

Dear Colleagues,

At Christmas time, it is so good to pause and remember the babe in the manger who eventually would be the sacrificial Lamb on the cross and then the risen Lord and Savior who reigns today. It is Him who we serve because He first loved us. What a profound truth!

We want to pause to recognize and thank all of you who have prayed for us, given to promote the ministry and served with us this past year. God is good – all the time! “We” are not making PAACS happen, God is and we have the honor and pleasure of sitting at the feet of the Great Physician as He heals both mind and soul.

If you would like to help us make our budget this year, you still have a week left to give a tax-deductible gift for this year. Please send your gift to CMDA-PAACS, PO Box 9906, Fayetteville, NC 28311-9906 or give via credit card at <https://www.cmda.org> (Select “missions” and then “PAACS”). It must be postmarked before December 31 to count for this year.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year in Christ’s riches!

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #114

December 2013



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.

Front of the medal given for BEST STUDENT at the COSECSA Exams – PAACS personnel won THREE!

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A Ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations



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PAACS AT ZIMBABWE COSECSA MEETING

On Monday, December 2, and Tuesday, December 3, PAACS residents and several Consultants underwent the oral examination for the MCS level (Member of the College of Surgery) and the FCS (Fellow of the College of Surgery) exams given by the College of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Drs. Elsie "Mesh" Mwanzia, and Gerald Ekwen successfully passed the FCS level in general surgery, as did Dr. Jon Pollock. Ekwen won the Best Student – FCS award. Two attending surgeons in orthopedics (Drs. Dan Galat and Kiprono Koech) passed the FCS-orthopedics exam. Dr. Galat won the Best Student – FCS orthopedics and also was named the best overall. He will receive the Gerald O'Sullivan award next year when he is officially inducted. Dr. Martin Situma and Aiah Lebbie in pediatric surgery passed their respective FCS exams. Dr. Situma received the Best Student – FCS Pediatric Surgery. Drs. Okemwa-Machiro, Seno, Kanyi, Mwangi, Ooro, Moges, Segni, Ebhele, Nzanzu, Mifila, Nesoah, Mwenyemali and Ngock all passed the MCS level oral exam. Two PAACS residents will have to take the exam again next year. Daniel Gidabo, who was to sit for the FACS exam, was never able to get a visa to Zimbabwe and will also sit the exam for the first time next year.



Thirty-five people gathered around the table in Harare to celebrate the fine performance on the COSECSA exams and to celebrate the induction of the new fellows.

Joe Starke was made a Fellow of COSECSA by election. Starke is the Program Director at the SIM-Galmi Hospital in Niger.

Dr. Rich Davis of Kijabe and Dr. Joe Starke of Galmi were invited observers to the two exams. Dr. Russ White of Tenwek is one of the two Kenyan representatives to the Council and a member of the PAACS examination committee. He and Bruce Steffes, Executive Director of PAACS, participated as examiners of the 40 general surgeons who took the MCS exam and the 7 general surgeons who took the FCS exam. At the general surgery MCS level, 35 of 40 (87.5%) passed and at the FCS level, 5 of 7 (71.4%) passed the specialty exams; 2 of 3 (66.7%) passed the FCS-orthopedics; 3 of 4 (75%) passed the FCS-pediatric surgery; and 2 of 2 (100%) passed the FCS-urology.

Arega Leta, Agneta Odera, Henry Ine, Frehun Ayele and Jack Barasa participated in the graduation service held on December 4. They were graduates from last year.

Other good news from COSECSA: Tenwek Hospital has been fully approved for all three years of advanced orthopedic surgery, clearing the way for the opening of the new orthopedic program in January 2016. Also, the Malamulo SDA program in Malawi may be inspected earlier than expected. This may occur when COSECSA comes in March to accredit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in nearby Blantyre.



Gerald Ekwen, Martin Situma, Aiah Lebbie and Elsie (Mesh) Mwanzia with Dr. Davis standing beside her. The last meal for the condemned?



Candidates endure the long wait until the MCS results were announced



Arega Leta, Agneta Odera, Henry Ine, Frehun Ayele and Jack Barasa were inducted as Fellows in this year's ceremony. Here Arega and Agneta pose with Bruce Steffes and Russ White



PAACDS personnel attending the COSECSA meeting – Seni, Kanyi, Ebhele, Nzanu, Arega

PAACS residents participated in the following presentations, given at the 14th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference (COSECSA-ECSA) held on December 5 and 6:

Russ White and Michael Mwachiro – “Cheap Whistle with deadly potential – a unique case of aspiration of whistle pieces”

Segni Bekele et al – “Vascular surgery: A single centre experience from Myungung Christian Medical Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Elizabeth Okemwa et al – “Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding DNR orders for patients in a rural southwestern Kenyan Hospital”

Jon Pollock et al – “Breast cancer registry in Wolaitta Zone – a first step in understanding breast cancer in rural Ethiopia”

John Kanyi et al – “Severe debilitating wounds from caterpillar injuries: Tenwek Hospital Experience”

Seno Saruni, et al – “Volvulus of the small intestine in adults”

NEW PAACS COMMISSIONERS AND AC MEMBERS

The continued growth of PAACS and the addition of subspecialty training have increased the demand for additional help on the PAACS Commission. Two physicians have been invited to join the Commission and six others have accepted invitations to the Advisory Council. The commitment to the Advisory Council now carries with it the obligation to maintain regular participation in the activities of the Commission albeit at a somewhat lower level than that of a Commissioner. The ideal make-up of the Commission was also realigned at the last PAACS business meeting to bring it in align with the new priorities for future growth.

Pending approval by the CMDA board of trustees, the new Commissioners are Christopher Bode and Donna Spratt. Bode is a pediatric surgeon and Professor of Surgery at the College of Medicine in the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He has previously been the Secretary-General of the West African College of Surgeons and was part of the first WACS team to inspect the PAACS programs. Donna Spratt is an anesthesiologist at the Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling, WV and is working with Jeff Lane to establish the PAACS anesthesia task force.

The new members of the Advisory Council are Michael Skinner, Ron Cheney, Jeff Lane, Elijah Kim, Rebekah Kim, Steve Doane and Terry Treadwell. Skinner is a pediatric surgeon who is presently a professor and director of the pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Texas – Southwestern after previously holding a faculty position at Duke University and St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Cheney is a general surgeon from Carroll, Iowa. He was raised as a missionary kid in Swaziland and presently serves as the Assistant Professor at Des Moines University of Osteopathic Medicine. Lane is an anesthesiologist presently in practice in Dayton, OH and is considering long-term career missions at one of the PAACS hospitals. He is working with Spratt to establish the PAACS anesthesia task force. Elijah Kim is presently both a fellow in trauma/surgical critical care at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta (Emory University) and pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will return next year to the Mount Sinai School of

Medicine to finish his chief year of general surgery. He is considering long-term career missions at a PAACS hospital. Rebekah Kim (no relation) is a colorectal surgeon in Arlington, Virginia and has a passion for medical missions. Steve Doane is a recently graduated general surgeon with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, West Los Angeles. Terry Treadwell is a general surgeon from Montgomery, Alabama who is now specializing in advanced wound care. He has traveled and spoken widely on the topic and participated in the last PAACS Basic Science Conference in Kenya, 2013.

We are pleased and honored to have these fine physicians join in training Africa's surgeons of tomorrow! We also wish to thank the following physicians and surgeons for their much-appreciated service. They are stepping down from the Advisory Council: Eugene "Pokey" Cleek, Dan Shook, Patricia Brock, Richard Topazian, Tim Nelson, David Brown and David Musick. We deeply appreciate their willingness to help as necessary in the future.

REPORT FROM SOLOMON ENDRIAS

[Editor's Note: Dr. Duane Solomon writes this report about Solomon Endrias, a graduate of the Soddo Christian Hospital Program. Mission hospitals are few and far between in Ethiopia and most of the PAACS graduates are serving in government hospitals, being salt and light in the world.]



Dr. Solomon and his wife Birtucuan are having a big influence in Hawassa, a city about 2 hours from Soddo. Solomon is a graduate of the PAACS program in Soddo Christian Hospital.

Solomon has a very busy general surgery practice in a private hospital in Hawassa. He has been there now three years. The first three months, he did wound care, saw patients in the OPD, and did circumcisions. Gradually, he got more and more busy. Now he is doing about 6 operations daily and seeing many patients. Sometimes he works until midnight doing cases.

He prays with each patient before doing surgery even though the hospital is a government owned private hospital. When he has a difficult operation, he stops in the middle of the operation and prays with the whole operating room staff and asks for God's help. He says that God gives him ideas on what to do; they come like a lightning bolt sometimes. He opened a belly recently and did not know what to do; it looked like nothing he had seen before. God gave him the wisdom to know what to do.

He also told about another case in which a man had three stones in his left kidney system, a large stone in the left kidney, one in the mid ureter and one in the bladder. He said that he did an anterior approach to all three while reflecting the left colon. It was easy to pass the catheter up the ureter past the strictured area. The patient is doing well.

He thanked me [Duane Anderson] for showing him how to take care of patients with love and compassion, for being an example in how to do daily rounds and dressing changes, how to use bleach in disinfecting wounds, and how to pray with patients. Solomon said that God is likely going to open the opportunity for him to mentor general surgery residents through a training program that is beginning at the Hawassa referral hospital.

Solomon proudly stated that God is using Birtucuan in the community and in their church in powerful ways. She has a small group in her home and is one of the leaders for the women in her church. Recently, she realized she was too busy, "I was thinking about the story of Mary and Martha. I wanted to be sure to have time to sit and listen to God. I asked the Lord to give me insight as I read the Bible and I began reading about Moses in the book of Numbers. He added 70 leaders to help him with the work. I went back to the ladies at church and told them about what I was hearing from God. We all agreed to each find another woman to add to our group. So seven more ladies are being added. We will work with them to make them strong and then encourage them to each find another woman!"

Birtucuan calls Jackie Anderson her spiritual mom and says of Jackie, "You taught me so many things. You have changed how I think."

TENWEK BEGINNING BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya has embraced its role in education of African physicians. Russ White, Program Director at Tenwek, writes:

God has blessed us with opportunities to train Christian doctors at Tenwek Hospital in many different areas. It is a blessing to see these young doctors in our internship program, our family practice program, and our general surgical training program progressing through training, graduating, and going out into the region to be the hands and voice of Christ. We are excited to begin formal residency training in orthopedic surgery in January, 2014. However, with this growth has come an increased need for housing units for all of these trainees. We find ourselves in a position of completely running out of space for new trainees. When the new orthopedic program is fully underway, we will need housing for the following groups of doctors in training:

Family Practice Residents	6	Medical Students	12
General Surgery Residents	10	Interns	16
Orthopedic Surgery Residents	10	Visiting students	10

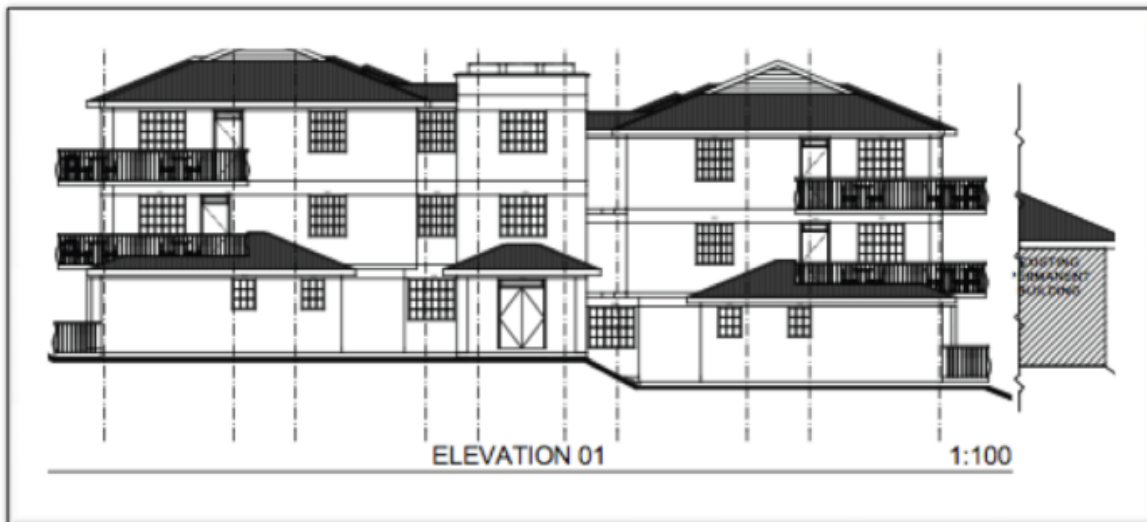
Total 64!

Beginning January 2014, we will be doubling up many trainees in housing space and **as of January, 2015, we will not be able to take any new trainees into these programs, due to the lack of housing space!** We have exceeded the capacity of the new housing that we built just three years ago!! We are thrilled with the growth God has brought, but face a challenge to construct housing for the expanded group of students.

We hope to begin construction in early 2014 of a new housing unit devoted to interns, medical students and residents. This will house 44 of our doctors in training and should meet our needs for many years to come.

Our estimated budget for this important project is \$800,000. This will include two separate three-story buildings. It will have some small apartments for married residents and dormitory-style housing for our interns and medical students.

If you are interested in supporting this project, mail checks made out to "World Gospel Mission" (with a note "for Tenwek Housing Account #125-35006". Mail to Donor Services; World Gospel Mission; PO Box 948; Marion, IN 46952---0948 You may give online as well: www.wgm.org/tenwek-hospital-housing All gifts are tax---deductible.



Preliminary plans of the newest medical student/intern/resident housing unit

NEWS SHORTS:

- **Two Surgeons to Continue at Bongolo Hospital:** Zachary and Jen O'Connor are two general surgeons who have served at Bongolo Hospital for the past 18 months under the World Medical Mission Post-Residency program. Their contract will end with Samaritan's Purse April 2014. They feel called to stay there long-term, but it can only happen with your prayers and support. They have not yet been accepted as long-term missionaries by the Christian and Missionary Alliance that is affiliated with Bongolo Hospital, but they currently have about 30% of their needed monthly donations pledged. They hope to stay through the graduation ceremony in



July and then return to the US until they have raised their support. The people of Gabon, the Bongolo Hospital and PAACs need them to stay where they are. If you would like to be a partner with them in their ministry by giving regular monthly or yearly donations, please let them know at zachandjenoconnor@gmail.com Any donations can be still sent to Samaritan's Purse until the end of April 2014. The address is Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone NC 28607. Please put "O'Connor's account #004216" in the memo line.

- **Two Surgeons Commit to Tenwek Hospital:**

Robert "Bob" Parker and his wife, Andrea, are both general surgeons who have committed to service at Tenwek Hospital. Bob is finishing his chief year at Brown University in June, 2014 and his Andrea is already finished and in practice in Newport, RI. They were recently accepted as career missionaries under World Gospel Missions, the agency in Marion, Indiana, which has a long association with Tenwek Hospital. They, along with their daughter Madison, will move to Kenya in January, 2015.



Prior to even starting medical school, both had hopes to serve God by serving others in resource-limited settings. As the years progressed, surgery became the obvious choice for each of them to use their gifts, talents, and passions in the best possible way. During 2007-2008, coinciding with the start of the surgery residency program at Tenwek, Bob

spent a year alongside Dr White, researching esophageal cancer. Andrea has spent time in the Dominican Republic and in Zambia. Each of these experiences has been an inspiration and encouragement as they work to develop the skills necessary to eventually serve and train young surgeons. Throughout their time in residency, they have each had significant positions in teaching and have enjoyed their time working with fellow residents. If you would like to help consider financial support of the Parkers, please contact them at

robert.k.parker@gmail.com.



- **New Surgeon to Mbingo Baptist Hospital:**

Jason and Meridith Axt will be going to Cameroon in August as part of the World Medical Missions Post-Residency Program. Jason will first finish his general surgery residency at Vanderbilt and has already been selected for a fellowship in pediatric surgery beginning in January 2016. Meridith has worked previously as a PICU nurse. The Axts must cover the cost of support for Meridith and

the two children (one is on the way!). If you would like to consider financial help in support of the Axt family, please contact them at jandm.axt@gmail.com.

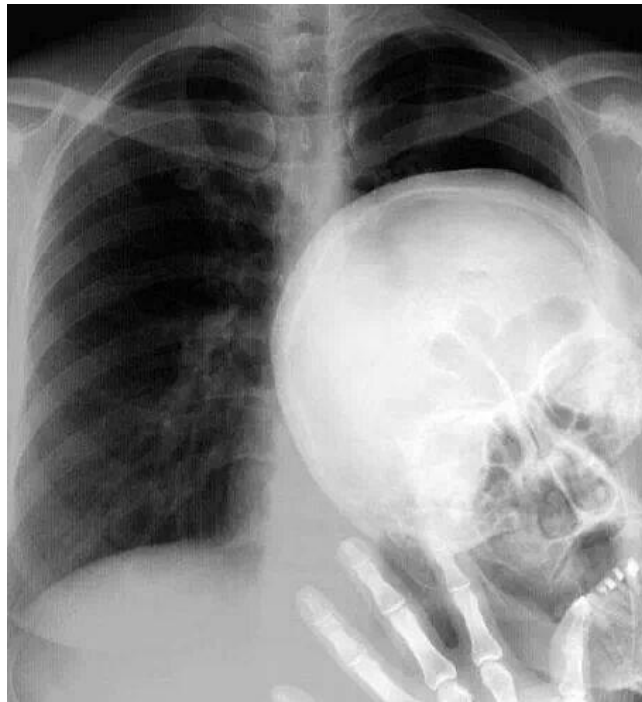
- **Revision of Plastic Surgery Text Underway:** Dr. Louis Carter, editor of the first edition of the PAACS textbook “ Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa “ has announced that work on a second edition has begun. The chapter on flexor tendon repair and the best method of rehabilitation is being rewritten. A chapter on the uses of the latissimus dorsi flap, a chapter on acute burns and a chapter on urethroplasties is also planned. If you have suggestions for other new topics, please suggest them to Carter at lcartermd@comcast.net.
- **Tenwek receives PAACS Software:** Mr. Ed Bos, the chief executive Director of Worldwide Laboratory Improvements, has recently returned from Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya. He installed the hardware and software for PAACS which is designed to function as a case log for the operating room and to record short-term faculty who assist in the PAACS training. It is designed to generate the necessary automatic reports including case logs, morbidity and mortality reports and quality assurance data. The system also permits off-site automated back-up of all information generated. In the first half of 2014, Mr. Bos will be installing similar systems in Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Malawi. Tenwek is also in the implementation process of a full electronic medical record for the remainder of the hospital. The Kranium system is the product of a company based in India and represents an investment of approximately \$500,000 for the hospital. PAACS wishes to express our deep appreciation for all those at Worldwide Laboratory Improvement and to Mr. Tom Lohrman, the programmer, for their tremendous investment of time and skill in this project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Birth Announcement:** Dejene Desalegn and wife his wife, Eden Tafese, had a new child on October 15, 2013. The boy is named Burqa Dejene Burqa means "Blessing". His birth weight was 2.8 kg birth and he was 50 cm in length. All are doing well and their other little child, Amen, is happy with a new brother. Congratulations to all!
- **Home Assignments:** Carol Spears is currently on home assignment until March. Paul Gray is home until March, 2014. Keir Thelander and his family arrived in the US on the 23rd of Nov and returns to Gabon around the 14th January. The Chi Chung family arrived in the US Saturday, 21 December 2013, and will return to Addis on Friday, 10 January 2014.



- **Wedding Announcement:** On December 7, Tenwek PAACS resident Elijah Mwaura took as his bride, Carolyn Kerubo. She is a nurse with postgraduate training in epidemiology. They were married in nearby Kericho. Congratulations to them both!



“Photobombing” occurs when one unexpectedly hops into a picture being taken of someone else. Here is a rather extreme example by someone who really needs attention!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Give thanksgiving to God for all He has done through PAACS!
- Pray for those who are on furlough (home assignment), returning from furlough, or about to go on furlough. Pray that they will get rest and rejuvenation and when possible will spread the word about what God is doing through PAACS and through their ministries in Africa. Pray that God will clarify and strengthen their call to serve.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Soddoo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia, Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt 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 at least two surgeons to continue training its fellows.
- Pray for the teams at Harpur Memorial and Arusha Lutheran as they open in January, 2014. Pray for the team at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi as they prepare for the COSECSA inspection in March and the opening in August.
- Pray that both Mbingo Baptist Hospital and Bongolo Hospital will receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs.
- Praise God for the performance by the residents on the COSECSA oral exams December 2 and 3 in Zimbabwe.
- Pray for all of the PAACS graduates as they serve the King wherever they are.
- Pray for Arega as he settles into Soddoo for the next several months before moving on to Malawi – pray for strength, wisdom and effectiveness.
- Pray for the financial needs for PAACS and each of the programs.
- Pray that God will lead PAACS to the man or woman to lead PAACS as Executive Director in the next stage of development. Pray for the scheduled Executive Retreat January 3 and 4th at the CMDA headquarters in Bristol, TN. This is the topic of that retreat.

Merry Christmas to all!

Editors:

Bruce Steffes, MD, MBA, FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA)
David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS