Medical Missions) will be held February 22 – 23, 2019 at Lakewood Church in Houston, TX. Find out more at <https://m3missions.com/conference/#overview>

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for the exam performances by the PAACS residents. Pray for them as they study for their oral exams in December in Rwanda. Pray for those developing the exams so that they will be fair and of an international standard.
- Pray for wisdom, knowledge, understanding and blessings upon all of the PAACS residents in their studies, exams and balancing their lives.
- Praise God that Dr. Keir Thelander's surgery went well and he is recovering rapidly.
- Pray that God will bring His chosen long and short-term missionary and national surgeons to help train African residents in the PAACS training programs.
- Please continue to pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties. Pray for the Harlings and the Axts as they are in language school with an intent to serve at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.
- Pray for Dr. McCoy as she adjusts to the new realities and new culture at Tenwek Hospital.
- Pray for anDrew (plastic surgeon) and Kim (family practice anesthetist) Huang as they begin their service at Bongolo Hospital.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment in November (David Halter, Tim Berg, Rich Davis, Ryan Hayton, Will Copeland, Dylan Nugent, Mark Snell and Debbie Eisenhut in the US and Sherif Hanna in Canada) – 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.
- Pray for strength, stamina, wisdom and blessings upon the PAACS faculty as they seek to train and mentor PAACS residents.
- Pray for success and needed help for all of the 13 current PAACS programs and the 2 new programs (cardiothoracic at Tenwek and orthopaedics at Kijabe) that will begin in January 2019.
- Pray for peace and stability in the 8 countries with PAACS programs. There is special concern for Cameroon and Ethiopia. May the new president of Ethiopia help bring peace to that country.
- Pray that God will bring healing and help to the people within the PAACS family that are ill and facing difficulties.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Pray that many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- Pray that God's grace, mercy, protection and provision will be upon all PAACS graduates and their families.
- Pray that God will bring His chosen and qualified African physicians to be trained as surgeons through the PAACS programs. Pray for those who were recently selected and those yet to be selected – for the process of moving, adjustment to new culture and a new training paradigm, and for

their families. Pray for those who were not accepted – that God would give them peace and a new direction.

- Pray that 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. Pray for the Councils as they wrestle with the challenges of new programs, personnel changes and other things.
- Pray that 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.
- Pray that God will bless the PAACS donors and partners for the sacrificial giving of their finances, time and talent.
- Praise God for the way that PAACS is viewed by others in global surgery – may His name always be the focus of any glory and honor.

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