**The Legacy of Christian Compassionate Healthcare in Africa**

Church hospitals and health systems provide a substantial portion of the healthcare in Africa despite little financial assistance or government subsidies. South of the Sahara, church hospitals and clinics account for 30 – 60% of the health services delivered, especially in rural areas where the majority of the population lives. African Christian health institutions have a long history of training well-qualified nurses to run dispensaries and staff hospitals. Now, these health systems need residency-trained doctors to staff their hospitals and clinics. A generalist with one year of internship training might stay for a year or two in a rural site but will often move back to the city for specialty training, take a job with a higher paying NGO, or become part of the “brain drain” to the West. While most African countries offer residency training, they rarely have openings for more than 20 - 30% of the graduates from their medical schools in any given year. Without government sponsorship, church facility-based doctors lack opportunities for further training and are thus unable to advance in their career. CAAP seeks to support the development of church hospital residency training programs for African Christian physicians who want to work in underserved areas, living out the good news of healing in Africa.

**Relationship Centered**

Medical education as mission flows from obedience to Christ’s command and is embedded in relationships – personal relationships when caring for patients and when mentoring and discipling engaged learners. Short-term missions and “medical camps” may provide episodic assistance, but a long-term commitment to a people and a place creates lasting change and grows Christ’s kingdom. Together missional physicians and healthcare workers in the African church can learn and serve together to address the medical and spiritual disparities where only 3% of the world’s healthcare workers serve 25% of the world’s medical needs.

**The Birth of CAAP**

Postgraduate training for family medicine within African church hospitals began in Jos, Nigeria at [then] Evangel Hospital in 1988. The specialty has since expanded to develop national (NPMCN) and regional (WACP-FM) accrediting bodies and training in government institutions. In the late 1990s specialty training programs began at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania. The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) began in 2003 to engage the many church hospitals across the continent through the non-denominational with academic support from Loma Linda University. It aimed to encourage “African physicians to become general surgeons who are willing to remain in Africa to meet the [significant] need [for surgeons].” By 2023 PAACS has trained over 140 graduates in 24 programs in 11 countries with 150 current residents.

In 2015, a preconference of western and African academics in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics was convened at the annual Global Missions Healthcare Conference in Louisville, KY to discuss the utility and feasibility of starting medical residency training programs in church hospitals in Africa to complement the PAACS surgical initiative. The consensus opinion expressed was that “Graduate medical education is an excellent means of building the capacity of health care systems in low and middle-income countries ...and a growing way for physicians in high income countries to get involved in integral mission.” (cf. Merry S., Dahlman B., Shannon, K. et al. 2016. *Starting and resourcing family and internal medicine residency programs as integral mission.* Christian Journal for Global Health, 3(2): 151-159). By supporting the introduction of residency training in these medical specialties to complement the surgical teams, church hospitals will provide excellent wholistic preventive and curative care across all clinical domains but also minister to spiritual needs as well **.**

CAAP was founded on Nov. 7, 2017 at Loma Linda University.

**The Vision Statement of CAAP:**

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

**The Mission Statement of CAAP:**

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

**CAAP Core Activities:**

* **Residency Consultation, Support and Networking**Provide consultations to support the creation, strengthening and certifying of residency programs for family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine.
* **Primary Care Curriculum Development and Repository**Give consultation and provide examples of curricula to aspiring residency programs. Encourage and collaborate with ICMDA 2-year Post-graduate Diploma in Family Medicine.
* **Spiritual Curriculum Development and Repository**Source, review and make available spiritual curriculum components for ensuring spiritual foundations, formation, fellowship and faith and practice.
* **Professional Development and Global Fellowship**Collaborate with NextGenU and others to provide faculty development resources online and in face-to-face seminars; prepare Africa-based health education fellowship for faculty.
* **Recruit, Prepare and Network Primary Care Faculty with Residency Programs**Help Christian primary care clinicians and academics to find their place of educational service and prepare them for cross-cultural clinical mentoring and discipleship.
* **Facilitate Short-term Teaching Trips**Facilitate visiting consultants and teaching groups at the CAAP-affiliated family medicine and internal medicine specialty residencies

**Current CAAP Affiliated Programs:**

* + **Christian Internal Medicine Specialization**, Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
	+ **Harpur Physician Training Program**, Harpur Memorial Hospital, Egypt
	+ **Kabarak University Family Medicine,** Kenya - Chogoria, Kapsowar, Kijabe, Litein, Tenwek
	+ Plan late 2023: **Soddo Christian Hospital Family Medicine,** Ethiopia
	+ Plan early 2024: **Hope Africa University/Kibuye Hospital Family Medicine**, Burundi

**In partnership with MedSend.org, scholarships are available at most programs.**

Together these programs have graduated 46 residents with 63 currently enrolled.

**Please fill the contact sheet at** [**www.caaphome.org**](https://www.caaphome.org/contact-us/) **if you are:**

* An African medical officer/ general practitioner physician applying for residency
* An African or expatriate applying for a faculty position
* An African church hospital or university interested to start a residency program
* A global (non-African) residency, consultant or resident interested to join CAAP at no cost

**ICMDA World Congress Delegates**

Welcome to the CAAP booth at the Congress. Please meet our representatives:

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