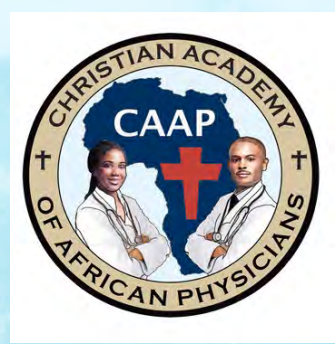


the CAAP CONNECTION

Issue #2

June, 2023



A WARM WELCOME to the second edition of The CAAP Connection! We trust that Year 2023 is going well for you. In this issue, we will focus on a specific residency, profile its faculty, and present two graduates of the program. We also want to keep you up to date on other CAAP news, and explore current CAAP events. ***Thanks for being here!***



Christian Academy of African Physicians Board

CAAP Vision: African physicians engaging healthcare systems to provide every person in their communities with 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.



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Website: **CAAPhome.org**

FOCUS: CHRISTIAN INTERNAL MEDICINE SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM (CIMS)

MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL

MBINGO, CAMEROON

The CIMS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital began in 2008 under the leadership of **Dr./ Prof. Dennis Palmer**, who was the pioneer Program Director and the only onsite faculty member. The vision of starting an Internal Medicine (IM) Program stemmed from the fact that there were no internists serving at Mbingo Baptist Hospital or other **Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS)** hospitals at the time. In addition, the **Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)** program had just started at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Surgical patients who also had many other complex medical problems were not being properly managed by house officers or general practitioners. It became obvious that an internal medicine program would complement the surgery program and boost patient care at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.



The program began with two residents.

The enrolment at the time was low because medical training in Cameroon is university-based in addition to hospital training. Moreover, the program did not have government recognition. Over the years, as graduates from CIMS were getting posted to other CBCHS hospitals, their contributions to the care of patients were becoming noticed and respected.

Many more house officers started applying to the program as a result of witnessing such good patient care and outcomes. In 2017, the Cameroonian Government authorized the program to run under the **Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS)**. With that, the program started getting overwhelmed with applications.

Currently, **there are 20 graduates of the CIMS program, with 21 students in training** (four of whom began in January, 2023). Some CIMS graduates have further **trained in other fields, including oncology, pathology, and cardiology**. Fifteen graduates are serving in CBCHS hospitals in leadership positions. Five of current on-site faculty for CIMS are graduates of the program. All graduates so far are from Cameroon, but the program is open to international applicants. The faculty includes expatriate physicians who come short-term or give lectures via Zoom.

The Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) residency program has been in operation at Mbingo for 15 years and has been a big success, and is now graduating three to four well-trained Christian internal medicine physicians each year. Much of the structure and curriculum that will be used at **Harpur Memorial Hospital** in Egypt for their new internal medicine residency has been shared from the CIMS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (see page 8). **To God be the Glory!**

CIMS Faculty Profiles



Mbingo CIMS Programme Faculty and Residents



Dr. Julie Anne Stone is a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. She has been working as a medical missionary in Cameroon under the auspices of the North American Baptist Conference since 1992. When political unrest developed in the Anglophone sector of Cameroon in 2018, Dr. Stone relocated to Mbingo Baptist Hospital to assist with the Internal Medicine Residency. She currently serves as Program Director of the Christian Internal Medicine (CIMS).

Dr. Tumi Divine Bahtila is an Internist who has been serving at Mbingo Baptist Hospital for seven years. He is a member of the CIMS faculty and currently a fulltime endoscopist, doing both diagnostics and therapeutics. He desires to get more skills in this field as the number of children coming with esophageal strictures keeps increasing. Secondly, there is demand for endoscopic ultrasound and ERCP diagnostic procedures. He is currently working on health care quality improvement, focusing on staff satisfaction.

He holds the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine of the Loma Linda University Medical Center.



CIMS Faculty Profiles



Dr. Feudjio Ghislain is a radiologist and head of the Imaging Department at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. He did a four year residency in Radiology at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaounde where he graduated in 2018. He has been working at Mbingo for the past three years, helping in teaching CIMS residents imaging techniques and interpretation of CT scans.

Dr. Sunday David is an Internist who has been serving at Mbingo Baptist Hospital for the past three years. He is an alumnus of the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) program and currently serves as faculty and one of the deputy program directors for CIMS. He also spent a year at Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, India, doing a Fellowship in Intensive Care Medicine and now also serves as an intensivist, overseeing the running of the Intensive Care Unit of Mbingo Baptist Hospital. He is passionate about offering holistic care to patients (especially those in need) as an expression of Christ's love, as well as learning, teaching, mentoring and equipping other younger physicians and health care personnel to do same.



Richard Bardin, MD serves at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Mbingo, Cameroon. He is trained in Internal Medicine and Pathology and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the College of American Pathologists. In Mbingo he contributes by providing services in Cytopathology and Histopathology and by mentoring residents in the Internal Medicine and Surgical residency programs (CIMS and PAACS). He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

CIMS Faculty Profiles



Dr. Kouya Francine, Oncologist, completed her Internal Medicine training at CIMS Mbingo Baptist Hospital. She then did a two year fellowship in Medical Oncology in South Africa. She heads the Oncology Unit of Mbingo Baptist Hospital which is the pioneer cancer care center in the northwest region of Cameroon. Mbingo Baptist Hospital is also the second pediatric oncologic center in Cameroon.

Dr. Ndi Norah Nyah, Internist, graduated from the CIMS program in 2016. She is currently one of the CIMS Assistant Program Directors as well as the Chief Medical Officer of Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Part of her time is invested in research and she aspires to pursue more of that as time and resources permit. She is a board member of the Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP), and has participated at two CAAP consultations. She is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Medicine of the Loma Linda University Medical Center, California.



Dr. Dennis Palmer served as a medical missionary in Cameroon from 1979-1984 and 1988-1991, primarily at Bango Baptist Hospital. In 2004 he returned to Cameroon to serve as Field Director and Field Administrator, stationed in Bamenda. Dennis also served as the director of the new HIV/AIDS treatment program. After four years in those positions, he moved to Mbingo Baptist Hospital where he began the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) residency training program. Dennis served as Clinical Supervisor of Mbingo Baptist Hospital and also as the program director of the CIMS Residency, Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Later he became the Pioneer Dean of the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS). On his retirement from this role in March 2022, he became a permanent BIHS Board member as Pioneer Dean of BIHS.

Alumni Profile:

Dr. Epande Richard Enang



Current Job Placement/Practice:

I currently serve as one of two internists at Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) where I double as clinical supervisor for over two years now. Mutengene is a junction town located at the center of three major cities: Buea, Limbe, and Douala in Cameroon.

One story that brought me hope:

Seeing more Christian physicians graduating from CIMS in Mbingo gives me hope that in less than no time we are going to bring a change in the medical landscape of Cameroon. As Christian physicians we will be able to offer holistic care to the patients we see.

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

As clinical supervisor I get to follow up and evaluate new doctors on practical experience. Seeing the transformation they go through with the help of our Lord and Savior, the Master Physician, thrills me. Being a part of this process makes me feel I am living out my calling.

What upcoming challenges are on your mind?

Given the location of our hospital, we are currently undergoing a transformation to become a trauma center. Upon my arrival we started a three-bed ICU. My challenge is to expand this work space and acquire more skills to cater for more critically sick patients.

Lessons learned through study and work experience:

Working in a very resource-limited setting and seeing the results we get on our patients has taught me to trust God even more.





Alumni Profile:

Dr. Nkweta Eugene

Current Job Placement/Practice:

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) is situated in the central town of Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon. It has a bed capacity of over 200 and daily outpatient consultations of over 600 patients.

I was posted to MBHD with the primary objective to improve the quality of care of patients as well as to supervise clinical activities of the hospital.

One story that brought me hope:

I work regularly with many young physicians giving them orientation, mentoring in clinical medicine and recommending them for employment. This gives me hope to see these doctors improve over time in the practice of holistic medicine as Christian physicians.

Most encouraging experience since graduation:

I work as an internist and clinical supervisor. This helps me not only to practice as a clinician but also to make important decisions that improve the lives of over 500 staff and ensure quality of care to our patients. Also, being a team lead on many committees (including pharmacy, therapeutics, antimicrobial stewardship and others), has helped to ensure quality of care by rendering these services to everyone by the grace of God and through His faithfulness.

Share a time you felt you were living out your calling:

I have mentored over 30 young physicians, with three going into CIMS residency after working with me. It has been very fulfilling to be an encouragement to them. Seeing these doctors upholding evidence-based practices in other hospitals has given me joy.

What upcoming challenges are on your mind?

Continuity. We often get distracted as physicians; hence, there is a need for continuous medical education to improve upon our knowledge and in the practice of evidence based medicine. It's a challenge getting all the doctors I am working with on board to improve our quality of care to patients via regular clinical presentations and reviews to maintain our standards.

Lessons learned through study/work experience:

Dedication and methodological practices. I started learning these lessons while still in CIMS residency and I continue to learn and improve on them. I am very dedicated and lead by example in a consistent and methodological manner which can be replicated. I do my best to implement these and God Almighty has been leading me every step of the way.



CAAP Consultation: **Harpur Memorial Hospital** **Menouf, Egypt** **February 19-25, 2023**

In February 2023, CAAP sent a team of consultants to Harpur Hospital in Menouf, Egypt to provide a full consultation report as they seek to start a new internal medicine residency program. The CAAP team included three internal medicine physicians (Chuck Barrier, Norah Ndi, and Dennis Palmer) and two family medicine physicians (Geoffrey Wechuli and Bruce Dahlman). This visit was preceded by years of work by those at Harpur Hospital and Steve Sturman (UK physician), with regular input from many of the CAAP consultants. The Harpur Physician Training Program (HPTP) has required extensive planning to get to the stage where residents can be accepted for the starting date beginning in May, 2023. CAAP will provide ongoing support in any way that is beneficial, just as they do for other CAAP-affiliated residency programs.



The consultation visit was well-planned by the staff at Harpur Hospital, Dr. Steve Sturman, and Dr. Ehab Ayoub (Program Director for the new HPTP residency program). The week's visit included many important aspects to help each of the CAAP consultants get a better understanding of the Egyptian healthcare system. Visitations were made to the large university hospital, a private hospital, a refugee clinic, and also to the Harpur Sadat City Hospital in Menouf. Meetings were held with hospital leadership and residency program directors, with the CAAP team joining ward rounds and clinic outpatient visits.

The warmth from those at Harpur was felt by the CAAP team from the beginning to the end of the trip. Through shared meals and times of prayer for the new program and leadership, people that had just met each other quickly became friends. As Egypt is quite different from the sub-Saharan African countries where the other CAAP-affiliated programs are located, long days and late nights of discussions regarding CAAP recommendations were required to include thoughtful consideration for Egypt's culture, history, religious demographics, healthcare system, and medical training.

Although the visit ended that week, the relationships that were built before the trip were greatly strengthened during this week. These relationships will continue to lead to the ongoing support that CAAP seeks to provide for the Harpur program. Please join us in praying for Harpur Hospital, the new HPTP residency program, and the physicians at Harpur that are leading this important work to train Christian internal medicine physicians in a mission hospital setting in Egypt.

CAAP Consultation: **Soddo Christian Hospital** **Sodo, Ethiopia** **March 1-10, 2023**



From March 1-11, 2023, CAAP provided on-site consultation for a new **Family Medicine Residency at the Soddo Christian General Teaching Hospital (SCGTH)** in southwestern Ethiopia. This Family Medicine Residency will be only the third one in the country, and the first one established in a mission hospital setting.



The physician team of Family Medicine educators included **Dr. David Okiror (Liberia), Dr. Geoffrey Wechuli (Kenya), Dr. Bruce Dahlman (USA) and Dr. Greg Kirschner (USA)**. They were hosted by future **Program Director Dr. Michelle Yates**, an American family physician serving in Ethiopia, and her **Ethiopian Family Medicine colleague Dr. Sifora Fanta**, who will be the Assistant Director.

The CAAP and SCGTH team met together with government Ministry of Health officials, not-for-profit thought leaders, and family medicine faculty from the leading teaching hospitals in Addis Ababa. In Soddo, productive time was spent collaboratively reviewing available human and material resources at SCGTH. The team met with hospital management, colleagues in various specialties who will be teaching in the program, and future program leaders. Opportunities to prepare residents for service in other remote areas include clinical experience in a nearby smaller primary hospital. The consultation assisted with forecasting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in creating an innovative educational program that meets Ethiopian requirements and will graduate clinically excellent family doctors. **CAAP** consultations also support a commitment to graduating physicians who practice Christ-Centered clinical and spiritual care.

Our consultation team left Ethiopia with a spirit of optimism not only for the establishment of the new **Soddo Christian Hospital Family Medicine Residency**, but for how healing and Christ-centered compassionate care might be extended to rural areas of Ethiopia through this ministry. **Please pray for God's leading and provision for the new SCGTH Family Medicine Residency!**



Announcements

RESIDENT, FACULTY, and ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

This is the section where we will feature updates from residents, faculty members, and alumni about special life events such as weddings, births, special awards, changes of venue, or special events, innovations and happenings occurring at your hospital or place of service.

Please include a paragraph with picture to **AfricaCAAP@gmail.com**.

FULL TIME FACULTY NEEDS

HARPUR MEMORIAL Hospital, Menouf, Egypt, has begun the internal medicine residency as of May 1st, 2023. They are looking for clinical faculty members to teach in the outpatient clinic and inpatient ward. Persons who have speaking abilities in Arabic are preferred but not required. More about Harpur [here](#). Please contact Prof. Steve Sturman at: steve.sturman@cmf.org.uk

AIC KAPSOWAR Hospital, Kapsowar, Kenya seeks a full-time family medicine faculty person to coordinate supervision of the residents from the Kabarak Family Medicine Residency program. More about Kapsowar Hospital [here](#). Please contact Dr. Gerhard Schumacher, Medical Director at: meddirector.kapsowar@gmail.com

AIC LITEIN Hospital, Litein, Kenya seeks a full-time family medicine program coordinator. More about Litein Hospital [here](#). Please contact Dr. Elijah Terrer, Medical Director, at: info@litein-hospital or liteinhospital@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The **CMDA Dietz Scholarship** provides financial assistance to support the Christian professional and educational leadership development of physicians and dentists in low and low-middle income countries and regions of the world. Applications available until March 31st and October 31st each year at [this link](#).



Harpur Memorial Hospital



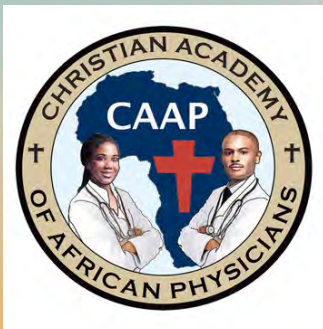
Kapsowar Mission Hospital

PRAYER/PRAISE/CONFERENCE ITEMS:

- Faculty for programs as outlined on previous page
- New incoming residents for all programs July-Sept 2023
- Successful visits at Harpur and Soddo Hospitals by the CAAP team
- ICMDA World Congress Conference, Arusha, TZ, June 20-25, 2023
- Prayers needed for future direction of ELWA Family Medicine Residency Program, Monrovia, Liberia
- Global Missions Conference-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya September 7-9 2023
- Global Missions Healthcare Conference, Louisville, KY, USA November 9-11, 2023

Get Involved with CAAP!

- **Become** a member of CAAP: It's free!
- **Suggest** ways to stay connected
- **Write** an article
- **Share** a faculty or other residency need
- **Send** pictures of health-related activities
- **Share** this newsletter with others



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