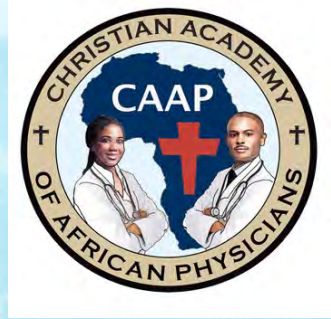


# the CAAP CONNECTION

September, 2022



## WELCOME to the FIRST ISSUE of the CAAP Connection!

**Greetings** to you, friends and colleagues! We are excited to launch this inaugural issue of our newsletter as a way of helping us stay informed and connected with each other about the world of Christian Family Medicine in Africa. We hope you will find this newsletter both interesting and informative. Please know that your feedback is greatly appreciated and valued for future issues and input. We're so glad you're here!



## Founding Board of Directors CAAP, circa 2017

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Each newsletter will include a **FOCUS** on a CAAP-affiliated residency program and its faculty members. **ALUMNI Profiles** will introduce recent graduates to the reading audience. In addition, recent and/or current **CAAP News** items will be presented. Announcements of meetings/future events, faculty needs, and other information will also be included.

**CAAP Vision:** African physicians engaging healthcare systems to provide every person in their community compassionate care that exemplifies the healing power of Jesus.

**CAAP Mission:** CAAP supports programs that teach and mentor African physicians and primary care providers who empower the Body of Christ to continue the teaching and healing ministry of the Great Physician

- **FOCUS:** ELWA Family Medicine Residency Program and Faculty Members
- **ALUMNI Profiles:** Dr. Faith Lelei and Dr. Sarah Kiptinness, graduates of the Kabarak Residency Programme
- **CAAP News:** CAAP-PAACS Faculty Development Conference, June 2022
- **Announcements and Events**
- **Get Involved with CAAP!**

# FOCUS: ELWA Hospital Family Medicine Program

## Mission Statement

To advance the Gospel through providing quality healthcare services with Christ-like compassion and integrity, focusing on the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and mentoring the future healthcare leaders of Liberia.



## History of ELWA Hospital

ELWA Hospital was founded by SIM in 1965 to serve the medical needs in the community surrounding the ELWA Radio compound in Paynesville, Monrovia, Liberia. The hospital continued to operate throughout the civil war period and the ebola epidemic of 2014-2016. Since then, the hospital has been a leading healthcare provider in Liberia, and is now training doctors in Family Medicine.

## Structure of the Program

ELWA Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRP) is run under the Liberian College of Physicians & Surgeons (LCPS) and accredited by the West African College of Physicians. It is a three-year program covering diverse medical fields. The program is headed by a Faculty Chair, assisted by a Vice-Chair. Residents rotate primarily in Harper (J. J. Dossen Hospital) and Monrovia (ELWA, JFKMC), and other accredited facilities. The program is funded by ELWA Hospital/SIM, USAID, and African Mission Healthcare (AMH). A monthly stipend is provided to residents by MedSend.



## Residents

The program has admitted 19 residents in total; seven have graduated. Currently, there are 12 residents and one fellow in the program. Four final year residents are expected to graduate in September, 2022.

# ELWA Hospital Family Medicine Faculty



## Faculty Chair

**Dr. David Okiror** is the Faculty Chair of the Family Medicine Residency Program. He holds MBCHB, DTMPH, and MMed degrees, and is a Fellow of both the LCPS and WACP. Originally from Uganda, he has served in Liberia since 2008. He is experienced in international humanitarian and relief work, university teaching, and student mentoring. He also has experience in setting up health systems in resource-limited and post-conflict settings.

**Dr. Rick Sacra** is the founder and assistant faculty chair of ELWA Hospital FMRP. He has served as a medical missionary with SIM in Liberia since 1995. His contributions have included patient care, training nurses in ultrasound, and initiating ELWA's counseling program for patients living with HIV. He has provided instructions to medical students and interns in leadership development. He has adopted Liberia as his second home, and survived Ebola in 2014.



**Dr. Sterman Toussaint** is a general surgeon and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In August 2021, he moved with Partners in Health to Liberia to work at FMRP as Director of Clinical Services and Medical Education with the main objective to build a strong medical and surgical education system in the southeast of Liberia alongside a strong system of healthcare delivery.

**Dr. Sarah Anyango** is a Consultant Obstetrician- Gynecologist and Deputy Director of Clinical Services at Partners in Health Liberia (PIH). Dr. Anyango is also a clinical instructor and faculty member at the Department of Family Medicine of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She specializes in maternal and newborn health Services and is committed to advancing a future where no woman dies during childbirth. Dr. Anyango's passion is serving the underserved and underprivileged around the world, which she does through a variety of organizations.



# ELWA Hospital Family Medicine Faculty

**Dr Moses Tarawali** is the ELWA Hospital Medical Director and a core faculty member in the FMRP. He is a 1986 graduate of A.M.Dogliotti College of Medicine, University of Liberia with an internship for one year and residency in Radiology for three years at J.F.Kennedy Hospital, Monrovia, Liberia. His residency training was in Family Medicine at Methodist Hospital in Gary, Indiana, USA, before he joined the Family Medicine Faculty of ELWA Hospital 2020 to present.



**Rebecca Cook, MD, MSc**, is an assistant professor at Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin. From 2016-2021 she served in Liberia first as a Pediatric Global Health Fellow and then as the Director of Clinical Services and Medical Education for Partners In Health. She led the first four years of the rural rotations for Liberian family medicine residents in Maryland County, Liberia. Now that she lives in the U.S., she enjoys continuing to connect with family medicine residents on Zoom during remote teaching and mentorship sessions in pediatrics and community medicine.

**Dr. Susan Kimono** is a consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at ELWA Hospital. She has worked in Liberia for the past five years with MOHSW, UNFPA, and Catholic Hospital; and now ELWA Hospital and the faculty of Family Medicine. Her key areas of work have been in capacity building such as training, infrastructure improvement, quality improvement projects in maternal and neonatal care, and advocacy for maternal healthcare.





# ALUMNI PROFILE:

Dr. Faith Lulei  
Kijabe Hospital

## Current job placement/practice:

AIC Kijabe Hospital is a tertiary 370-bed hospital that is about 60 kilometers from Nairobi. Upon completion of my residency, I was tasked to set up the hospital quality and safety department, an enjoyable task. This included setting up a clinical ethics committee, chairing outbreak, leading accreditation efforts, and strengthening medical error reporting. It has been great serving Him in this capacity even as I transition to a more senior leadership role.

## One story that brought me hope:

In healthcare, there are increasing “gray areas” where the right thing to do is not always black and white, such as decisions on when to withdraw or withhold care. I am glad to be part of a pace-setting, clinical ethics team that seeks to be solving ethical dilemmas within our setting, while asking: what is the Christian response to this? I am glad that God is raising teams to interrogate such questions and seeking to answer them in a manner that pleases Him.

## Most encouraging experience since graduation:

I think the most encouraging experience since graduation has to be seeing how the Lord helped and carried us through the COVID pandemic. Six months after graduation, I was given the monumental task to lead our hospital’s COVID response. I was fortunate to have such an able and supporting team to with which to work. However, more amazing was how the Lord protected staff members through the pandemic (even with recyclable PPE such as cloth gowns and rationing of the N95 masks) and how God carried the institution through that difficult period. Reflecting on it, I can only speak of God’s faithfulness through it all.

## Have you seen God perform any miracles this year?

Spending most of my time in management and less with clinical work makes such encounters rarer, and sometimes leads us to forget God’s doing even in mundane activities and several meetings. However, it is also a reminder that God works in and through management processes to help us streamline things in the workplace and help provide an enabling environment for others to serve and to see God move in the lives of patients.

## Share lessons learned through studies and/or work:

God requires excellence in all we do. It is important to keep that in mind each day, time and moment. Anything short of that on our part as His children and servants misrepresents Him and who He is.



# ALUMNI PROFILE:

Dr. Sarah Kiptinness  
Penda Health



## **Current job placement/practice:**

I am currently working as the Head of Medical Services at Penda Health. Penda Health has 19 medical centres around Nairobi offering affordable, high quality primary healthcare services in low-to-middle income communities in Nairobi.

## **One story that brought me hope:**

My role involves a lot mentoring of younger medical professionals. I am always inspired when I see a clinician approach a patient holistically during a clinical encounter i.e. not just focusing on the physical ailments but also identifying and addressing any social, emotional or spiritual areas of concern. This gives me hope in knowing that I am playing a significant role in ensuring there is a generation of medical professionals who are consistently offering whole person care to persons seeking medical care. Clinicians who see the person, not the disease.

## **Most encouraging experience since graduation:**

I played a significant role in leading a team in development of a clinical decision support system on the electronic medical record. This ensured that the 100+ clinical officers could offer evidence-based medical services consistently across the 19 medical centres. The greatest challenge in a multi-centre healthcare facility is ensuring and maintaining high quality care that is standardized across all branches.

## **Share a time when you felt you were living out your calling:**

I have been able to train over 100 clinical officers and nurses on approach to common out-patient conditions in a low-resource setting using the holistic approach to patients. Whenever I see the "Aha moment" in the eyes of a clinician or nurse that I know will significantly change their approach to patients, my heart is full of joy and I know I am fulfilling my calling.

## **What upcoming challenges are on your mind?**

Consistency. In a world where situations and people keep changing, it is very easy to lose focus on what is important. Patient experience through holistic care and continuous medical education of the healthcare providers who serve them is a priority and needs to be consistently available. It is very easy to get distracted and forget to prioritize these things and eventually fall off the track of being consistent.

## **Lessons learned through studies/work experience:**

Resilience & perseverance. These are lessons I began to learn during my residency program at Kabarak University and have continued to learn at my place of work. My approach to challenges at work is with a heart to learn and grow through the challenge. I rarely get flustered or overwhelmed by challenges and when I occasionally do, I remind myself to be still and wait on the lesson. God has allowed this to happen for a specific reason.



# CAAP-PAACS Faculty Development Conference

## Nairobi, Kenya

June 12-18, 2022



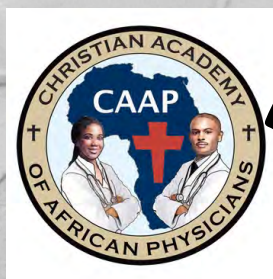
A rich menu of topics included “Principles of Adult Learning”, “Bedside Teaching Tools”, “Moral Injury”, “Curriculum Development”, and modelling of active learning through group process activities. Time away from clinical responsibilities was enriched with daily devotional time presented by PAACS Spiritual Director, Rev. Dr. Ed Scarce. After three days of shared sessions, CAAP convened as a group to focus on Issues specific to primary care. Dr. Matthew Loftus from Litein Hospital shared with CAAP members an approach to trauma and mental health care in the Kenyan context.

Members also worked together on the draft document “Core Requirements for CAAP Residency Training Programs”, developing benchmarks and desirable targets for assessment in the future. The open sharing from program to program, active discussion of spiritual priorities, and relationships that were kindled during this conference created an environment that could mark this time as a symbolic “birth” of CAAP.

Members of the Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP) convened with Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) members in a momentous week of Faculty Development.

The vision to collaborate to provide faculty development enrichment training among CAAP and PAACS members in Africa was first discussed in September 2019. The global pandemic delayed the implementation of this process, but the vision burned brightly. Drs. Bruce Dahlman and Susan Radecky represented the CAAP Executive Board.

CAAP Board members Drs. Geoffrey Wechuli, Stephen Yohanna, and Norah Ndi were among 25 primary care physician leaders from six countries who participated. PAACS leaders and approximately 45 surgical faculty from eight countries were active participants.



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## RESIDENT HAPPENINGS

This is the section where we would appreciate residents and faculty providing a paragraph of any special life events such as weddings, births, special awards, etc. Please include a paragraph with picture to [AfricaCAAP@gmail.com](mailto:AfricaCAAP@gmail.com)

## ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Alumni, please, also share a paragraph the same special life events such as weddings, births, special awards, etc. but also any change in venue of your service. Please include a paragraph with picture to [AfricaCAAP@gmail.com](mailto:AfricaCAAP@gmail.com)

## HIGHLIGHTED FULL TIME FACULTY NEEDS

1. AIC KAPSOWAR Hospital, Kapsowar, Kenya seeks a full-time family medicine faculty to coordinate the program from Kabarak University. More about Kapsowar Hospital here. Please contact Dr. Gerhard Schumacher, Medical Director at: [meddirector.kapsowar@gmail.com](mailto:meddirector.kapsowar@gmail.com)

2. HARPUR MEMORIAL Hospital, Menouf, Egypt is in process to start an internal medicine residency and seeks someone to lead the team: preferable to have academic experience and facility in Arabic. More about Harpur here. Please contact Prof. Steve Sturman at: [steve.sturman@cmf.org.uk](mailto:steve.sturman@cmf.org.uk)

(As a residency program director, please direct your requests to the email below.)

**GMHC Louisville CAAP MEETING:** For those attending this annual US healthcare missions conference, sign up at [this website](http://www.gmhc.org).

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Residents starting their program year this quarter in Kabarak (6 residents in September), ELWA (4 residents in October) and Mbingo (5 residents)
- Faculty needs in the above hospitals and others too.
- Continued guidance for the development of guidelines for residency affiliation with CAAP.
- Wisdom for the CAAP spiritual life committee as they draft guidelines to encourage spiritual growth and discipleship of all residents and faculty.
- Faculty will incorporate what was learned and shared at the June Faculty Development Conference in Nairobi.

## Get Involved with CAAP!

- Send us your email contact to receive Connections
- Suggest ways to stay connected
- Write an article
- Share a faculty or other residency needs
- Send pictures of health-related activities
- Share this newsletter with others



Direct all communications to: [AfricaCAAP@gmail.com](mailto:AfricaCAAP@gmail.com)