

Dear Colleagues,

Ten brand-new PAACS residents have joined 22 other first and second residents at the Principles of Surgery conference in Kenya. The conference has finished the first week by the time you read this – and it has been a wonderful time of learning, spiritual worship and bonding. Our new Executive Director has just arrived here in Kenya and is in the process of putting names and faces together. Please read her comments to the PAACS family.

The Program Directors and faculty that are in Kenya are having many wonderful times of sharing. The need for more faculty members is a recurring theme and many impassioned prayers have gone heavenward in hopes that God will grant their petitions for others to come as career missionary surgeons or as short-term surgeons to fill in the gap. Is God calling you to be an answer to prayer?

The palpable excitement and the bright inquiring eyes of the residents is a great tonic for all. PAACS is making a difference – and it is God's project. We hope you will join us in prayer and active participation. It will change your life!

The Editors



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

BULLETIN #127

January 2015



Akanyun Sama, Mbingo Resident, receives a study Bible from Dr. Terry Treadwell

### ***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.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dear Friends:

As I take on my new role as Executive Director for PAACS, I do so with great excitement and much prayer. I have many years of experience working with non-profit organizations that has prepared me for this role. Regardless of experience or skills, I am fully dependent on God for wisdom, guidance, grace and direction to lead PAACS. I learned many years ago that I am NOT able to do anything in my own strength but only in His. Zechariah 4:6 is a key verse in my life--- *Not by might, nor by power but by His Spirit*. It is His Spirit alone that will lead this organization to fulfill His great plans to provide His loving and compassionate care for His 56 million children in Africa in need of surgical care. PAACS is in His hands, where it belongs.

I would like to applaud the leadership of Bruce Steffes for the last 9 years, as Executive Director of PAACS. Bruce has done an incredible job at the helm of this organization. I am very blessed to continue working with Bruce and tap into his wealth of knowledge and experience. I am additionally blessed to work with the PAACS Commission, a group of wise and capable leaders, to move this organization forward. We will be working as a team to grow the PAACS programs, graduate more surgeons, increase funding for training and ensure a fiscally healthy organization. I will be devoting the next several weeks to meeting people, learning, and understanding the needs of the organization, its programs and everyone associated with PAACS.

Let me give you updates on two exciting developments. PAACS will be participating as a member of the Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anesthesia Care (G4 Alliance). The G4 Alliance is an advocacy-based organization dedicated to building political priority for surgical care as part of the global development agenda. The G4 provides a collective voice for member-organizations united in their commitment to increased access to safe, essential surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anesthesia cares for all. Bruce Steffes will be representing PAACS at the G4 meetings allowing us a voice in these discussions and the ability to share our faith in Christ. In addition, PAACS agreed to support the Amsterdam Declaration on Essential Surgical Care 2014. In summary, the Declaration solicits the support of major world organizations to ensure that essential surgery is available to all.

I would love to hear from you to understand how I can better serve you and PAACS. I have an open ear and heart to understand your concerns and needs. I desire to learn and I can think of no better way than from the people who are involved directly with the organization and dealing with all of the issues. Please feel free to reach out to me at [susan.koshy@paacs.net](mailto:susan.koshy@paacs.net). I look forward to the journey ahead and all God has in store for PAACS.

Your Humble Servant

Susan Koshy

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## TENWEK GRADUATION

*By Carol Spears*

Tenwek Hospital celebrated the second graduation of the General Surgery Training Program on January 9th, 2015. Dr. Elijah Mwaura and Dr. Jack Okumu were the graduates in a ceremony held at the Tenwek Hospital Meeting Room followed by a dinner in the surgery building atrium. Hospital Administration, faculty, staff, family members, friends and many well-wishers were in attendance in a very special ceremony to celebrate all that God has done in the past seven years of the existence of the Tenwek surgery training program.



Tenwek Graduates Elijah Mwaura and Jack Okumu

The graduation was quite a formal event, starting as the administration, board members, faculty, graduates, and current surgery residents participated in a processional from the surgery building down the hill into the meeting room and took their seats in the front of the auditorium. The graduation opened with prayer and praise to the Lord for all He has done in “building” this program. Our program verse was cited; Psalm 127:1, “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

Dr. Mwaura and Dr. Okumu were awarded their diplomas and certificates by the Vice Chairman of the Board, Jim Vanderhoof who is also the World Gospel Mission Country Director for Kenya. The

graduates gave speeches, telling a little bit of their personal stories and thanking Tenwek, PAACS, and their teachers – both the long-term consultants and the many visiting staff who have poured into their lives by coming and being a part of their training. One of the graduates said, “Tonight, I am a very grateful man.” A special time of prayer was held for the graduates and many of the faculty and loved ones gathered around them as Chaplain Philip Kikwai prayed for them and their future.

Tenwek has begun a tradition of including a “Passing the Torch” ceremony at each graduation to symbolize not only passing the light of Christ on, but also continuing the standards of excellence and ideals of Christlikeness in caring for patients. As Jim Vanderhoof played a musical tribute including Pass it On, Dr. Mwaura and Dr. Okumu called the twelve remaining Tenwek General and Orthopaedic Surgery residents forward and gave each one of them a candle. There had been a torch burning throughout the ceremony that Dr. Mwaura and Dr. Okumu had lit as the processional entered. The torch had flags of all of the countries where residents of Tenwek had worked or visited during the past five years carrying the light of Christ as they cared for surgical patients or participated in conferences. As the graduates lit the candles of the more junior residents, the light became brighter and the challenge was clear - for the mission to carry on. The graduates pulled up the institutional torch and passed it to Dr. Philip Blasto and Dr. Damaris Mbalu who are now the chief residents. We praise God for His amazing blessings and the work He has done.

Dr. Elijah Mwaura will be joining the staff at Chogoria Mission Hospital in Kenya and Dr. Jack Okumu is moving to Kisumu and is evaluating options of places to serve in western Kenya.



## NEW RESIDENTS IN PAACS:

**Dr. Chala Regassa** has joined PAACS-Ethiopia this month. He first felt the call of God into medical service as a child. At a local hospital, he witnessed a young mother desperately searching for a doctor to help her sick child. The hospital had no doctors and there was no one there to comfort this mother or

care for her child. In that encounter, he felt God's call to become a physician and help people like that young mother who are in need. He graduated from Addis Ababa Faculty of Medicine in 2011. Dr. Chala Regassa comes to PAACS Ethiopia from Ghimbi Public Hospital in Western Ethiopia where he worked as a general practitioner and medical director of the hospital. There, he met 2010 PAACS Ethiopia graduate, Haileyesus Tesfaye, who mentored and disciplined him and told him about the PAACS Ethiopia program. Chala is the second PAACS Ethiopia resident to come from Ghimbi Public Hospital after working with Dr. Haileyesus. Dr. Surafel Mulatu also worked with Haileyesus and is a current 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident in the program. Our best recruiters are our graduates!

Chala is married to Jalale and they have a baby daughter Bethaniya.

Two new residents have joined the PAACS-Kijabe program. **John Deng** is originally from South Sudan and is the third resident from that country. He is married to Peninnah Makau, who is also a physician. He came to Kenya as a refugee in 1992. He feels God has called him into medicine to help his country.



(L to R) Amgad Amir, Patricia Chesang, Ian Orwa, Ben Lyimo, Chala Regassa, Mugisha Nkoronko, Sam Fabiano, Dieudonné Lemfuka (beginning September 14), John Deng, Kenneth Shinga, (missing Aimable Niyubahwe)

Deng completed his primary and secondary education in Kenya. He graduated from Kampala International University in Uganda with his degree in Medicine in 2013. He spent the last year doing his internship at Maua Methodist Hospital.

Deng says: "There is a big gap back in my country especially in surgery; there are no surgeons who are able to deal with minor operations. This field will help me to fill this big gap in my nation. When I am through with the training, I would like to go back to my country which is in great need of my medical expertise to help my nation, many are dying because there is no one attending to them and also I would like to go there and make disciples of Jesus Christ as I serve God through my career."

**Kenneth Mwarabu SHINGA** is a Kenyan national who completed medical school in 2011 at the University of Nairobi. He worked 2 years as a medical officer, first at Naivasha District Hospital for one

year and then at Iten District Hospital for another year. He was working at Chebiemit District Hospital before joining the program at Kijabe.

Kenneth made the decision to become a surgeon after reading Ben Carson's "Gifted Hands" as part of his Christian Religious Education class in primary school. He writes that after completing his training he will use his "skills to change the lives of many underprivileged Kenyans and Africans as a whole. I will use my profession to engage my clients spiritually and live right according to the word, which is the Bible."

**Mugisha Ntiyonza Nkoronko** was born at the shores of Lake Tanganyika in south western Tanzania. He was the firstborn of four sons in a Christian home. He trained at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical School at Tumaini University located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro and did his internship there.

He writes, "I longed to become a surgeon of great influence to the community and society all the way back in primary school when I witnessed my father struggling with treatment of head injury for almost five years following subdural collection after falling from a height. I remember he had to sell his valuables and travel 1300 km looking for a Surgeon to drain his subdural hematoma by two bur holes who survived his life to date."

He has been active in preaching and leadership within his local church from 1998 to present. He writes, "I feel with PAACS training my spiritual life will be strengthened and motivates the gospel ministry in my lifetime carrier as a Christian surgeon."

**Benson Harrison Lyimo** was born and raised in Arusha city in Tanzania. He has three siblings, one sister and two brothers. He obtained his medical degree at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (ALMC). He describes that as a five year battle, surviving with God's help through that difficult time.

His internship was at Meru Regional Referral Hospital for a year before joining he began to work at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) for two years where his interest in surgery increased.

Lyimo writes, "To begin with, I give thanks to almighty God for He has done to me so many things that nothing on earth I can ever give to pay Him back. He has been faithful to me and all I can do is to praise Him every day of my life. He is making sure that even my dream of becoming a surgeon is actually happening and I believe he will turn me and my colleges into great surgeons in a near future."

**Dr. Samuel Fabiano** was born in Angola and spent some of his childhood in Portugal where his parents attended the Baptist Seminary in Queluz, Portugal. Upon returning to Angola, he spent some time at the Kalukembe mission station in central Angola and later moved to Lubango where he lived until finishing high school. In 1998, he attended Concordia University in Irvine, California and medical school at I P Pavlov State Medical University in St Petersburg, Russia. He is married to Amanda Fabiano and has a daughter, Isabella.

Upon graduation from medical school in 2011, he moved back to Lubango, Angola where he was an intern at the Evangelical Medical Center in Lubango under the supervision of Dr Stephen Foster and Dr Annelise Olson. One thing that Sam noticed upon arrival in Lubango was the shortage of well trained, God-loving surgeons in that city. He came to know about PAACS through Dr Foster and Dr Annelise Olson who both encouraged him to apply to PAACS. Training with PAACS seemed to be a great opportunity as it would prepare him for the African surgical scene. He prayed about it and doors opened and others closed. One April morning in 2014, he received a letter of acceptance to the PAACS program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. He is looking forward to what God has in store for him

and his family in the program at Bongolo in the next 5 years. He is also eagerly anticipating a return to Angola to work among those who need it the most.

**Dr. Aimable Niyubahwe** is our newest resident, starting only one day before the Kenyan conference. He is a first year general surgery resident at Malamulo-PAACS in Malawi. Aimable did medical school at Hope Africa University in Burundi and is a member of the Free Methodist church. He moved to Malawi with his wife, France, and two sons, Francis (7) & Frank (12 months). He is very happy to have joined Malamulo's training program and looks forward the next 5 years living, learning, and working in Malawi.

Tenwek Hospital welcomed two new residents on January 7, 2015. This makes a total of 14 surgery residents training at Tenwek - eleven in General Surgery and three in Orthopedics.

**Ian Arnold Orwa** joined the team as a first year Orthopedics resident. Ian's story is quite an amazing journey. He grew up in the Kibera slums of Nairobi as the only child of a single mom. His mom took in a cousin who was an orphan and they basically grew up as brothers. Although Ian had a quite disadvantaged childhood, his mom and other role models in his life instilled in him the desire to be all that he could be. He did well in school and was able to go to Medical School at Kenyatta University, a relatively new medical school in Kenya. As he went through medical school, he was drawn to the surgical fields because of the practical aspects of it and the ability to help people. He chose orthopedics along the way after some amazing patients interactions where patients, particularly older women, who were previously unable to do the farming work that enabled them to care for their families, regained their mobility and therefore their very life means through surgery.

Ian has a passion for the Lord, for His Word and has taken seminary courses to further his knowledge. One of his questions prior to joining PAACS was if he would be able to continue to take such courses while in residency. He was assured that the spiritual curriculum that Rev. Stan Key has prepared for us would prove a suitable challenge.

Dr. Orwa has a passion for life, a great big smile, a very low voice, and an enthusiasm that is already infectious at Tenwek. He enjoys going to the gym, traveling, and playing video games. He says that he chose PAACS because it is one of the best programs in the country from the mentorship, personal growth, and responsibility angles. He wants to become not only an excellent orthopedic surgeon, but also a better physician, a better Christian, and enabled to serve.

**Patricia Chebet Chesang** also joined the Tenwek Surgery team as a first year resident in General Surgery. Patricia is no stranger to Tenwek because she had done her Medical Officer Internship at Tenwek three years ago. But her story starts back in western Kenya where she grew up in a small town called Maseno. She was in a family of six children having two brother and three sisters. Growing up, she saw many people with needs that could not be met. She excelled in school and went to the University of Nairobi for Medical School. She chose Tenwek for her internship because of the Christian environment.

During her internship at Tenwek, Patricia developed a love and passion for surgery and she was inspired by the care, dedication and compassion that she saw in the surgery residents who were training there. Dr. Arega Leta Fekadu, who is now serving as a Consultant at Malawi, was a mentor Patricia and encouraged her to pursue her heart if God was calling her to do surgery. Patricia felt that she needed more all-around clinical experience and she wanted to serve the people of her area. She returned to western Kenya and worked for two years as a Medical Officer in a government hospital. She tells stories of seeing many needy patients and having many situations where she was unable to

do basic life-saving interventions because of lack of resources or skill. This solidified her calling to surgery.

Patricia has a passion for the Lord. She chose a PAACS training program because she believes that PAACS is helping to bring healthcare to people who would otherwise have no access. She believes that as she graduates, she will have not only the surgical skill and knowledge she needs to serve her people, but she will be equipped as a witness for Christ. She is a welcome addition to the Tenwek team. Her graceful spirit and enthusiasm are a perfect complement.

Please pray for these young men and women as they become PAACS surgeons!

## BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE STARTS SUCCESSFULLY



Dr. Jack Barasa lectures on trauma.

The 4th Biennial Principles of Surgery (Basic Science) Conference is presently in full swing at the Brackenhurst International Conference Centre near Limuru, Kenya. The conference began Sunday evening January 24 and will finish Thursday, February 5. Thirty-two residents from the first and second years of each program as well as sixty five program directors, faculty and some of their families are also attending.

Designed to fulfill the basic science requirements of the College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa, this conference has 72 lectures in anatomy, pathology, physiology, patient safety and

how to do well in residency. There are also four workshops – one in surgical skills, one in orthopedics, one in pathology and one in ENT skills.

The highlight of each day is the worship service and Bible study led by PAACS Spiritual



Rev. Stan Key

Dean, Rev. Stan Key. The study is entitled “Fire in the Belly” and is a study in the book of Jeremiah. The music is led by Kijabe Program



Worship service during conference.

Director Russ Davis and a band of volunteer resident musicians. Tenwek Program Director Russ White also led the service for three of the ten days.

Believing strongly the old adage that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the tea times and lunches are times of great conversation and fun. Each evening, there are social hours with group



games and given the surgical natures of the participants, some serious competition. On Saturday, January 31, they are going on a walking safari together at Crescent Island.

While the residents are meeting in the lecture hall, the program directors are meeting with Rev. Stan Key, with the administration of PAACS and with each other in a time of great fellowship and problem-solving.

The women are meeting each morning with Katy Key, the wife of Rev. Key, and having a great time of fellowship.

Difficulty in obtaining a Kenyan visa for two Cameroonian residents results in a two-day delay in arrival in Kenya, but God was praised when they finally arrived.



Charades of Biblical themes, Jenga and “the human knot” caused great merriment and fun.



More pictures are posted at [www.facebook.com/paacs](http://www.facebook.com/paacs). Please “like” the page when you are there.

## PAACS JOINS G4 ALLIANCE

PAACS has joined the G4 Alliance (<http://www.theg4alliance.org/>). The Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anesthesia Care (hence “The G4 Alliance”) is an advocacy-based organization dedicated to building political priority for surgical care as part of the global development agenda. They provide a collective voice for Member Organizations united in their commitment to supporting increased access to safe, essential surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anesthesia care for all.

The mission statement reads, “The G4 Alliance is committed to advocating for the neglected surgical patient and is driven by a mission of providing a collective voice for increasing access to safe, essential and timely surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anaesthesia care.”

The Vision statement reads, “Universal Access to Quality Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care: Every human being is entitled to ready access to high quality, life-saving, safe surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care performed in their communities. We believe that significant improvements in surgical care and anaesthesia, which save lives and prevent life-long disability or life-threatening complications, can be sustainably and affordably integrated within existing health systems.”

The website reads, “With the anticipated introduction of a World Health Assembly Resolution on Surgery and Anaesthesia Care and the UN's Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, there has never been a more opportune time for members of the global community to unite in support of surgical care in the global agenda. In response to this opportunity, a network of stakeholders have come together to form an Alliance of organizations united in their commitment to promoting universal access to safe, essential surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care.”

Over 35 member organizations and stakeholders met for the G4 Alliance's inaugural board meeting and strategic planning session on December 10-11, 2014 in London, UK. The official launch is scheduled for May, 2015.

## **PAACS VISIT TO POTENTIAL DRC SITE**

In early January, Bruce Steffes traveled in his role as Chief Medical Officer to the Hôpital du Bon Berger (Good Shepherd Hospital), a 160 bed hospital located in the village of Tshikaji, at an altitude of 635 meters (2,116 feet) ASL. It is 12 kilometers south of the larger city of Kananga (population 1 million). The local airport is there and it is a 70 – 90 minute flight approximately 500 miles east of the capital city of Kinshasa. Kananga is the capital of the local province, Kasai-Occidental. The DRC has approximately 69,000,000 people.

From their website: “Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai (Kasai Christian Medical Institute) was founded in 1954 by PCUS missionaries, back before the union with UPCUSA! It was moved to its current location outside the city of Kananga in 1964. For a time, it also had a dental technician school added in 1975, largely with funds from the PCUS Women's Birthday offering of 1969. Over the years, the staff of multiple doctors with various specialties has attracted medical students and interns seeking to do their practical rotations at The Good Shepherd Hospital, main referral hospital for the region. An old hotel building in Kananga was purchased in 1981 and converted into the large in-town PAX multi-service clinic with extensive outpatient services, a lab and 20 maternity beds. A research center was built in 1989. IMCK also has strong public health outreach and nutrition programs. Its own reliable hydroelectric power supply is rare in DRC. High quality is its hallmark. In 2014 there are 24 medical students and physician residents doing their practical work at IMCK and a surgical residency is planned.”

It was to further explore the idea of a surgical residency that this consultation was requested. The sole expatriate surgeon, Dr. John Fletcher, had met with Steffes and toured Kijabe and Tenwek Hospitals in August of 2014.

Three days of tours and meetings was used to give an evaluation of the present hurdles to the survival of the hospital and the beginning of a surgery program. Many suggestions were made for future

development that will help ensure the survival of this critically needed hospital and to prepare the hospital for a future Memorandum of Understanding with PAACS.



Administrative team of the Good Shepherd's Hospital

## NEWS SHORTS:

**Carter Receives Inaugural Award:** Dr. Lewis Carter, the driving force behind and chief editor of the PAACS textbook "Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa", has been named the first recipient of the American Association for Hand Surgery 2015 AAHS Humanitarian Award recipient. The Humanitarian Award was created to honor a deserving Association member who has made or continues to regularly make unique or special contributions, and/or personal sacrifices for the betterment of humanitarian efforts. The AAHS presented his award at the AAHS Annual Business Meeting, taking place Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas. Carter was a missionary for several years at Egbe, Nigeria and has been employed at Erlanger Medical Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee since 1987. He is also Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery in the Departments of Plastic and Orthopaedic (Hand) Surgery, University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Chattanooga. He has a long history of extensive travel to many mission hospitals where he has a passion to teach others. Congratulations Dr. Carter!

**New PAACS Administrative Coordinator Joins PAACS Team:** Hannah Kasper is PAACS's new Administrative Coordinator and assistant to Executive Director, Susan A. Koshy. Hannah accepted the Lord Jesus at a young age and has since been growing in relationship with Him. She has worked for the International House of Prayer in Kansas City (IHOP—KC) and also a local ministry called Kingdom Sending Center (KSC), both jobs requiring administrative and creative skill sets.



Hannah has a high value for the work nonprofits do to help make a difference in the world, making PAACS an exceptional opportunity. Hannah also has a passion for creative expression. She is a part-time photographer as well as a freelance designer. Hannah is excited for the opportunity to bring her repertoire of spiritual, administrative and creative skills to the PAACS organization.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Birth Announcement:** PAACS resident Steve Kyota Kasereka and his wife, Therese Iwoi, are pleased to announce the birth of their child, Blessing Muyisa Kyota. She was born on the second of January 2015 at 6:52 AM weighing 3.5 kg. . All are doing well. Steve had previously adopted two children, Salama and Helen, who are attending school in his home country of DRC. Congratulations.



- **Wedding Announcement:** Mbingo PAACS resident Titus Ebogo was wed on December 20, 2014 to Manka'a Marie-Louise Shu. She is from Bamenda, Cameroon and she is presently a medical student. They were wed at the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, Agyiati Congregation in Bafut, North West Region, Cameroon. Congratulations!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Continue to pray for our four PAACS graduates and all medical works in the Ebola-stricken areas of Liberia (Jerry Brown), Guinea-Conakry (Loua Ruffin, Jean Faya Yaradouno), and Sierra Leone (Aiah Lebbie).
- 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.
- Praise God for all the surgeons who are covering the mission hospitals during the Principles of Surgery Conference so that the faculty and residents can attend.
- Pray for a successful completion of the Basic Science Conference now in full swing at Brackenhurst Conference Center in Kenya.
- Pray for traveling safety on the way home for all attendees of the conference.
- 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.
- Pray for those on Home Assignment (Joe Starke, Mike Chupp, and Jim Brown) - 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.
- Pray for the search for a Chief Development officer for PAACS. Praise God for His provision of funds in the first six months of the fiscal year.

Editors:

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