

Dear Colleagues,

*The end of the academic year is always eventful. Some sweat out the annual PAACS exam and others celebrate the end of the road – and the start of a new career as a full-fledged Christian Surgeon. We also take time to tally and rejoice over all those who have come to help as short-term faculty during the year. Without all of you, we would be able to do very little. We thank you for every thought, every minute, every prayer and every dollar that you offer to the Lord through your service with PAACS.*

The Editors



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

BULLETIN #120

June 2014



New Mbingo Graduate!

*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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## **NESOAH LATEST PAACS GRADUATE**

June 14, 2014, Dr. Ngoe Anthony Nesoah became the latest graduate general surgeon trained by PAACS, the 32<sup>nd</sup> general surgeon to complete the program overall, and the 8<sup>th</sup> PAACS graduate from Mbingo. A native of Cameroon, Nesoah began his training in the program at Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital in Cameroon. When that program was closed in 2010 and Jim Brown moved to Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Northwest Cameroon, Dr. Nesoah moved with him, along with recent PAACS graduates Gerald Ekwen and Mifila DeGaulle,

The graduation was a combined event with Mbingo's CIMS program (Christian Internal Medicine Specialization), headed by Dr. Dennis Palmer. Dr. Jacob Kandem graduated and plans to stay at Mbingo as part of the staff for the CIMS residency. Dr. Kandem has a particular interest in endoscopy.

Officials and administrators of the Cameroonian Baptist Medical Service and the CBC, Dr. Kamdem's Fon (traditional king), the Mayor, journalists, radio personalities, graduates of PAACS and PAACS faculty attended the ceremony.

Jim Brown, Program Director at Mbingo, writes:

Yesterday, Dr. Nesoah graduated from PAACS. In his graduation speech, he told some of his personal history and made several observations that I think profoundly validate what we are doing in PAACS.

"As a prior Marxist and Muslim, he hated the US and anything to do with Christianity. But yesterday he stood before an assembly of hundreds of people, including many government, health care, and religious leaders, and said that PAACS was the greatest thing America has ever done for Africa. He said that the concept of pan-Africanism has failed again and again when African nations have tried to come together to solve their problems, but PAACS is the one exception. He told how residents from numerous nations – Cameroon, Gabon, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Egypt, South Sudan, Angola--and other places. Where governments have failed their people so miserably, residents from numerous denominations have succeeded in coming together under PAACS with a common faith in Christ and the common goal of changing the face of health care on this

needy continent. He spoke of how PAACS gave him hope for Africa, after having spent years in failed ideologies. It was an incredible speech.

Dr. Nesoah has had a difficult 5 years as a resident. He became a surgical resident when he was already in his mid-40's. He has struggled academically and has had many ups and downs. But his faith in Christ is unshakable, and his words reflect a deep humility and self-awareness of his weaknesses and an awareness of the sufficiency of Christ.

In a few months, he will move to the far north of Cameroon to work where he will be in a minority religion as the only surgeon for a very needy population. Please pray for him.



Top left (L to R): George Ngock, Steve Kyota, Evaristus Njume, Dr. Nesoah, Joy Nesoah, Sam Nigo, and Tony Mwyenyemali

Top right: (L to R): Steve Sparks, Jim Brown on stage

Left: Carolyn and Jim Brown; Dr. Nesoah and Joy Nesoah

Nesoah leaves mid-September with his wife joy to join the staff at Meskine Hospital in the far north of Cameroon. Founded by The Medical Centers of West Africa, Inc. (MCWA) (<http://www.mcwestafrica.com/>) after five years of planning, MCWA wanted to bring physical as well as spiritual healing to sub-Saharan Africa. They hoped to evangelize and plant a church among the Fulani. MCWA established a clinic and hospital in the village of Meskine that opened in 1994. Today, there stands a thriving 120-bed hospital in the Far North Province of Cameroon, West Africa. Hôpital de Meskine is staffed with 130 Cameroonian employees and addresses serious health problems in the province that may require inpatient care and general surgery. On average, approximately 200 people

per day visit the outpatient clinic. The surgical team averages eight cases per day presently but with the addition of Dr. Nesoah, it is expected to increase significantly.

## **PAACS GRADUATE RECEIVES BURSARY**

Jack Barasa, PAACS graduate and assistant Program Director at Kijabe Hospital, was one of the 2014 winners of a bursary from the International Surgical Congress of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland to attend its conference. The ASGBI international bursary is an annual award to surgeons or trainees from developing countries.

Barasa reports,

On the first day, we visited St. James teaching hospital in Leeds and each of us was attached to a mentor for the day. This is the largest teaching hospital in Europe with state of the art facilities. I was attached to Mr. Burke, a colorectal surgeon and the day began with a MDT meeting where 53 cases were reviewed by the team (surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, pathologists). I learned a lot bearing in mind our situation where we make most decisions individually. Later, I went to the operating theater where I observed a laparoscopic colectomy and a lift procedure (which I had only read about). It was interesting to see the high level of sub-specialization and I appreciated the pros and cons.



The next 4 days involved attending the ASGBI scientific congress, the theme being 'Education and Innovation'. Going by the theme, 'Education and Innovation', the papers presented were high quality, well-articulated, and covered a wide range of topics. Many times I was in a dilemma on which of two parallel sessions to attend. I learned a lot from the poster presentations and short paper sessions on common surgical conditions and dealing with difficult surgical situations. I was also challenged to be more involved in surgical education and to do more simulation training.

On Wednesday morning we had the privilege of interacting with International Surgical Leaders from various surgical colleges and associations. From the informal discussions, it was clear that they all had a passion for advancing surgical education and surgical care in general.

We were awarded our certificates on Thursday evening and we were then hosted to a grand dinner at the Royal Hall.

In summary, my main learning points were;

- A multidisciplinary team goes a long way to improve patient care, as different specialties give input.

- It is important to develop strategies to improve patient safety at my institution.
- Going by the current evidence, I should incorporate simulation as part of my training.
- We need to look for more opportunities to carry out high quality research.”

In addition to Barasa, international bursaries (scholarships) were awarded to another surgeon from Kenya and to surgeons from Malawi, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

## LETTER FROM RESIDENT ON ROTATION

*[Editorial note: Arranging rotations for trainees at programs other than their own has many advantages. It exposes them to specialties that may not be available in their home hospital, shows them new ways of doing things within their own specialty and more importantly, opens their eyes to new cultures and peoples. We hope that through these rotations, some may be called to serve the poor in new areas or in different ways. Such rotations can be expensive when the budget is tight, affect surgical manpower, and occasionally are disruptive to families. The residents certainly suffer culture shock and homesickness at times. But as the following letter from a third year resident demonstrates, the opportunities are much appreciated and we are encouraged.]*

Dear Drs. Steffes and Davis,

First and foremost: THANK YOU! For facilitating this rotation in ALMC [Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre].

“Secondly, after only four days it’s been an eye opening experience for me, full of learning and growth! Working with different surgeons in a different setting, a different environment, with different people, facing different challenges in health care out of my comfort zone, and having faculty that are accessible and who desire to impart their knowledge and skills gathered from years of experience have made me quite eager to maximize my short time here.

With the reception and hospitality facilitated by Dr. Wilmore and the hospitality team, I certainly have nothing to complain about – not even the forced exercise I sorely needed, as I cycle to and from work.

In summary, I’m really enjoying my experience and see how vital this external rotation is in broadening our perspectives as young surgeons and our decision making skills in varied contexts.

So again I say thank you for making this happen. May God bless you all and the work of your hands. God bless PAACS.

Eager Beaver, M\_\_\_\_\_.

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **PAACS-Ethiopia Placed on Probation:** The Ethiopian program has been placed on probationary status due to an inadequate faculty:resident ratio. The permanent departure of Paul Gray from Soddo Christian Hospital earlier this month left the program with two full-time



surgical faculty members for the two-site program but none are at Soddo Christian Hospital. In light of this, the Executive Committee and Program Committee of PAACS found it appropriate to place PAACS Ethiopia on official Probationary status effective immediately. While on probation, PAACS Ethiopia is limited to one new resident recruit for 2014-15. There are discussions underway with future PAACS graduates and WMM surgeons from Tenwek which may fill greatly needed faculty positions within the next months, and it is our prayer that these or other provisions will be forthcoming. Dr. Andrew Chew, a general surgeon from Australia, is expected to come as a permanent general surgeon in January 2015. At that time, the issue of probation will be revisited.

- **Tenwek Residents Lead PAACS Pack:**

Philip Blasto Ooko (4<sup>th</sup> year) and Victor Sowayi Alubokho (1<sup>st</sup> year) received the highest scores on the senior level (Blasto) and junior (Sowayi) PAACS annual in-service exam. Congratulations to them! The junior exam has a stronger focus on basic sciences and the senior exam on clinical scenarios. Always a challenge, the passage rate for the 3rd - 5th year residents this year was only 54%. At the junior level (1st and 2nd year) 71.1% passed the exam. A remediation exam will be offered the last Saturday of July and will be taken by 18 trainees. First-year residents



Philip Blasto Ooko (Left) and Victor Sowayi Alubokho (right) celebrate their performance on the PAACS exam.

who have joined the program in January are generally handicapped, in comparison, because they sit the exam with only five months of training, compared to 10 months for those beginning in August of each year. Comfort with the English language also affects performance on the exams. Although a strong performance on the exam is very important, it is only one of many factors used in evaluating resident performance. PAACS has begun an initiative to use computerized testing which will improve question and test analysis and comparison, as well as give rapid feedback and learning on quizzes.

- **Impact of Short-Term Help on PAACS:** Each year, at the end of the fiscal year in June, PAACS submits an “in-kind” for short-termers report to the Christian Medical Dental Associations as is required by the Internal Revenue Service. This year, we had 171 short-term faculty who contributed 2,538 days of service (almost 7 years)!

	<u># of Volunteers</u>	<u># of days</u>
<b>Bongolo</b>	22	224
<b>Kijabe General Surgery</b>	2	70
<b>Soddo</b>	17	264
<b>MCM</b>	3	96
<b>Mbingo</b>	27	364
<b>Tenwek</b>	87	1,280
<b>Kijabe Pediatric Surgery</b>	8	155
<b>Galmi</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>85</u>
Totals from 2013-2014	<b>171</b>	<b>2,538</b>
Totals from 2012-2013	<b>175</b>	<b>3,039</b>
Totals from 2011-2012	<b>146</b>	<b>2,542</b>
Totals from 2010-2011	<b>109</b>	<b>2,304</b>

<u>Surgical specialties</u>	<u>Totals</u>		
Cardiothoracic Surgery	6	Resident Ped Surgery	1
ENT	8	Pediatric urology	1
ENT (Resident)	1	Plastic Surgery	5
Oral/Maxillofacial	2	Pediatric ENT	1
General Surgery	33	Urology	1
General Surgery Resident	1	Surgery Oncology	2
General Surgery/Trauma	2	Ob/Gyn	15
General Critical Care	1	Obstetrics Oncologist	1
Lap Surgeon	2	Anesthesia	13
Head & Neck	1	Gastroenterology	7
Neurosurgery	6	Radiology	17
Orthopedic	27	Respiratory Therapy	1
Ortho/Hand	1	PM&R	1
Ortho/Oncology	1	ICU	2
Pediatric Surgery	10	Resident	<u>1</u>
		Total	171

- HERQA Report on PAACS Ethiopia:** The PAACS Ethiopia team was audited on May 27 – 30 by internal and external examiners of the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance (HERQA) ministry of Ethiopia. This was an institutional audit and separate from the hoped-for accreditation visit. Four external auditors and one internal HERQA auditor came for a four-day visit. One of the external auditors was a British expatriate; the rest were from universities around Ethiopia. None were physicians or surgeons. Jon Pollock, Program Director of PAACS Ethiopia, opined that things had gone well. The final report is pending, but it the audit group is expected to make several additional recommendations. After this hurdle has been passed, the program will again apply for accreditation. Please continue to pray for this ongoing process. Paul Gray, in one of his last acts before returning to the United States, participated significantly in this conference. PAACS would be remiss if his phenomenal contributions over the years to this process of governmental recognition were not recognized. Please pray for Paul and Becca Gray as they resettle in the U.S. and for the Pollocks, as they assume the mantle.

- **PAACS Spiritual Curriculum in French:** The PAACS Spiritual Curriculum, a five year study designed for the PAACS faculty and residents, will soon become available in French. In putting together the curriculum, Rev. Stan Key, PAACS Spiritual Dean, has been modifying material from the Omega Course: Practical Church Planter Training (5 manuals) written by the Alliance for Saturation Church Planting in cooperation with Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries and



Rev. Stan & Katy Key

published by The Bible League and The Community Church Planting (CCP) Pastoral Training Course published by OMS International (South Africa). These organizations have these materials in French and have graciously offered those materials for PAACS' use as well. Professional translators will be used as necessary to translate any materials written only in English. Key was a missionary for ten years to Paris and is uniquely qualified to oversee this task. The first volume (the "Blue Book") will be the first one translated.

- **Founder of PAACS Plenary Speaker at KAHMC:** The Korean-American Healthcare Missions Conference was held at the Yong Nak Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, California June 20 and 21. The theme is "Jesus Healing, Total Healing" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Dr. David Thompson, founder of PAACS, was one of the plenary speakers. Approximately 300 attended.

- **New Journal Launched:** The inaugural issue of the Christian Journal for Global Health has been launched ([www.cjgh.org](http://www.cjgh.org)). This new resource is an open-access, peer-reviewed scholarly journal. It is intercultural, multi-disciplinary, integrative and missional. Daniel O'Neill, MD, the Managing Editor, writes, "It should create new conversations among colleagues of like mind, and be an excellent, well-indexed resource to publish your and your organization's research, outcomes,



CHRISTIAN JOURNAL  
for  
GLOBAL HEALTH

perspectives and reports. This much-needed journal has been widely endorsed by leading Christian organizations and thought-leaders in the field of global health. We are calling for papers. Please let us, the editors, know ([info@cjgh.org](mailto:info@cjgh.org)) if you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible submission, or would be interested in serving as a reviewer."

- **2014-2015 Budget Submitted for Approval:** Reflecting the significant growth in residents and the implementation of a salaried administrative and development structure, the budget submitted by the Financial Committee has shown significant growth. The program-related expenditures were budgeted in 2013-14 at \$ 764,204.03 for 49 resident FTEs (full-time equivalents) and will increase to \$ 1.09M for 56.5 FTEs (including the Brackenhurst Basic Science Conference). The budgeted administrative expenses for 2013-2014 (with only one part-time administrator) were budgeted at \$ 97K. The amount for 2013-2014 will be largely dependent upon the identification of and timing of hiring of the new Executive Director and Chief Development Officer (and their support personnel) but a maximum estimate is \$ 238K.
- **PAACS Executive Director Interviewed for Christian Doctors' Digest:** June 19, Dr. David Stevens, Chief Executive Officer of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations and host of



[Christian Doctor's Digest](#), interviewed PAACS Executive Director Bruce Steffes over the telephone about the growth and vision of PAACS. This edition of the fully-edited audio magazine will be published in 6 – 8 months. Topics for the magazine vary, covering such issues as bioethics, medical missions, financial stewardship, marriage and family, and much more. The upcoming issue and back issues can be downloaded for replay from [Christian Doctor's Digest](#).

- **ENCORE - Need for Short-term Faculty Coverage:** There are several programs which will need coverage for career PAACS faculty during their assignments back in North America. If you can help, please contact those listed in the e-mails below:
  - **Galmi** – Dr. Joe Starke will be home on assignment from **June, 2014 through May, 2015**. Please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) and [joe.starke@sim.org](mailto:joe.starke@sim.org).
  - **Bongolo** – Drs. Jen and Zach O'Connors will be in the US from **mid-July through October, 2014**. Please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) and Zach and Jen at [zachandjenoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:zachandjenoconnor@gmail.com).
  - **Arusha, Tanzania** – Wendy Willmore, an international worker with Commission to Every Nation (Canada) will be returning for home assignment in late 2014. The exact dates are not yet confirmed, but are likely to be **October 13, 2014 - January 12, 2015**. Please contact her at [gracethewendylady@hotmail.com](mailto:gracethewendylady@hotmail.com).
  - **Mbingo, Cameroon** – There is an ongoing need for short-term help, especially during Steve Sparks' home assignment from **June 19 - Jan 6 2015**. Please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) and Jim Brown at [jimbrownjab@aol.com](mailto:jimbrownjab@aol.com).
  - **Harpur Memorial, Egypt** – Because of the need for the Hannas to return for 3 months this summer to provide leadership of MedSend Canada, Dave Thompson needed help during the months of **August, September and October, 2014**. We are pleased to report that two surgeons will be coming with World Medical Mission for a total of six weeks during the months of August and September, and Todd Lavery will be coming from Tenwek Hospital for several weeks in October. In June 2015, Dave Thompson will return to the U.S. for a six month furlough and during that time, Sherif Hanna will be the sole PAACS surgeon at Harpur.. If you can help, please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) and Dave Thompson at [justthebeginning@hushmail.com](mailto:justthebeginning@hushmail.com).
  - **Soddo Hospital** – There is an **ongoing critical need** for short-term faculty at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. Please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) or Jeremy Gabrysch [jeremy@soddo.org](mailto:jeremy@soddo.org).
  - **Tenwek Hospital** – Russ White will be in the US **July 17, 2014 until January 2015** on home assignment. Please contact [wmmplacement@samaritan.org](mailto:wmmplacement@samaritan.org) and Russ White at [kenyawhites@gmail.com](mailto:kenyawhites@gmail.com).
- **ENCORE - COSECSA to Examine Malamulo PAACS Program:** Professors Steve Ogendo (President of COSECSA) and Pankaj Jani (Secretary-General of COSECSA) will be traveling to

Malawi July 6 – 9 to examine and accredit the programs at Malamulo SDA Hospital and the COSECSA program at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre. The Medical Council of Malawi will be invited to visit the program in early July. The first two residents are scheduled to start in August. One is from Kenya and one from Malawi.

- **ENCORE - PAACS November Commission Meeting Dates Changed:** The Fall PAACS Commission meeting will be held November 21 and 22, instead of October 31- November 1, as previously scheduled. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, IL, near O'Hare airport. Please put this on your calendar.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **PAACS Facebook Page Well-Liked:** The PAACS Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/paacs](http://www.facebook.com/paacs)) has reached 831 likes. It was at 400 in the beginning of May 2013. If you haven't "liked" our page – please do so now and encourage your friends to do so as well.



- **Steffes a Fellow of International College of Surgeons:** On June 14, Bruce Steffes, PAACS Executive Director participated in the formal convocation ceremony for the International College of Surgery – US Section which was held in Memphis, TN. Founded in 1935 in Geneva, Switzerland, by Max Thorek, a Hungarian-born surgeon who practiced in Chicago, the International College of Surgeons ([www.icsglobal.org](http://www.icsglobal.org)) is composed of approximately 8,000 general surgeons and surgical specialists from over 100 countries/regions. They promote global programs in medical education, medical activism and humanitarian surgery.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray with us as PAACS steps out in faith to respond to what we believe is God's leading to continue growing. Pray that God will bless the present fund-raising campaign.
- Pray that God will lead the PAACS Search Committee to the men or women who will lead PAACS during the next stage of development. The most urgent of these are the Executive Director and the Chief Development Officer
- Praise God for the residents who passed their exams. Pray for those who are studying for the remediation exam in July.
- Pray for the new residents who were selected for the programs in Gabon, Cameroon and Niger. Pray for new residents as they move to their training sites, their families as they adjust, and for the inevitable cross-cultural and educational issues they will face.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia, Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, and Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.
- Pray for the team at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi as they prepare for the COSECSA inspection in early July, the inspection of their program by the Malawi Medical Council in late July, and the opening of their program in August, 2014.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year.
- Pray for each of our graduates – that they will find effective and fulfilling ministries and glorify God in the midst of hardships and limited resources.

### Editors:

Bruce Steffes, MD, MBA, MA (Bib. Min), FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA), FICS  
David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS