



Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association
January 2024 Newsletter

Message from the PAPSA President - An Exciting Welcome to the Maiden Edition of Our Newsletter

Professor Emmanuel A. Ameh - President, Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the maiden edition of our Newsletter. I feel so excited and honoured to be a part of this significant milestone in our collective journey.

Our association has always been committed to advancing paediatric surgery in Africa, promoting collaboration amongst us, as well as improving outcomes for our young patients. This newsletter will contribute to our ongoing progress.

As we navigate the complexities of surgery in children, this newsletter will serve as a valuable resource for staying informed about the latest developments, sharing experiences, and fostering a sense of unity among our members. I implore and encourage you to actively participate in this collaborative platform by contributing your expertise and insights.

In addition to celebrating our achievements, let us also use this newsletter as a platform to address challenges, discuss emerging trends, and explore innovative solutions, as we continue to push the boundaries for educational excellence and improved outcomes for our patients. Together, we can leverage our collective strengths to elevate the standard of education for our trainees and make a lasting impact on the lives of the children we serve.

I extend my gratitude to the secretariat, the editorial team, the contributors, and everyone involved in bringing this newsletter to reality. Your dedication and hard work are truly commendable.

As we embark on this new initiative, let us continue to uphold the values of excellence, compassion, and innovation that have always defined our association. I look forward to the continued growth of PAPSA and the positive impact we will continue to make on paediatric surgery in Africa and on the global children's surgery space.

Enjoy reading.

Message from the Zambia Association of Pediatric Surgeons President on the 2023 Meeting of the Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association

Drs. Bruce Bvulani & Azad Patel

The 2023 PAPSA meeting was held in Zambia at the Taj Pamodzi in Lusaka. Approximately sixty-five participants, from four continents and twelve countries attended and contributed to its success. Colorectal, neonatal, and cleft lip repair workshops were held before the scientific conference, educating a sizable number of attendees. Zambia was able to highlight its gains in pediatric surgical care in the country as were several participant groups. Twenty-seven presentations were made in the scientific portion for 2 days. Dr. Essam Elhalaby delivered the Heinz Rode lecture on "Sex Chromosome DSD – an African Perspective."

This meeting helped to reconvene the association in person after the pandemic. Bringing everyone together allowed for a push into action through a remarkable congress in a wonderful setting. Attendees left the meeting excited for the next steps with PAPSA, surgical care for children in their home countries and looking forward to the next meeting in Côte d'Ivoire.



Future Meetings in Pediatric Surgery

Department of Paediatric Surgery in East London – Academic Meetings

The academic meetings of the Department of Paediatric Surgery in East London, South Africa are broadcast over the Zoom platform on the second Tuesday of the month at 1700hrs Pretoria time. Experts are invited to give a talk on a subject relevant to the Paediatric Surgeons and trainees in Africa and the LMICs. To receive communication regarding these meetings please register via the link: <https://forms.gle/eZVZXjXya45iZBpy7>

Hands-on Basic pediatric laparoscopy workshop 7-8 February 2024, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, Egypt. Contact Dr Mohamed El Sawaf by WhatsApp at [+201222530433](tel:+201222530433).

Global Initiative for Children’s Surgery - GICS 2024 will be held at the Manila Hotel, Manila, Philippines, from February 25-26, 2024.

Bimonthly EPSA meeting will be held on 7-8 March 2024 with live transmission from OR, Mansoura University Hospital, Egypt. Contact Dr Mohamed El Sawaf by email at [sawaf73@yahoo.com/](mailto:sawaf73@yahoo.com) mohamed.elsawaf@med.tanta.edu.eg.

The 9th International Pediatric Congress for Hypospadias & Disorder of Sex Development (ISHID), in association with the UAE Pediatric Surgical Association. The congress, hosted by the International Society for Hypospadias and DSD (ISHID), May 11-12, 2024, in Park Rotana, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

APSA 2024 Annual Meeting - The American Pediatric Surgical Association 2024 annual meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, USA on May 16-19 at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort.

SIOP Africa 2024 Congress will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4 – 8 June 2024.

The 25th **European Paediatric Surgeons Association (EUPSA) Annual Congress** will take place from June 12–15, 2024 at the Bologna Congress Center in Italy.

British Association of Paediatric Surgeons Congress (BAPS): Sheffield, 2nd July 2024 - 5th July 2024.

Oxford Global Surgery Course 9-13 September 2024 Oxford, England, UK.

PAPSA 2025 - Abidjan Cote D'Ivoire (including pre-conference workshops): Tuesday 27 to Friday 30, May 2025.

To get regular updates about Paediatric Surgery meetings- subscribe to the WhatsApp group **Ped Surgery, UP To DATE** by messaging Dr Ismael Elhalaby at +201144353434, or join the group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/l83WGT0VKH8K16TWCH1HyY>

To get email updates and an electronic newsletter: email PAPSA.communication@gmail.com

State of Pediatric Surgery in Cote D'Ivoire

Associate Professor Moulot M. Olivier

Côte d'Ivoire is a country in West Africa (322,462 Km²). The borders are formed by the following countries: Mali and Burkina Faso in the North, Liberia, and Guinea in the West, and Ghana in the East, Ghana. We have the Atlantic Ocean in the South. The political capital is Yamoussoukro, and the economic capital is Abidjan. Côte d'Ivoire has a population of around thirty million. Forty percent of the population is aged between 0 and 14.



Côte d'Ivoire in Africa

HISTORY OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The first pediatric surgery department in Côte d'Ivoire was opened by Professor Constant Roux at the CHU de Cocody in Abidjan in 1979, with ten beds. This department was officially recognized in 1982. The second department was opened in 1989 at Treichville Teaching Hospital in Abidjan and was headed by Professor Leonard Moubiot, who was replaced by Prof Bankolé Rouma in 2010.

The Certificate of Specialization in Pediatric Surgery was created in 1992 and was the first of its kind in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly one hundred paediatric surgeons from Côte d'Ivoire and Africa have been trained through this programme. This certificate has been upgraded to a diploma in 2013.

Today, we have five teaching hospitals in Côte d'Ivoire: four in Abidjan and one in Bouake (in the centre of Côte d'Ivoire). In this hospital in Abidjan, we have three departments of paediatric surgery (Cocody; Treichville, and Yopougon).

Côte d'Ivoire's first mother and child hospital opened in 2018 and includes the latest paediatric surgery department. The Mother and Child Hospital is in the municipality of Bingerville in Abidjan.



The Mother and Child Hospital of Bingerville

PAEDIATRIC SURGERY TODAY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Gynaecology and Paediatrics building will be built near the Cocody University Hospital in 2023. It will house the old Paediatric Surgery department of the Cocody University Hospital. It has

five operating theaters, twenty beds for pediatric surgery, sixteen beds for intensive care, and one conference room.



The Gynaecology and Paediatrics Pole of Cocody Teaching Hospital

This building comes to reinforce the capacity of other pediatric surgery departments.

There are currently fifty paediatric surgeons in Côte d'Ivoire, including seven full professors and four associate professors. Côte d'Ivoire has twenty-five training specialists: first year (5 Trainees), second year (10 Trainees), third year (2 Trainees), fourth year (2 Trainees), and fifth year (6 Trainees).

Paediatric surgery in Côte d'Ivoire is developing in the context of limited resources and high levels of poverty. The lack of qualified human resources and hospital infrastructure is an obstacle to quality care. These challenges are tending to be overcome by the creation of new hospitals with high-quality infrastructure, such as the Mother and Child Hospital in Bingerville and the Gynaecology and Paediatric Centre at the University Hospital in Cocody. In addition, universal health insurance is gradually becoming a reality to improve conditions for the population.

Côte d'Ivoire will host the PAPSA Congress in 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring together all paediatric surgeons from Africa and elsewhere to discuss the challenges of surgical management of children in general and African children in particular.

Compiled and edited by Dr. Joseph Brungardt with the PAPSA Newsletter Committee.