

Dear Colleagues,

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray for the blessings from God to you in the upcoming New Year.

God continues to bless our attempts to train African physicians under the banner of PAACS. A PAACS graduate was named for his work with Ebola as one of the people that Time Magazine honored with "Person of the Year" and for the third year in a row, PAACS graduates captured 3 of the 4 prizes for high performance in the COSECSA exam.

We are starting this new year under the leadership of the new Executive Director, Ms. Susan Koshy (she begins January 5) and we are excited about moving forward to the next stage of development for PAACS. Please keep her and the entire organization in your prayers. Pray also for the new residents starting training after the first of the year.

There is one week left to make a contribution in 2014 and have it counted in this tax year. If you would like to invest in this amazing work, please [donate online](#) or send a check made out to CMDA-PAACS, PO Box 9906, Fayetteville, NC 28311-9906. It must be postmarked in this year to be counted. May you have a blessed holiday season.

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #126

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Moses Kasumba, Mbingo PAACS resident, presents at COSECSA Clinical Conference held in Tanzania

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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WHITE COAT CEREMONY AT BONGOLO HOSPITAL



A White Coat Ceremony was held at Bongolo Hospital on November 26th for Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka. Dr. Lemfuka is from the Democratic Republic of Congo but was working as a Generalist at ELWA hospital in Liberia during the Ebola epidemic just prior to starting at Bongolo. The difficulty in getting a visa from the country of Gabon necessitated a time in the DRC – which then had its own outbreak of Ebola and necessitated every more time. He finally arrived and the ceremony awaited the return of Drs. Zachary and Jen O'Connor from home assignment before it could be held.

The ceremony was led by the program director, Dr. Keir Thelander. The ceremony was held in the morning during the hospital devotions so the entire hospital staff could attend. Dr. Wendy Hofman (ophthalmology) and her new intern, Dr. Bintou Peterson, of the Bongolo Ophthalmology program were also included. Dr. Lemfuka's wife, Dr. Christelle was also in attendance.

The ceremony included an explanation of the history of PAACS, the symbolism of the white coat, and the importance of integrity and honesty. After the white coat was given, all the physicians, surgeons, and pastors prayed and laid hands on Dr. Lemfuka.

COSECSA EXAMS AND CONFERENCE

PAACS was well represented at the 15th COSECSA-ASEA Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania December 1-5, 2015.. It was also the 6th COSECSA graduation ceremony. A record number of College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) trainees sat the exams.

Congratulations to Moses Kasumba (Mbingo); Valentine Mitei Mbithi, Mark Oloo and Michael Mwachiro (Tenwek); and Shigute Shuke, Efeson Thomas, Dejene Desalegn and Ronald Tubasiime (PAACS-Ethiopia) for successfully passing the COSECSA Membership (MCS) level exam. Our overall pass rate was 62% (8/13) compared to 67% overall passage rate.

Congratulations to Anthony Nesoah (Mbingo); Jack Okumu and Elijah Mwaura (Tenwek), Daniel Gidabo (Ethiopia) and Ken Muma (BethanyKids) in passing their Fellowship Level (FCS) exams. Also, program directors Rich Davis and Erik Hansen passed their FCS in general surgery and pediatric surgery respectively. Overall, 5 of 7 PAACS residents passed the FCS exam (71%) and both attending surgeons passed (100% with a total of 77.8% for PAACS). The overall passage rate was also 14/18 (77.8%). Special Interest: Daniel Gidabo was the first FCS general surgery recipient in Ethiopia.

The Gerald O'Sullivan award is given by the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland each year for the best overall score. Dan Galat had won it last year and collected his medal this year. Jack Okumu (Tenwek) was named as winner for this year and will receive the award medallion next year. Dr. Declan Magee, the President of the Irish Royal College of Surgery, was there to present the award.

The Rahima Dawood medals for each area were also awarded. The best student in the MCS level was a resident from Zimbabwe. The best at the FCS level was Elijah Mwaura from Tenwek. The best for pediatric surgery was Ken Muma. There were six medals given out this year – PAACS was eligible for four and won three for the third year in a row.

In addition to two presentations that were given by PAACS graduate Catherine Mung'ong'o, these presentations were given by PAACS residents:

1. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy in an urban based hospital: spectrum of disease diagnosed at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre. Dr Frank Madinda, Dr Yamikani Limbe.

2. Thirty-Day post-operative death rate Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre: Dr Frank Madinda, Dr Emmanuel Lema, Dr Paul Kisanga.

3. Applicability of the Infrascanner™ in the management of closed head injury (CHI) patients in the rural African Setting, Dr. Elijah Mwaura

4. Epidemiology of injuries: outcomes at a rural hospital in Cameroon. Kasumba Kaggya Moses, Rebecca Joanne Weddles, James Brown, Jason Axt, Sherry M. Wren.

NEW ONE YEAR HEAD AND NECK FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

In 2015, a one year Fellowship program will be launched at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH), Cameroon under the auspices of the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). This will provide an exciting opportunity for advanced subspecialty surgical training in head and neck surgery.

Head and Neck surgery is a recognized subspecialty dedicated to the care of patients with tumors and other disorders of the upper aerodigestive tract, head and neck including the mouth, throat, larynx, salivary glands, neck, skull base, paranasal sinuses and thyroid gland. This subspecialty is represented around the world by organizations such as the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) which set standards for training, but there is no mechanism for added credentials or qualifying requirements either in the USA or Africa. Existing fellowships in the USA typically require one or two years of concentrated effort and lead to proficiency in procedures including neck dissection, parotidectomy, maxillectomy, laryngectomy, mandibulectomy and regional reconstruction techniques. Approval of this fellowship will be sought from AHNS after establishment of the program. PAACS will issue a certificate of completion of training along with partners Johns Hopkins University and Loma Linda University.

The PAACS H&N Fellowship will fill a vital training need in Africa where there is only one similar program in existence (in Cape Town, South Africa). MBH offers faculty, case load and facilities necessary for a high quality program in the context of a vibrant educational environment provided by a PAACS General Surgery residency program and the Christian Internal Medicine Specialists (CIMS) residency training program. The program has received approval of the PAACS Commission, the Director of Health Services of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board and the Program Director of the PAACS general surgery program.

The program will be led by Wayne Koch, MD, professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins University in the USA. Dr. Koch is joined by Dr. Acha Everistus Tikum, an Otolaryngologist, Cameroonian native, who trained at Kenyetta Hospital, Kenya, and Dr. Gregg Schmedes, an otolaryngologist trained at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) USA. Short term volunteer faculty from the AHNS in the USA will also participate periodically. Dr. Koch has volunteered at MBH numerous times since 2008 and has performed over 200 major head and neck procedures together with Dr. Acha and PAACS residents.

Fellows will be provided with housing sufficient for the fellow and immediate family as well as a stipend matching that of a senior resident in the PAACS Mbingo general surgery program.

Applicants must be successful graduates of either general surgery, otolaryngology or maxillofacial training programs; be citizens of an African nation; have an active and credible profession of Christian faith; and be dedicated to serve in underserved communities in Africa throughout their

careers. It is expected that fellows will participate in training PAACS general surgery residents on ENT rotation.

Applications may be downloaded from the PAACS website (<http://paacs.net/involved/become-a-trainee-2/become-a-trainee/>) using the general surgery forms with supplemental documents as outlined (personal statement, letters from residency Program Director, and an operative case log).

Please address any questions to Wayne Koch at wkoch@jhmi.edu.

SOUTH SUDAN MISSION TRIP

[Editor's Note: This article was written by John Kanyj, PAACS-Tenwek senior resident]

It was great when the Tenwek PAACS Director informed us of a medical trip to South Sudan with Dr. Many, our new consultant. It was to be with a bigger team from prior visits, a nurse and an anesthetist would be part of the team going to Yei for 15 days (leaving November 5 and returning November 21

The South Sudan WGM country coordinator worked hard to ensure our trip was a success. She informed us of what to expect during the trip and the need to build bridges with our South Sudan hosts in the hope for subsequent trips. She organized dinner the night prior to our departure. We flew by missionary plane out of Wilson Airport in Nairobi.



A photo as we left Tenwek



The location of Yei on a road map

The flight to South Sudan was eventful with the takeoff and landing was a unique experience due to turbulence (especially for first-time traveler on a small plane!). It was six hr journey with stopover at Lokichogio and Tori in South Sudan before getting to Yei Airstrip.

Our hosts, Dr. Perry and family/hospital team were welcoming upon our arrival at the dirt airstrip and they were very supportive the entire time. We were shown around the hospital and the residential areas for our orientation.

We were shown to our accommodations (picture on the right) and we started working the same evening after arrival. It was the first of many Cesarean sections we would do. The next day; we had 2 more CS with 2 sets of twins being delivered.



The next week, we had clinic on Monday. We appreciated the work that primary care clinician do, as we had to sort through lots of patients with chronic pelvic pain to get those eligible for surgery. We had great translators, who helped us clerk patients.



In total, we performed approximately 40 operations, the majority being sections. We could see the joy of the mothers and the other surgical patients we operated on. The highlight for me was treating a middle-aged lady who had a fungating malignant melanoma on her heel. She had carried her pathology report with her for a full year, while trying to find someone to treat her. After surgery, the joy on her face was priceless as she walked with crutches.

We thank God for the opportunity to have served the people at Yei. It was an experience that helped me as a resident to comprehend the magnitude of the need in the communities we will work in and appreciate God's blessing and provision even more. I would also want to express my appreciation to the Tenwek PAACS program and the WGM team for giving us this opportunity.



Our 4-wheel car got stuck on the muddy road as we left the hospital.



Departure from Yei Airstrip

NEWS SHORTS:

- **PAACS Graduate Named Time Magazine "Person of the Year":** Jerry Brown was one of the many "Ebola Fighters" who were cumulatively named the Time Magazine "Person of the Year" in early December. In response to a note of congratulations, Dr. Jerry Brown writes, "Thank you so much for the compliments, Chief. It has all been due to God's grace and protection. Working in the ETU (Ebola Treatment Unit) has been filled with fears especially when another doctor dies before my very eyes from this deadly disease. Praise be to God for all the prayers people have offer and continue to offer on our behalf. These prayers and the survival of one single person is my source of strength. PAACS also taught me to be more compassionate in the execution of my duties as a physician. Thanks again to you and all others who contributed to this success story that continue to live on."



The personal story of Brown is told here: <http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-ebola-doctors/#dr-jerry-brown-46>.

Bruce Steffes, Executive Director of PAACS, said, “All of the PAACS graduates working to serve others are our heroes. But we are pleased to see that others are recognizing the impact of these men and women of God.”

- **Eulogy for Martin Salia:**
Bruce Steffes, Executive Director, represented PAACS and gave a eulogy at the recent memorial service for Martin Salia held December 8 in Georgetown University, Washington DC. It was hosted by the Global Health Department of Georgetown, several members of which had worked with Salia at Bansa Baptist Hospital and in Maryland during his visits to the US. Mrs. Martin (Isatu) Salia is in



the middle flanked on either side by her boys.

Dr. Adrian Park had previously represented PAACS at a memorial service was held at the Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Landover Hills, Maryland. They held a vigil for Dr. Martin Salia the evening of Nov. 28. A mass and prayer service was held the next day.

- **Contributions of Worldwide Lab Improvements Recognized:** On a visit to the headquarters of Worldwide Lab Improvements in Kalamazoo, Michigan December 12, the Executive Director of PAACS, Dr. Bruce Steffes, presented Ed Bos and the entire team an award recognizing their partnership in the ministry of PAACS.

Ed Bos, president and founder of Worldwide Lab Improvements, and volunteer programmer Tom Lohrmann, have been instrumental in the development of "Software Solutions", a proprietary software program to enhance the work in mission hospitals. They have developed a "PAACS module" for the software which includes case log tracking, reporting, faculty records and scheduling which is presently installed at all of PAACS training sites. That module is also available for any mission hospital which subscribes to the entire software program.

Steffes was visiting to work on the reporting function and to lay the groundwork for coordination of data-sharing with the COSECSA e-log that will be required for all other COSECSA residents.

Worldwide Lab Improvements was founded to provide support for hospital laboratory services and they have served more than 200 hospitals worldwide with equipment, repair and supplies.



The team at Worldwide Lab Improvements



Steffes presenting award to Bos and Lohrmann

- **4th Biannual Basic Science Conference Soon:** The 4th Biannual Basic Science Conference will be held at Brackenhurst International Conference Center near Limuru, Kenya January 26 – February 5. First and second year PAACS residents, Program Directors, Assistant Program Directors and PAACS faculty members will be attending. There will be 69 lectures and 4 workshops as well as a daily spiritual life program led by Spiritual Dean Rev. Stan Key each morning and social events each evening. Lectures will be given on anatomy, physiology, pathology, advanced trauma care and surgical safety. The workshops will focus on surgical

skills. Thirty-one residents will be attending and there will be over 40 PAACS faculty and lecturers in attendance.



The chapel and Saunders auditorium



Keir Thelander helps in one of the 2013 workshops

The first such conference was held in the same location in 2009 and there has been a conference every other year since that time. The lectures are designed to fulfill the requirements for basic science laid out by the College of East, Central and Southern Africa. The previous conferences have done much to bond the far-flung PAACS family into a single coherent unit.

- **ACS Scholarship to PAACS Graduate:** Yali bin Ramazani was awarded a scholarship to attend the American College of Surgery Clinical Congress in Chicago next October 4-8. He will be able to attend the post-graduate courses with this award. Yali writes, "I really praised the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to continue to learn."
- **Update on Hubert Kakalo:** Hubert Kakalo, the 3rd PAACS graduate who trained at Bongolo writes, "My family and I are doing also well here in Kisangani, DRC where i work at a government Hospital. At my initiative and with our church's blessing and back up, we have recently started up a clinic named JEHOVAH RAPHA with the motto: "we treat, God heals". Our team is composed of a few nurses and a chaplain. I am not the only doctor of the clinic; we have a doctor in charge of Pediatrics and the one in charge of Internal medicine. I am in charge of the OB&GYN and surgery parts. We have a project at our heart: taking care, free of charge of children under 5years and pregnant women with malaria. Anemia due to malaria and malnutrition are very serious issues in those groups and many are dying from lack of care and support. As you know, things seems a little bit difficult at the beginning, therefore we need your prayers and support. Please do also pray for my health as i am not feeling well these days. I am suspecting a problem with the climate change as it is very hot in this place. I feel weak but God is in control."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Wedding Announcement:** Dr. Arega Fekado and Bikitu Kenna were married November 23 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at Filwuha SDA church. . Arega is a 2012 graduate of PAACS-Tenwek

and is presently the assistant Program Director at the Malamulo SDA Hospital in Makwasa, Malawi. Bikiltu is an accountant and has resigned from her job in one of the major banks in Ethiopia to move with her new husband on 14 December to Malamulo. It is the first time she has lived outside Ethiopia. They were very much welcomed by Malamulo family both on our arrival and in the hospital chapel. Arega writes, "We are praying that we will settle and adjust well quickly in the new place as couple and grow in the lord and His service. We are grateful for the support and prayers from PAACS family and friends all over the world. PAACS was well represented by Drs. Spears and Odera from Kenya, Dr. Frehun from Myungsung Christian Medical Centre and Dr. Segni from Soddo Christian Hospital."



- **Article in TCD:** The Winter edition of Today's Christian Doctor, a magazine published by CMDA has an article entitled "A Sanctuary in the Storm: From Cameroon to the US" by medical student Brendon Esquibel. It discussed his experience with PAACS and the hospital. It can be read on the CMDA website or on the [PAACS website](#) resource page.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our remaining four PAACS graduates and all medical works in the Ebola-stricken areas of Liberia (Jerry Brown), Guinea-Conakry (Lous Ruffin, Jean Faya Yaradouno), and Sierra Leone (Aiah Lebbie). Pray for the Salia family as they grieve and must adjust to Martin's loss. Pray for Aiah Lebbie as he recovered from a severe car accident in which God spared his life.
- 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 all the new residents as they make this transition into a difficult training program.
- Pray for all the residents as they continue to work hard and study hard with the intent of serving Christ.
- Pray that God will call people to work at the various programs during the last week of January and the first week of February, 2015, so the PAACS faculty and residents can attend the Basic Science Conference. Pray for the team as we put together the Basic Science Conference to be held at Brackenhurst Conference Center in Kenya. It will be January 26 – February 5.
- Pray that the delayed Malawi Medical Council report on the Malamulo SDA Hospital in Makwasa will be favorable.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year.
- Praise God for the sense of unity during the recent semi-annual PAACS Commission meeting in Chicago.
- Pray that God will be with our new Executive Director. Pray for help for her to learn the program and to look for the rest of the administrative team that is so badly needed.
- Pray that an experienced surgeon or set of surgeons will cover Mbingo Baptist Hospital from February through May of 2015.
- Pray for those on Home Assignment (Russ White, Joe Starke, Ryan Hayton, Mike Chupp, Wendy Willmore) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work.
- There are surgeons who are trying to raise their funds to come to the field as career missionaries – please pray for God's hand in that process.

Editors:

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 David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS