

Dear Colleagues,

*“The Silent Surgical Crisis” – This term was coined by one of our supporters and it is exactly what PAACS is addressing. We must stop our busy lives and see what God is doing in Africa. In this PAACS Bulletin, you will read about PAACS in Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Togo, Tanzania and even Australia. We are thrilled to announce that Jack Barasa has graduated from Kijabe Hospital in Kenya and will be joining the faculty there. He will be making the hard transition from trainee to trainer.*

*We will soon be choosing the next class of residents and thought we might give you some insight on how the process works. You will see how important is that God guides the entire process.*

*We (PAACS) are very pleased to be selected as the very first International Affiliate of MedSend. This highly respected organization has made a huge difference in the support of career medical missionaries and are now looking at ways to support nationals who have similar goals and aspirations.*

*We are also pleased to announce the availability of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PAACS textbook “Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa.” It is soon available for free download on our website, [www.paacs.net](http://www.paacs.net), in the “PAACS Resources” area of the website.*

*God is good – all the time!*

The Editors



## The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #106

**March 2013**



Wives are an important part of PAACS. This is the spouse group from Bongolo, Gabon.

“Changing the spiritual and physical health of a continent”

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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## PAACS EGYPT

In February, Dr. Sherif and Mary Lou Hanna joined Dave and Rebecca Thompson in Egypt. They traveled by vehicle two hours north of Cairo to visit Harpur Memorial Hospital, in Menouf, located halfway between Cairo and Alexandria in Egypt's fertile delta area. During their tour of the 75-bed facility, they learned that outpatient visits to the hospital have doubled since 2009, and in 2012 totaled 108,000 visits. The Hospital Director showed them plans to build a \$3.5 million outpatient clinic that will double its capacity, provide it with a well-equipped, eight-bed emergency department, conference rooms, and expanded diagnostic services. The new facility will significantly help the new PAACS program, as well as a new Internal Medicine residency program planned to start later this year.

The project to build a new outpatient clinic was developed by EMI (Engineering Ministries International) and is expected to double the number of people the hospital can serve. There are only two churches in Menouf, a city of 200,000 people, which has another 500,000 people living within a 25-kilometer radius. The two churches are the 100-member Anglican Church, which is on the hospital property, and an even smaller Orthodox Church in another part of town. The delta region of Egypt has one of the least-reached populations in the country, making the hospital's service to a patient population that is largely unreached and hence even more strategic.

The next day, the hospital driver drove them out into the desert to a beautiful new conference center being built by the Coptic Church. Approximately 350 Egyptian medical professionals came from all over Egypt to attend the four-day conference. About half were doctors and the rest dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and students. Thompson was one of seven plenary speakers and spoke three times on themes relating to suffering and medical missions. After the four-day conference ended, they participated in another four-day conference, this one hosted by the Anglican Church. The invited delegates included representatives from Egypt's eight Christian hospitals and representatives from six NGO's that are

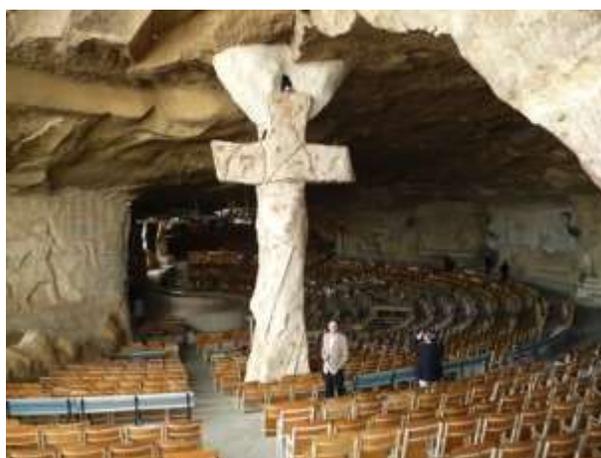


*Consecration of the members of the new Egyptian Christian Hospital Network.*

involved in helping them, including PAACS, the International CMDA, Health Outreach to the Middle East (HOME) World Medical Mission, EMI, PRIME, In His Image and others.

The program included visits to three of the hospitals which are located in Cairo, including one staffed by a remarkably courageous team of physicians and nurses who work right in the middle of one of Cairo's main garbage dumps (see photo of entrance below). That area is served by the Coptic "Cave Church."

At the end of the Strategy Conference, a historic moment for the Christian hospitals in Egypt occurred: the establishment of the "Egyptian Christian Hospital Network." For the first time, the Christian hospitals in Egypt joined together in a shared mission to care for all Egyptians--rich and poor alike--with the love of Christ and the proclamation of His truth. The new organization will work to improve the standards of care, share in training needed professionals and upgrading their staffs, purchase supplies and medicines, and collaborate in many other areas. Thompson writes, "We were deeply moved by the determination of the directors of these struggling hospitals directors and their love for Christ. Their determination to serve in unity and in proclaiming the truth is a reflection of the astonishing unity that has developed between Egypt's churches as a result of persecution."



The famous "Cave Church" that the Christians carved out of rock cliffs when they needed more space and were refused permission to build. Here are two separate cave churches, one (left) that can seat 25,000 people, and a smaller (right) one that seats 2,000 and is used during Winter.

## KIJABE HOSPITAL GRADUATES FIRST SURGEON

Dr. Jack Barasa became the first surgeon to graduate from the PAACS program at the AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kijabe, Kenya. Barasa is the 25<sup>th</sup> general surgeon to graduate from the PAACS Program since its inception. His graduation celebration was held on March 18.

Barasa has had a stellar academic performance during his training. In every examination that he took, whether administered by PAACS or by COSECSA, he has either had the highest score or tied with one other person for the highest score. He won prizes from COSECSA (College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa) for the highest score at both the MCS and FCS level.



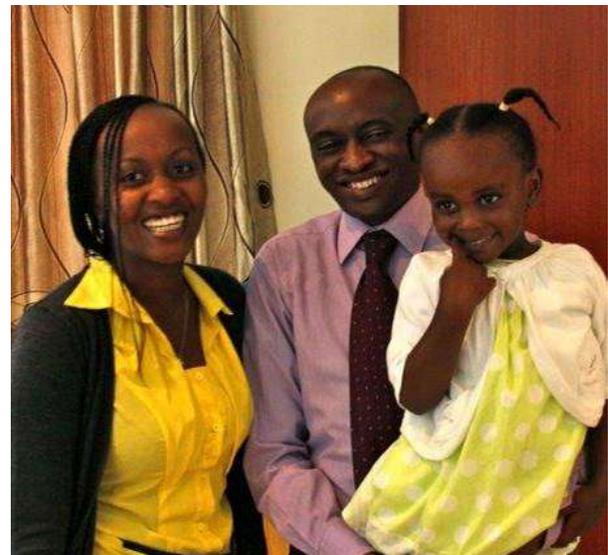
L to R: Irungu Juma, Jack Barasa, Rich Davis, Peter Byrd

After the celebratory Kenyan meal, Dr. Richard Davis, the Program Director, gave a summary of Jack's time at Kijabe and tried to summarize the keys to his success: constant reading of Schwartz, lots of time spent in the operating room, and an early bedtime for Tanya. Dr. Peter Bird, Head of Surgery and Medical Director, gave Jack a portable pulse oximeter as a gift. He reminded Jack that every time he puts it on a patient's finger, he should consider both the patient's physical and spiritual state. Dr. Peter Nthumba, Medical Education Director,

encouraged Jack to consider the spiritual legacy that he (Jack) would create. Dr. Irungu Juma, one of the Consultant Surgeons, recalled his time in training at the University of Nairobi. He stated that he prayed to God to increase the number of Surgery training programs in Kenya, and that he is pleased to see God answering his prayers!

Barasa will stay on faculty at Kijabe Hospital and continue to train subsequent PAACS surgeons. Jack and his wife, Immaculate, have a 3 year old daughter, Tanya.

Rich Davis, Program Director at AIC Kijabe Hospital, is justifiably proud of his first graduate. He writes, "Of all the things I do as an expatriate surgeon practicing in Kenya, training residents in surgery is by far the most rewarding. Doing a successful operation is a good thing. But infinitely better is working alongside young African doctors, watching them progress and improve year after year, knowing that they will perform successful operations on their own, and train others to do the same. That's what gets me out of bed every morning."



## PAACS IN TOGO

The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the West African College of Surgery was the occasion for several PAACS-related surgeons to gather in Lomé, Togo March 10 – 15, 2013.

Bob Cropsey (PAACS Advisory Council Member), Wayne Koch (PAACS Commissioner), Jim Brown (Mbingo Baptist Assistant Program Director) and Bruce Steffes (PAACS Executive Director) were there to attend the meeting and to raise the flag for PAACS. Eric Miller, a new career general surgery missionary at the Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Kpele-Tsiko and another short-term general surgeon, Dave Kuehler from Albany, NY, were also with the group.



Back Row (L to R): Unknown, Bruce Steffes, Wayne Koch. Front Row (L to R): Jim Brown, Dave Kuehler, President Ogedengbe, Eric Miller, Unknown, Christopher Bode

Cropsey was instrumental in the development of the Baptist Hospital in Togo. They are presently building a second satellite hospital in the far north of the country in the town of Mango. This part of the country is overwhelmingly Islamic but the locals invited the Baptists to come and build a hospital there anyway. The hospital is still under construction and will open in about two years. Two more surgeons have committed to join the work in Togo within the next few years.



Front row: Dr. Jim Brown and Dr. Wayne Koch. Second row: Dr. Dave Kuehler, Dr. Eric Miller, and technician

On Thursday, after the conference, the group rode up to the Baptist hospital in Kpele-Tsiko which is located about 3 hours north of the capitol city of Lomé to visit the hospital and to talk to the other missionaries there about the requirements to host a PAACS training program. As is often the case when a specialist shows up, there was a need for expert consultation and surgery. On Friday, Wayne Koch and a team of the surgeons removed an advanced but node-negative squamous cell carcinoma which had fistulized through the right cheek. The resection of soft tissue, hemimandibulectomy and pectoral flap reconstruction took five hours but offered a chance of cure to this young man.

## AUSTRALIAN SURGEON MAY JOIN PAACS

Andrew Chew came to Australia as a boy when race riots against the Chinese occurred in Malaysia where his family was living. Despite the cross-cultural and language difficulties, he thrived in school and graduated from medical school. His surgical training and much of his subsequent professional life has been centered on Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. A year after he became a Fellow in the Australian Royal College of Surgery in 1990, he completed a Certificate program in Christian Life and Ministry in the London (England) Bible College. Now an advanced laparoscopic surgeon and assistant professor of surgery, he has balanced his fascination with advanced technology with frequent trips to the developing world to work in mission hospitals. He has had a long relationship with some of our PAACS hospitals and has been a strong supporter of PAACS



Andrew Chew, Sok Hui Chew, Bruce Steffes, Micky Steffes

Harold Adolph mentored Chew when he worked at Galmi Hospital in Niger from 1992-1995. He maintained links with Galmi Hospital, visiting in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2011. He also visited Ethiopia with Harold Adolph and worked in Soddo 2000. It was during this trip that Adolph firmed up the vision of building Soddo Christian Hospital. Chew has also visited Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon in both 2005 and 2006 working with Steve Sparks during those visits.

Chew's wife, Sok Hui, is also a physician practicing internal medicine and palliative care in Adelaide. The Chews met with Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Steffes during their recent visit to the city and hosted an evening meeting at their church to spread the word about PAACS.

The Chews have three grown children, two of whom are still in medical school. The third is already a physician.

Andrew and Sok Hui are praying about the next steps forward and have not yet decided about their place of service. They will need to confirm details about a sending agency and raise their funds. Please join them in praying for clarity and their soon arrival at a PAACS program.

## PAACS ETHIOPIA HOLDS RETREAT

*[Editors' note: This is a verbatim report from Paul Gray, the Program Director of the PAACS Ethiopia program which includes both Soddo Christian Hospitals and Myungsung Christian Medical Centre.]*

"There are many challenges to developing a residency program spread between two hospitals separated by 330 kilometers. One key issue is unity. How can we keep this as one program, united in purpose and spirit and working together, instead of drifting into a situation where each site runs parallel lives that don't intersect while we claim unity in name only? One thing we would like to do is institute a biannual retreat



The PAACS-Ethiopia residents pose for the photo taken during the recent retreat

for the entire program; a time to get together, encourage each other, celebrate God's victories, pray for our challenges, and look forward to where God is leading.

"PAACS Ethiopia had its first retreat on the weekend of March 9-10, 2013. It was held at Myungsung Christian Medical Center (MCM) and included all of the residents. Since such a get-together is so useful and rare, we also took advantage of the time to meet other needs. On Friday, March 8, we interviewed the applicants for next August's admission cycle. On Friday evening, we held a dinner for the applicants and all of the current residents. It was a good day, and God seemed to provide a strong sense of clarity about the situation. As this is the first admission cycle for the combined program, we are thankful for this particular example of unity.



Front Row (L to R: Drs. Daniel Chang, Chi Chung, Paul Gray, Duane Anderson, and Jon Pollock. Back row (Left to right): Shigute, Surafel, Daniel, Moges, Ronald, Netsanet (admin assistant), Efeson, Dejene, Segni.

“On Saturday morning, we met at MCM and were blessed to have a time of lecture and discussion about the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Because of the need for discretion, I will not mention the speaker. It was a very helpful talk about the history of the church and included the speaker’s insight about building meaningful and redemptive relationships with Orthodox believers. There is a long history of difficult relations between the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and protestant believers, and this has proved to be a huge challenge in the spiritual ministry of PAACS in Ethiopia. It was good to learn more about the situation and how better to engage in loving relationships, and hopefully avoid unnecessary affronts.

“In the afternoon, we simply took some time to be together and recount some of the victories God has given thus far. We started the time by reading Psalms 105 and 106, an example of Israel’s habit of reviewing its history, both in terms of God’s faithful provision and His grace and mercy in light of Israel’s failure to respond properly. Duane Anderson shared about the history of PAACS at Soddo Christian Hospital, pointing out many places where God provided along the way. The floor was then opened and many others told stories and examples of God providing to allow PAACS to grow to its current state in Ethiopia today. Finally, we spent time in corporate prayer, specifically asking for God’s guidance and continued provisions with the future challenges.

“Again, taking advantage of the present people, we held our first residency review committee meeting. Then we enjoyed another meal of celebration together before parting ways to return to our respective hospitals. It was a good time to pause and realize all that God has done. There are always challenges. But God has proven Himself faithful and He continues to do so.”

## **PAACS RESIDENT SELECTION UNDERWAY**

During the first two weeks of April, the PAACS programs in Ethiopia, Niger, Cameroon and Gabon will make their selections from the pool of approved applicants. This is the end of a long and arduous process for applicants and the administration. It starts at the PAACS website ([www.paacs.net](http://www.paacs.net)). Prospective applicants go to the “Get Involved” page and download the application form, which can be completed on a computer and sent to [admissions@paacs.net](mailto:admissions@paacs.net) or printed off, filled out and mailed to the home office.

There are three parts to the application form: Section I asks for the applicant’s personal and educational information; Section II asks the resident to write (in English) why he wants to train to be a general surgeon with PAACS; and Section III asks the resident to write (in English) how he came to faith in Christ.

On the last page of the application, there is a list of required documents that the applicant must scan and send to the admissions officer. This includes a completed PAACS Health and Physical Examination Form, and letters of recommendation from the applicant’s pastor and from a medical colleague who has directly observed the applicant.

The next-to-last step in the application process is the completion of a 3 to 5 page paper (in English) describing in the applicant’s own words the best and most current management of a medical condition frequently seen by general practitioners. The subject is assigned by the admissions officer and the applicant has one week to complete it and return it to PAACS.

The last step in the application process is a phone interview with the PAACS Director for Africa. Applications that meet the Admission Committee’s requirements are placed on a Waiting List. Each year our training programs in Gabon, Cameroon, Niger and Ethiopia select residents from the list in early April. The Program Directors review all the applications from the pool of approved candidates and are free to

call the various candidates to talk to them directly. They then make their list of preferred candidates and send it to the Director for Africa and the Executive Director. There is a process to break any “ties”. After the selections are agreed upon, the program directors invite their preferred candidates to become trainees at their sites. Applicants who accept the invitation from a PAACS hospital from the programs in these countries must arrive at their training site no later than August 1. Applicants are responsible for the initial travel costs and visas. Accepted applicants who do not already have financial sponsors may apply to PAACS to support them during their training, using a form that can be found on the website that includes the conditions for the financial support.

The expense of continent-wide advertising is prohibitive for PAACS and most applicants hear about the program by word of mouth or by recommendation from our current residents or from missionaries. This year, there may be as many as five applicants from which the Ethiopian program at Soddo Christian Hospital and Myungsung Christian Medical Centre may choose. They have three slots to fill. The Ethiopian programs (like the Kenyan programs will do for their candidates in November) have the luxury of face-to-face interviews and those interviews have already taken place (see the story about the PAACS Ethiopia retreat in this *PAACS Bulletin*). For West and Central Africa, the training programs are at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon, Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, and SIM Galmi Hospital in Niger. They rely on phone interviews. These training programs may have as many as ten candidates to choose from to fill their six slots. This year the applicants for these programs are from Burundi, Zambia, DRC, Cameroon, and Sierra Leone. Despite the fact that face-to-face interviews are not always possible, system-wide the attrition for PAACS programs is actually lower than in the United States where such interviews are usual.

The two PAACS Training Programs in Kenya are at Kijabe Hospital and Tenwek Hospital. They make their selections in October or November for a January 1 start date.

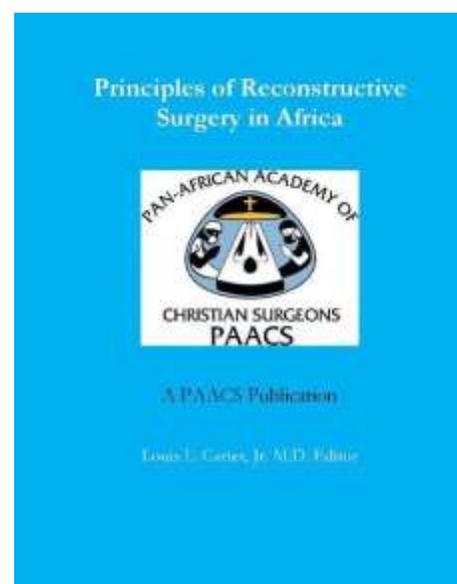
Pray that God will guide the program directors and Admissions Committee as they decide who to select for which training program, and for the applicants as they anxiously await God’s leading and direction in their lives.

## **PAACS RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY TEXT AVAILABLE**

PAACS is pleased and proud to announce the soon availability of the second textbook in the proposed series of PAACS textbooks. “Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa” is available after April 15 for free download from the PAACS website. Over 18 months ago, Dr. Louis Carter took up the challenge of creating a textbook for reconstructive and plastic surgery which would focus on the diseases and techniques available in resource-poor areas of the world. He gathered experts with both academic and practical experience in Africa to add to his experience and compiled a treasure of wisdom and surgical experience in the resource-poor areas. This 628 page textbook is the result of their work.

The Associate Editors are:

David Chang, MD, FACS



Mike Cheatham, MD, FACS  
Mike Miller, MD, FACS  
Peter Nthumba, MEd (Surg), FCS(ECSA)  
Anthony Smith, MD  
Earl Stephenson, DDS, MD  
Blair Summitt, MD  
John Woods, MD, PhD, FACS  
Bob Weber, MD

The chapter authors are:

Louis Carter, MD, FACS	Mark W. Newton MD, FAAP
Peter Nthumba, MMed (Surg), FCS(ECSA)	J. Blair Summitt, MD
Tertius H. J. Venter, MB, ChB MMed, FCS (SA)	Ben Warf, MD, FACS
Bill Rhodes, MD, FACS	Jennifer Durham, MEd, OTR/L, CHT
Paul Lim, MD, FACS, FCP	Gay Lynn McCrady, OTR
Einar Eriksen, MD, FCS (ECSA)	

The chapters are:

Chapter 1: Wound Healing, hypertrophic scars and keloids. Bill Rhodes and Louis Carter  
Chapter 2: Chronic wounds and ulcers. Louis Carter  
Chapter 3: Skin grafts. Tertius Venter and Peter Nthumba  
Chapter 4: Wound Closure with Negative Pressure Therapy (VAC). Peter Nthumba and Louis Carter  
Chapter 5: Regional Anesthesia for Plastic Surgery. Mark Newton  
Chapter 6: Facial trauma and Reconstruction. Tertius Venter  
Chapter 7: Facial Fractures. Tertius Venter  
Chapter 8: Cutaneous Lesions. Paul Lim  
Chapter 9: Head and Neck Tumors. Peter Nthumba  
Chapter 10: Jaw Tumors. Peter Nthumba and Tertius Venter  
Chapter 11: Neural Tube Defects. Benjamin Warf and Louis Carter  
Chapter 12: Cleft Lip. Paul Lim  
Chapter 13: Cleft Palate. Paul Lim  
Chapter 14: Noma (Cancrum Oris). Tertius Venter and Louis Carter  
Chapter 15: Burn Reconstruction. Einar Eriksen  
Chapter 16: Abdominal Wall Reconstruction. Blair Summitt and Michael Cheatham  
Chapter 17: Pressure Ulcers. Peter Nthumba  
Chapter 18: Fournier's Gangrene. Louis Carter  
Chapter 19: Hidradenitis Suppurativa. Peter Nthumba  
Chapter 20: Flaps for Wound Coverage and Tissue Expanders. Louis Carter  
Chapter 21: Lower Extremity Reconstruction. Louis Carter  
Chapter 22: Perforator Flaps. Peter Nthumba  
Chapter 23: Upper Extremity Reconstruction. Tertius Venter  
Chapter 24: Tendon and Nerve Injuries. Louis Carter and Jennifer Durham  
Chapter 25: Hand Fractures and Dislocations. Bill Rhodes and Louis Carter  
Chapter 26: Carpal Bone Fractures and Dislocations. Tertius Venter  
Chapter 27: Hand Infections. Louis Carter

- Chapter 28: Hand Tumors. Tertius Venter and Louis Carter
- Chapter 29: Congenital Hand Deformities. Louis Carter
- Chapter 30: Compartment Syndrome and Volkman's Contracture. Louis Carter
- Chapter 31: Neurofibromatosis. Peter Nthumba and Louis Carter
- Chapter 32: Hand Therapy. Jennifer Durham
- Chapter 33: Rehabilitation of the Burn Patient. Gay Lynn McCrady
- Chapter 34: Positioning and Range of Motion for the Prevention of Contractures. Gay Lynn McCrady

Carter and the authors have striven to provide help to general surgeons and others who do not have specialized training in reconstructive and plastic surgery. Carter writes, "The authors look forward to your comments and suggestions. Though initially this book was intended for Africa, most of the chapters will be applicable to conditions around the world. We trust this publication will help you take better care of your patients and that your patients will experience the love and compassion of Jesus Christ in your hospital. Our prayers are that many of your patients with the stigma of their deformities and disabilities will come to know Jesus Christ as the Great Physician and as the only one who can give them forgiveness of sins, eternal life and the promise of a perfect body in eternity."

Bruce Steffes, Executive Director of PAACS, writes in his foreword to the new textbook, "This book is first and foremost designed to be practical in the setting of limited resources. The authors, comfortable in the most advanced of operating theatres, recognize that not all of the latest technologies are appropriate, affordable or available and that many of the older techniques give very acceptable results and work better in the world in which under-resourced surgeon finds himself. The editors and his hand-picked team of authors are experienced in the world of missionary medicine, especially in Africa....This book is the labor of love and represents long hours of work. It is being offered to qualified physicians and surgeons [around the world] without cost....I know that all of us who work in the developing world see daily the chronic wounds, burn contractures, congenital and acquired deformities and tumors both great and small that mock us and belittle our abilities. I know that there will be thousands and tens of thousands of patients helped through this book – and a lot of surgeons, formally trained or otherwise, who will be blessed by the availability of this amazing textbook."

The book can be downloaded in PDF format at no cost from [www.paacs.net](http://www.paacs.net). Look on the "PAACS Resources" area of the website. There is no charge for the book.

The PAACS Orthopedic Curriculum, a textbook for general surgery residents edited by Dr. Douglas Lundy has been in use by PAACS residents since January 2011. It was the first of what we hope will be a series of PAACS textbooks for specialty surgery in resource-poor environments.

Dr. Carter and his amazing team of plastic and reconstructive surgeons deserve a great vote of thanks and sustained applause for creating this resource for us all!

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **PAACS Ethiopia Receives Full Accreditation from HERQA:** The Ministry of Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance has re-evaluated and given full three-year accreditation status to the Ethiopian PAACS surgical program. It is retroactive for two years and therefore another update will be due in one year. The program had hoped for a five-year accreditation.

On December 25, a team from HERQA and the Ministry of Education visited the hospitals to follow-up on the areas for which the program had been cited. The team of Gray, Pollock and Chung has been working since that time to tighten up several areas and the PAACS website has also been revised to address some of the government's concerns. The final revisions were turned in about a month ago. On March 14, Dr. Pollock was very pleased to pick up the letter giving them full recognition.

- **Prayer Requested for PAACS Semi-annual Meeting:** The April meeting of the PAACS Commission will be held at Comfort Inn Motel in Des Plaines, IL near the O'Hare international airport. It will begin at noon on Friday April 5 and go past noon on Saturday April 6. Bruce Steffes, Executive Director of PAACS, says, "As usual, there are many issues to discuss, including our financial status, the planned addition of new programs next January, the need for additional administrative support, the expansion of the Commission membership and the challenges our programs and faculty members face on a personal and institutional level. Spiritual warfare is alive and well and we need the prayers of the Friends of PAACS to ensure that God's will is done – and not ours. Pray for both faith and wisdom as we meet."
- **PAACS First International Affiliate of MedSend -** The MedSend board unanimously approved PAACS to be the first MedSend "International Associate". This is a pilot program seeking ways to help with the educational needs of nationals. The details are still pending but it is likely that they will be supporting of two residents this year and increasing the number in the future. They already have more than 76 mission agency and sending agency named as MedSend Associates.

The MedSend website ([www.medsend.org](http://www.medsend.org)) reads, "Since being founded in 1992, MedSend has approved educational loan repayment grants to almost 500 healthcare professionals serving around the world. They serve in areas of deep physical and spiritual need, many of them in areas of the world untouched by the gospel. As healthcare providers, some are welcomed in areas that are closed to evangelism. Grant recipients staff and run mission hospitals and rural clinics, which often involves training and mentoring Christian nationals as caregivers." There is an obvious parallel and synergy with the goals and ministry of PAACS.



- **Soddo Takes Receipt of CT Scanner –** A CT Scanner has been delivered to Soddo Hospital. This will be just the 11th CT scanner in the country of Ethiopia, with a population of 80 million. Extensive preparations have been made to make sure that the electrical power is stable and the machine can be properly maintained. A Norwegian radiologist, Dr. Karl Roth, along with his wife, Ingeborg, will be available to assist in its correct installment and function. A team of electricians will also be coming. This will be the



third CT scanner within the PAACS network. In a related story, the government has granted a one-year exclusion from import duties and gave permission for a \$3.5 million dollar construction project.

- **Graduate Corner – Visit with Etuh:** Dr. Ighohwo Etuh, 2010 PAACS graduate from Soddo Christian Hospital, visited with Bruce Steffes, PAACS Executive Director during Steffes' recent trip to northern Ghana. Etuh is presently working at the Tamale Teaching Hospital in Tamale, Ghana and is a part-time lecturer at the medical school there. He is one of two general surgeons working at the teaching hospital but states that since the other surgical sub-specialists are few in number, his broad training in general surgery comes in handy. His caring for patients and the



hard work that it entails has given cause for the other physicians there to ask “Does this hospital belong to your father? Why are you working so hard?” but when he points out that he treats patients as they want their family members treated, they fall silent. He stated that he feels that his surgical education has been shown to be superior to many others he has worked with even though his PAACS certificate has not been fully accepted by the government. At the hospital, he is allowed to function fully as a surgical specialist but his reimbursement lags behind, being reimbursed

only at the level of a senior medical officer. He reported that his wife is enjoying her African clothing import business and trying to do evangelism work as her limited local language skills permit. His five year old son is enjoying a private school there in Tamale. They have found a good church home and feel blessed. They have last visited their family home in Nigeria last October.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Over 400 Likes!** – As of mid-March, the PAACS Facebook page passed the milestone of 400 “likes”. Friends of PAACS who are on Facebook and friends of friends on PAACS on Facebook are encouraged to “like” our page. Please help us reach more by encouraging your Facebook friends to like us? <https://www.facebook.com/PAACS>
- **Home Assignments:** The following PAACS surgeons are on home assignment presently or will be soon. Please pray for them.
  - **Erik Hansen** – March 24 – Aug 24, 2013
  - **Jon Pollock** – April – July, 2013
  - **Rich Davis** – April – August, 2013
  - **Duane Anderson** – May 5 – 20

- **Mbingo Surgeon Grandfather Again, and Again, and Again** – Congratulations are due Dr. and Mrs. Jim Brown of Mbingo Baptist Hospital PAACS program. On recent quick trip back to the US, they were introduced to their 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grandchildren for the first time. The last two were born less than a week apart this month.



This is Elisabeth Sparrow Bechtel, born December 29, 2012. She is grandchild #5.



Carolyn Brown dotes on Lucinda Catherine Baer, born March 12, 2013. She is grandchild #6.



Granddaddy Jim admires Weston Cody Ledford, born March 18, 2013. He is grandchild #7.

- **Articles about PAACs:** The Spring/Summer edition of the U magazine, the organ of the UCLA health system and David Geffen School of Medicine, has featured a short article about Chi Chung, PAACS faculty member at Myungsung Christian Medical Centre. Please read it at: <http://magazine.uclahealth.org/body.cfm?id=6&action=detail&ref=981> . A second article about the PAACS is posted at <http://www.lapidomedia.com/exclusive-ethiopia-first-african-trained-pediatric-surgeon-offers-glimmer-hope-children>. The author hopes also to do a future bilingual version in English and Arabic on the electronic magazine of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, [Orient and Occident](#).
- **Help Needed at Banzo Hospital:** Professor Tih has asked for assistance in identifying a general surgeon to help cover Banzo Baptist Hospital between June 16 and August 15 when Dr. Yali will be on extended leave and Dr. Ngock will be there alone. Both are PAACS graduates and Banzo was a previous site of PAACS training. If you might be willing to serve at Banzo Hospital during this time to help our graduates and the hospital, please communicate with either Professor Tih ([piustih@cbchealthservices.org](mailto:piustih@cbchealthservices.org)) or Jim Brown ([Jimbrownjab@aol.com](mailto:Jimbrownjab@aol.com)) directly. World Medical Missions does not have an agreement with this hospital.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for all He has done with PAACS. Please pray for the PAACS Commissioners and invited visitors as they convene in Chicago in early April to again prayerfully consider what God would have PAACS do in the near future.
- Praise God for the quiet Kenyan elections. The absence of violence and the general prevalence of peace throughout the country was an answer to prayer.
- Praise God that He is providing surgeons to train deserving young African physicians. Pray for the Bradley family in Galmi, David Halter family (headed to Arusha, Tanzania), the David Hardin

family (headed to Soddo, Ethiopia) and the Andrew Chew family (still waiting on God) as they seek to prepare for their moves to Africa. Pray that their anxieties, insecurities and concerns will be put to rest; that their needs will be met and that they will follow the Lord's call on their life.

- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia, and Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.
- Pray that God will call a second pediatric surgeon to join Dr. Eric Hansen at Bethany Kids, Kijabe, Kenya. The program urgently needs two surgeons to continue training its fellows and coverage while Dr. Hansen returns to the U.S. later this year for a six month furlough.
- Praise God for PAACS Ethiopia's accreditation from the government agencies!
- Pray for those who are on furlough, returning from furlough or about to go. Pray that they will get rest and rejuvenation and when possible will spread the word about what is being accomplished in Africa.
- Pray for our missionary surgeons as they face stress, culture shock, fatigue, family issues and personal health issues.
- Pray for all of our graduates as they face the stresses of practicing medicine and strive to uphold the name of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Program Directors and the Director for Africa, David Thompson, as they select the residents for the various programs in Gabon, Cameroon, Ethiopia and Niger. Pray for wisdom and God's hand in all that is done.

Editors:

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