

Dear Colleagues,

We really couldn't do it without you – whether we are talking of the prayers you lift up for the PAACS faculty, trainees and administration; the money you send to support the great work of PAACS; or the time and money you invest in our residents and their training. At the end of each year, we report to the IRS a tally of all the volunteer time that has been contributed to PAACS and we are always amazed at the results. A record number of trips were made this year and over 8 years of time was donated to the teaching of residents; almost two and a half full-time equivalents of time were donated on the administrative side of PAACS. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We also rejoice with the finishing of training for two residents at Mbingo and congratulate those who did well on the PAACS annual exam.

We are looking forward to the new fiscal and academic year, rejoicing in God's and your faithfulness to us. There will always be many hurdles – and we appreciate your prayer support and active participation as we go forward together. You are needed – and appreciated.

The Editors



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

BULLETIN #132

June 2015



### ***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.

A departing Dr. Steve Sparks embraces Dr. Jim Brown

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Friends of PAACS:*

*PAACS is involved in new and exciting opportunities as we move forward. God is doing a great and mighty work and opening new doors for strategic growth, increased visibility for PAACS and exposure to leaders from around the world.*

*A PAACS video is being developed that will highlight the work of this organization, its impact with the sick and suffering, and glorify the work of God in Africa. This video will help to educate people about our ministry and increase the visibility of PAACS with the public. A new PAACS PowerPoint, brochure, and hospital profiles have been developed in conjunction with the Advancement Committee. These materials are available on the PAACS website for use in educating and promoting the ministry of PAACS and its impact in Africa.*

*PAACS will also be exhibiting and presenting our ministry for the first time at the Global Leadership Summit presented by the Willow Creek Association. This conference will allow PAACS to be exposed to 9000 business and ministry leaders from all 50 states in the United States and from 25 countries from around the globe. This is a great opportunity for exposure for PAACS to global leaders and to showcase the impactful work of PAACS in Africa. We believe God will do mighty things through these efforts and will open further doors of opportunity for PAACS.*

*We are also in the process of prayerfully developing a strategic planning meeting involving the new PAACS administration and leaders from the Commission. A new organizational strategic plan is necessary to guide the leadership in its decisions and direction for growth. The strategic plan will serve as a road map for this organization as we move forward. We are also moving forward with a new proposed leadership structure for PAACS.*

*This is a very busy season for PAACS. We are moving forward, engaged in new activities and pursuing God's opportunities. Please pray that we will continue to glorify God through our work and that we will follow the direction and wisdom of our heavenly father.*

*In His Service,*

*Susan A. Koshy, PAACS Executive Director*

## MBINGO PAACS RESIDENTS FINISH

The Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services held its annual graduation ceremony for specialists in General Surgery and Internal Medicine at Mbingo Baptist Hospital on Saturday, June 20, 2015, in the main hospital chapel. PAACS finished two surgeons, Dr. Mwenyemali Benjamin Tony from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Dr. Evaristus Etape Njume from Cameroon. Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) graduated one internist, Dr. Tumi Divine Bahtila from Cameroon.

Mr. Richard Nji, the Senior Administrator for Mbingo Baptist Hospital, welcomed the guests, followed by the Opening Prayer by Dr. Kamden Jacob, a prior CIMS graduate from Mbingo. Professor Tih Pius Muffih, the Director of CBC Health Services, then introduced a long series of dignitaries and invited



From L to R, Dr. Tumi Divine Bahtila –CIMS; Dr. Evaristus Etape Nume – PAACS; Dr. Mwenyemali Benjamin Tony - PAACS

guests from the CBC Health Board and local government, education, and health services.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Philip Fischer, Professor of Pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He used as his text Matthew 9: 35-38, which tells of Jesus going throughout the cities and villages teaching, preaching and healing the sick. Jesus was motivated by compassion, and lamented that the harvest was plentiful but the laborers few. He implored the disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest send laborers. Dr. Fischer pointed out that not only are the laborers few in

proclaiming the gospel, but they are few in healthcare. He challenged the graduates to let Jesus be Jesus, to seek to be like Jesus, and to depend on Jesus.

Dr. Brown and Dr. Sparks presented the diplomas to the PAACS graduates, and Dr. Dennis Palmer presented the CIMS diploma to Dr. Tumi. Dr. Jason Axt presented the charge of the graduates, reminding them that “to whom much has been given, much will be required”. They were challenged to be faithful, even in the midst of adversity. Each of the residents then offered a response to the audience, followed by a prayer of dedication by the Reverend Ncham Godwill, the CBC General Secretary.

After the closing remarks and recession, the hospital provided a sumptuous meal for the entire hospital staff and guests. Each graduate then held a party at their individual homes and everyone was invited to make the rounds throughout the afternoon and evening to congratulate and wish the graduates well.

Dr. Mwenyemali Tony will be assigned to Maua Hospital in Kenya. Dr. Evaristus Njume will be assigned to Banso Baptist Hospital in Northwest Region of Cameroon.



This event marked the last official PAACS event for Dr. Steve Sparks, his wife Suzanne and their family who are returning to the US on a permanent basis. After more than a decade of service, the Sparks resigned from Converge Worldwide and will not be returning to their ministry in Cameroon. This was the result of months of prayer and they will return to San Diego. They are presently in Cameroon for 12 days to pack and to say good-bye to the years' worth of friends and colleagues. A friend of the Sparks posted to Facebook June 25, “Enjoyed a great morning at the hospital celebrating the work of Steve and Suzanne here in Cameroon! It was great to hear from the people who live and work here about the impact they have had on so many lives!

We echo those sentiments and deeply appreciate all that Sparks and his family have meant to the development and growth of the PAACS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital and to the ministry of the hospital.



## PAACS EXAM TAKEN

On the first weekend of June, 66 residents took the PAACS annual exam. Thirty took the senior level exam (including one previous resident) and thirty-six took the junior level exam (including four orthopedic residents from the CURE program at Kijabe Hospital). The passage rate for the senior exam was 87% and the passage rate for the junior exam was 56%. The best performers on the junior



PAACS Ethiopia Residents enjoy the exam!

exam were second-year resident of PAACS-Ethiopia, Ebenezer Gezahegn and first-year resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, Akanyun Sama. The best performers on the senior exam were both fifth year residents, Philip Blasto Ooko of Tenwek Hospital in Kenya and Dejene Desalegn of PAACS-Ethiopia.

The junior exam has a much stronger emphasis on basic sciences than does the more clinically-oriented senior exam. Also, more than half of the first year residents have been in the program less than six months and English is not their primary language for 44% of them. A remediation exam

will be given the last weekend of July. Traditionally, the performances have been significantly better on that second exam.

The KR-20, a calculation of test reliability, was .9 for the junior exam and .79 for the senior exam. It is a calculation of the cumulative variance of the scores

This is the first year that the full analytic capabilities of the Exam-Soft testing database are being brought to bear on the analysis of the exam. Exam-Soft is one of the leading software programs for high-stakes testing in the US.

Second-year PAACS residents are scheduled on the first Wednesday of September to take the written Member of College of Surgery exam of the College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). If they pass, they will take the oral examination November 30 in Blantyre, Malawi. Fifth-year residents will take the written Fellow of College of Surgery exam on the same day and if they pass, take the oral examination on December 1 in Blantyre.

## **OPEN LETTER FROM CDO BARTO**

Philanthropy is now modernly defined as the altruistic concern for human welfare and advancement, usually manifested by donations of money, property, or work to needy persons. However, the meaning of the word originates from the Greek 'philanthropia' which means the 'love of mankind'. We also know that in our PAACS ministry this kind of love begins with and flows through our Heavenly Father. I personally enjoy thinking about philanthropy and fundraising in these terms as these ideas have largely driven my career motivations, and my own participation in giving.

It has been a pleasure to begin to get to know the PAACS leadership, the programs, and the impact of our work in Africa. It has also been enjoyable and educational for me to meet recently with our Christian Medical & Dental Associations partners in Tennessee. The love of mankind is truly evident throughout these ministries and the financial support of our donors has been inspiring this year and remains on a growth trajectory.

As the person leading development efforts, it is my hope that the experience of giving to PAACS will be both efficient and satisfying for you. We will strive to operate all of our processes under best practices, and ensure that we can offer you all of the giving options as are available throughout the profession. Indeed, initiating a legacy gift of some kind can be one of the best ways to remember an organization. Some of the more sophisticated planned gifts can offer several advantages to donors as they incorporate them in their financial planning.

Mainly, as ever, fundraising is about excellent relationships, experiences, and a mutual purpose that drives our actions to make something better. It is clear that as a partner with PAACS, you are engaged and passionate about the work to provide 100 top quality surgeons and spiritual leaders to the continent of Africa by 2020! As I continue to speak with more of you, I welcome your questions, suggestions and thoughts at any time. In cooperation together – we can continue to transform the financial strength of PAACS and the health of Africa!

Thank you for blessing PAACS and may God bless you!

Rob Barto, PAACS Chief Development Officer ([Rob.Barto@paacs.net](mailto:Rob.Barto@paacs.net))

## REPORT FROM MALAMULO SDA HOSPITAL PROGRAM

By Dr. Ryan Hayton

On August 1, 2014, Malamulo SDA Hospital began its training program. We have been excited about joining PAACS and educating the next generation of compassionate and competent surgeons for Africa. Dr. Arega Fekadu and Dr. Ryan Hayton have worked together to construct a PAACS-family atmosphere with firm and loving encouragement for spiritual and surgical growth. Dr. Fekadu's experience and expertise in a wide range of surgical care has been a much needed addition to Dr. Hayton's administrative and surgical energy.



Malamulo Hospital's surgical and anesthesia team with Dr. Spratt (Anesthesiologist with PAACS).

This year is Malamulo's 100 year anniversary of health care in Malawi and a large celebration is planned for September 8, 2015. The hospital has led the country in improved care and education in many ways. Malawi has the world's lowest doctor to patient ratio at 1:55,000 as well as surgeon to patient ratio of 1:1,200,000. The Malamulo-PAACS residency is thus helping to improve these statistics.

Malamulo has ACGME accreditation as a surgical training site for American surgery residents and since 2012 the 4th year surgery residents from Loma Linda University in California have consistently come to Malamulo for a 2 month rotation. This has added a good dimension and value for the PAACS

residency as the senior residents from LLU have mentored, taught, and role-modeled to the PAACS residents.

PGY1: Dr. Elmoore Kamwendo started August 2014. As a Malawian national, he has learned to lead in the residency and has been a stable force in our surgical department. His marriage to Gloria in August 2014 was an occasion for big celebration in our new program.

PGY1: Dr. Aimable Niyubahwe started in January 2015. He, his wife France, and their two sons, Francis and Frank, moved to Malamulo from Burundi. His quiet and confident manner has added much to our program and his commitment to God and his patients are appreciated.

Some visiting faculty members have added to the education and breadth of experience for our residents. The educators this year included Anesthesiology, ENT, Urology and Reconstructive Urology, General Surgeons, Surgical Oncology, as well as lectures by Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Preventative Medicine, and Cardiology.

As we head into our second year of training, we praise God for His guidance. He sustains us as we do His work. Our prayer is that we may be a shining light on the hill showing God's love to the world.



Drs. Kamwendo and Fekadu in surgery.

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **Head & Neck Fellowship:** Plans for a one year advanced training fellowship focused on head and neck surgery at Mbingo Baptist Hospital are progressing nicely. At the May PAACS Commission meeting, final approval was given for the fellowship to join the PAACS family of training programs. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Chege Macharia has been selected to be the first fellowship trainee. Dr. Macharia is currently a chief resident in the PAACS general surgery program at Kijabe. After graduation, he and his family plan to move to Mbingo to begin the program in January 2016.

The PAACS Head and Neck Fellowship program at Mbingo is modeled after fellowship programs in the USA organized by the American Head and Neck Society. Dr. Wayne Koch is the program director and faculty surgeons include Dr. Acha Evaristus and Dr. Gregg Schmedes as well as a number of short-term volunteer teachers from North America. Training will focus on care for patients with a wide variety of head and neck tumors and maxillofacial trauma. There



is only one other head and neck fellowship training program in sub Saharan Africa, that at the University of Cape Town.

This fellowship opportunity is available for surgeons who have completed training in either general surgery or otolaryngology, who have committed their lives to the service of Jesus Christ, and who meet the criteria for training as a member of the PAACS family. We are looking for individuals who have achieved a high level of proficiency in surgical training and who wish to gain expertise in management of complex head and neck pathology in order to enhance their ability to care for these patients in regions of Africa where these skills are desperately needed.

We will begin accepting applications for the 2017 fellowship position in October. Contact Dr. Koch, [wkoch@jhmi.edu](mailto:wkoch@jhmi.edu) for information.

- What a Great Group of Volunteers You Are!** During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 182 PAACS volunteers made 194 trips overseas and contributed almost 8 full years of service (2871 days) overseas and the PAACS commission and administration contributed. This is the highest number of volunteer trips ever (171 last year and 175 the year before), despite concerns about personal safety which has caused many to cancel their trips in the past year.

The PAACS Commission, PAACS Council and administration also totaled their volunteer contributions for the year for the first time. Almost 5,000 hours of donated time was given, representing over 2 full years of service this year.

	<b># of Trips</b>	<b># of days</b>
<b>Bongolo</b>	13	191
<b>Kijabe General Surgery</b>	10	168
<b>PAACS-Ethiopia</b>	8	137
<b>Mbingo</b>	31	375
<b>Tenwek</b>	71	1140
	<b># of Trips</b>	<b># of days</b>
<b>Kijabe Pediatric Surgery</b>	9	106
<b>Galmi</b>	13	344
<b>Arusha</b>	24	239
<b>Harpur</b>	3	48
<b>Bangladesh</b>	1	7
<b>Malamulo</b>	11	116
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>2871</b>

	<b>2014-2015</b>
Anesthesiologist	9
Cardiologist	5
Cardio/Thoracic	3

ENT	11
Gastroenterologist	3
General Surgery	42
General Surgery/Thoracic	1
General Surgery & Peds	1
Neurosurgeon	8
Ob/Gyn	19
Oral/Maxillofacial	2
Orthopedics	26
Orthopedics/ head & neck	1
Orthopedic Surgery	6
Pediatric Cardiologist	2
Pediatric Surgeon	11
Pediatric Critical Care	3
Pediatric Urology	3
Plastic Surgeon	17
Radiology	7
Surgical Oncology	2
Hematology/Oncology	1
Trauma/Critical Care	3
Urology	7
Vascular	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wedding Announcement:** Rajib Sharma, PAACS surgical intern at Memorial Christian Hospital in Malumghat, Bangladesh, is approaching the end of his first year of residency training. But he also is celebrating an even bigger milestone in his life: marriage! On May 23, Rajib and Aditi Sharma were joined together at Zion Baptist Church in Chittagong in front of God, family, and friends.

Aditi, who had previously lived in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has moved to Malumghat to join her new husband. Her background is in business administration, which she hopes to be able to put to work as she explores job options with the hospital. Please pray for this couple as they begin their marriage, as Aditi adjusts to living in a new place, and as they continue along the PAACS journey



together.

Rajib is presently the only resident in our Asian program.

- **PAACS Graduate Requests Help:** Henry Ine, 2012 Graduate of PAACS-Mbingo, is now serving at the SDA Hospital in the Kigoma Region of Tanzania. Within walking distance of Burundi, he is the only surgeon for an area larger than Burundi. He occasionally serves patients from the DRC. He now wants to take six weeks to attend language school so that he may serve there more successfully on a long-term basis and needs someone to cover the hospital for him during that time. He also states that orthopedic surgery is particularly challenging due to the lack of instruments and disposables. If you can help with either need, please contact Dr. Ine at [henrotine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:henrotine@yahoo.co.uk).
- **Job Opportunity for Francophonic Surgeon:** The Compassion Evangelical Hospital in Guinea (<http://www.cehguinea.org/>) is looking for a Francophonic African general surgeon to join their faculty. The Board of Directors of CEH has approved an attractive salary and benefits package for a fully-qualified surgeon to join our staff of generalists (which includes a part-time American Family Med doc, a part-time American Pediatrician, 2 Guinean generalists) to facilitate the highly effective medical evangelism that continues at the hospital. The attraction of working there will include the opportunity to operate regularly with visiting general and specialist surgeons from Mayo Clinic who are members of Autumn Ridge Church here in Rochester that supports the ministry. Plans include short term teams there at least every other month. If interested, please contact Dr. Steve Merry at [Merry.Stephen@mayo.edu](mailto:Merry.Stephen@mayo.edu).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for God's hand upon the new surgeons who have finished their training period – that they will find a mentor, that their families will adjust and that they will work and reflect Christ to the best of their abilities – for His glory.
- Praise God for the wonderful ministry the dozens short-term faculty who come to help. May God bless as they serve and teach. Pray that others will answer the call to provide the necessary teaching of skills and the relief that is needed. Pray for peace within our countries and peace within their hearts as they answer His calls to come, to serve and to teach.
- Pray that God will call someone to provide coverage for Dr. Ine as he goes to language school and for the hospital's need for orthopedic surgeons and equipment.
- Praise God that Dr. Chege Macharia will be the first trainee for the new Mbingo Head and Neck Fellowship and pray to God that He will make it clear who should be the next year's trainee.
- 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 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 (Dave Thompson, Mike Chupp, and Jon Pollock who are in the US now & Dan Galat who will begin in July) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Mike Chupp returns to Kenya in August.
- Pray for the need for orthopedic coverage at Tenwek from July through December while Dan Galat is on home assignment.
- Pray for the career PAACS faculty members who are under great personal and/or family stress. Pray for healing and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their day to day lives.
- Praise for the Halter Family as they attend language school and adjust to their new lives in Tanzania.
- The Michael Ganey's are at 80% funded and praying that they hit 100% by August 1 - plus have their house rented. Mike's Kenyan medical license is in hand but he is waiting on work permit. They hope to leave in September and will do 3 months of language study before starting at Tenwek. Pray for God's hand upon it all.
- Pray for the Eric Mitchell family as they have closed out their time at Tenwek and continue to seek God's direction for the future. Pray that the pending adoption of a child will go without a hitch and that God will direct for their future return to Africa.
- Pray for God's hand upon the lives of Dr. Todd and Jen Lavery as they prepare to return to serve long-term in Egypt.
- Pray for Jacques Ebhele (2015 Bongolo) as he moves to join the surgical faculty at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.
- Please pray for Benson Hayton, the 7 year old son of PAACS surgeon Ryan Hayton in Malawi, who has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes mellitus.
- Pray for those residents who must prepare for the annual PAACS remediation examinations in late July. Pray for the faculty and administration as they may be making hard decisions regarding promotion.
- Pray for the four new residents that were selected to begin in August. Pray that their move this month to their places of training will be effective, that all permits and visas will be obtained and they will have the drive and fortitude necessary to do well in their new fields of endeavor. Pray for the ability of their families to adapt to the stresses of training and a new culture.
- Pray for peace and the cessation of civil unrest in Burundi. Three of our new residents and two of our present residents are from that country. Pray for their own peace of mind while separated from family.
- Pray for God to call high-quality applicants for the next incoming class of PAACS residents.

- 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 that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year.
- Thank God for the years of service from the Sparks family and pray for God's hand upon their future.

Editors:

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