



Spring 2014

Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

Growth in Tenwek's residency programs strains available housing

The steady growth in Tenwek Hospital's outstanding medical and surgical residency programs has precipitated a challenge that is both welcome and disconcerting.

Russ White, MD, MPH, FACS, is thrilled to report that all of the Tenwek surgical residents who took their qualifying exams for the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa successfully passed their recent exams.

"It is a blessing to see these young doctors in our internship program, our family practice program, and our general surgical training program progressing through training, graduating, and going out into the region to be the hands and voice of Christ," notes Dr. White who is Tenwek's Chief of Surgery and Director of Medical Education. "However," he adds, "with this growth has come an increased need for housing units for all of these trainees. We find ourselves in a position of completely running out of space for new trainees."

With the inauguration of the residency program in orthopedic surgery in January 2014, the number of doctors in training who require housing includes six Family Practice residents, ten General Surgery residents, ten Orthopedic Surgery residents, twelve medical students, sixteen interns, and ten visiting students.

The need has even exceeded the capacity of the new housing unit that was built for this purpose just three years ago. "With filling all of our current housing units – and doubling



Tenwek Residents

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— Dr. Russ White



FOT “Champion” Dr. Read Vaughan leads transformation of Tenwek’s Radiology Department

In 2011 Tenwek Hospital made history when it installed the first-ever CT scanner in rural Kenya. Donated by Toshiba, this advanced imaging modality greatly increased Tenwek’s capacity to care for critical patients. However, with no radiologist on staff it also presented a dilemma... how to get these complex diagnostic images interpreted?

Seeing this need and the challenges of running Tenwek’s growing imaging department, Dr. Read Vaughan, a native of Montana, stepped forward to become Tenwek’s first state-side, department “Champion” A radiologist and annual short-term visiting physician, Dr. Vaughan’s vision was to develop a network of Christian radiologists who would use their skills to advance Tenwek’s mission to share Christ’s love through compassionate care.

Through prayer and working in close partnership with World Medical Missions, Dr. Vaughan began promoting Tenwek’s need for Radiology volunteers. He attended conferences, developed brochures, and sent information and appeals to previous Tenwek short-termers.

The results were nothing short of miraculous. Over a three-year period, the number of Christian radiologists interested in supporting Tenwek grew from a handful to over eighty-five! Thirty-two different radiologists have now worked at Tenwek, many for their inaugural mission experience. They have been able to share their ability and love, and receive profound blessings from their experience.

The coalition of radiologists and ART are a vivid example of how a department “Champion” can make an impact. Friends of Tenwek is encouraging physicians to consider “Champion” opportunities in other practice areas – become part of the miracle at Tenwek!



Dr. Read Vaughan

The ART Project

In 2013, seeing this growing body of enthusiastic supporters and knowing the dire needs for new X-ray equipment and facility remodeling, Dr. Vaughan worked with Tenwek internist Dr. John Spriegel to develop “Advancing Radiology at Tenwek,” or ART. Following Board approval, an alliance was formed with Friends of Tenwek and World Gospel Mission. Dr. Vaughan and his colleagues began seeking tax-exempt donations from the new community of volunteer radiologists – and the response has been overwhelming.

In one short year, over \$130,000 in contributions were received; expansion plans were developed; and the project was initiated. Progress to date includes:

- a new \$50,000 Quantum X-ray machine is on its way to Tenwek;
- ART contributed \$7,000 to help purchase a new portable Ultrasound unit;
- ground was broken for a \$25,000 remodeling project; and
- the acquisition of a teleradiology system and fluoroscopy machine is being pursued.

Through the ART project, Christian radiologists have found an exciting opportunity to serve on a medical missions trip in ways that are changing a department, supporting Tenwek’s community, and saving lives.

Interested in becoming a “FOT Champion” for your practice area? Contact Dr. Vaughan at tenwekradfriend@gmail.com.

Housing (cont'd from pg. 1)

up on many of them this year – we will not be able to take any new trainees into the programs as of January, 2015,” explains Dr. White.

Limiting enrollment is not an option Tenwek wants to consider. Its role with the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), a Christian consortium of surgical training programs, is critical. PAACS has a major influence on the training of surgeons in the region – 60% of all trainees taking qualifying exams were from PAACS programs. That’s why Tenwek’s program growth must be supported by meeting the housing need.



Tenwek’s leaders have developed plans for a new building to alleviate the housing strain and are trusting God to bring this plan to fruition within the next year. The proposed housing facility includes two separate, three-story buildings and will include some small apartments for married residents and dormitory-style housing for interns and medical students. The estimated budget for this important initiative is \$800,000.

Fulfilling this urgent need will truly be an investment for the future of Africa, according to Dr. White. “This will provide housing for hundreds of Christian doctors in training who will disperse into many parts of Africa following training to be salt and light, and to take the Gospel of physical and spiritual healing to some of the most needy people on earth.”

Friends of Tenwek is joining World Gospel Mission in raising funds for this critical project. Please visit the FOT website friendsoftenwek.org to make an online gift for this purpose.

Checks also can be mailed to:
 Friends of Tenwek, Inc.
 6277-600 Carolina Commons Drive
 Box 191
 Indian Land, SC 29707

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Training Specialty	# of Trainees
Family Practice Residents	6
General Surgery Residents	10
Orthopedic Surgery Residents	10
Medical Students	12
Interns	16
Visiting Students	10

Tenwek Impact

Where are they now?

Tenwek’s Surgical Residency Program impacts current and future practice of medicine throughout Africa



Dr. Arega (left) at graduation

Arega Fekadu was one of the first two graduates of Tenwek’s Surgical Residency Program, attending from 2010-2012. The program is part of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) work, which includes hundreds of programs throughout the continent of Africa. Although Dr.

Arega had already spent the first two years of his training at PAACS-affiliated hospitals in Ethiopia and Cameroon, he chose to complete his final two years of training at Tenwek in order to gain experience with an acclaimed surgical program.

Dr. Arega was trained at Tenwek by leading physicians in various specialties including orthopedics, thoracic surgery, and neurosurgery. From his previous experience in other African countries, he was able to offer his colleagues a different and dynamic perspective on medicine in addition to the one they observed at Tenwek.

After his graduation from Tenwek’s Surgical Residency Program in 2012, Dr. Arega returned to his home in Ethiopia and started working for his alma mater, Soddo Hospital. In addition to filling a crucial role in general surgery, he also has been able to help support Soddo’s PAACS program in various capacities.

For example, Dr. Arega is planning a trip to Malamullo Hospital in Malawi this April in order to help facilitate the development of a new PAACS program there. It’s a welcome opportunity for him to leverage the education and experience Tenwek provided and “pay it forward” to help train the next generation of leading surgeons in Africa.

Spotlight

A call to missions realized after nearly 20 years



The Espy Family

In 1997, a pastor and friend of Paul and Ashleigh Espy prayed a prophetic word over them – declaring they would someday serve in medical missions. They weren't married at the time and

neither came from a missionary background, so their initial reaction was shock and disbelief that God would have something so different planned for them. Yet nearly 20 years later – in April of 2013 – Paul, Ashleigh, and their four children arrived at Tenwek to pursue and obey the Lord's calling.

Following undergraduate studies in engineering, Paul enrolled in medical school. Following several tough and busy years God in a urology training position in Virginia, the Espys moved back to their hometown of Marietta, Georgia in 2007 to join a private practice. Several years later, Paul visited Tenwek Hospital with several PAACS physicians. The trip reignited his passion for missions. But Tenwek already had a staff urologist.

A year later, with their call to missions still burning inside, Paul contacted the CEO of PAACS to inquire about other opportunities. After a few weeks, the CEO informed him that Tenwek's urologist had returned to Nigeria – the urology position was open! Shortly after, the Espy family arrived in Kenya and began serving as full-time missionaries at Tenwek. Throughout all the waiting, challenges, and sacrifice, they are quick to acknowledge that God has been the "owner of it all."

Read an expanded version of this story on the FOT website. The Espy blog at: espysabroad.com and amomenttomarvel.com.

Tenwek Hospital Mission

Tenwek Hospital is a Christian institution that seeks to exemplify Christ in all aspects of what we do. Our motto, We Treat – Jesus Heals, is Tenwek's guiding belief and the hope that we offer to each patient.

Friends of Tenwek, Inc.
6277-600 Carolina Common, Box 191
Indian Land, SC 29707
www.friendsoftenwek.org



Stay Connected



FOT's Mission

Friends of Tenwek is committed to fostering communication among U.S. physicians who have served at Tenwek and know first-hand how vital the hospital's medical and spiritual mission is to the people of Kenya and beyond. As an independent, 501c3 non-profit charitable organization, we also solicit tax-deductible donations in support of Tenwek's mission to treat patients in the name of Jesus and its unique "teaching-sending" ministry.

How You Can Help

- **Pray** for the hospital's staff, operations, and specific needs we will bring to your attention.
- **Be an ambassador** for Tenwek to your church's mission and/or service board and leaders.
- **Encourage colleagues** to consider a volunteer service assignment at Tenwek.
- **Return to Tenwek** for a volunteer assignment in your area of medical expertise.
- **Make a financial gift** to meet critical needs at Tenwek Hospital or **become a Sustaining Friend** – friendsoftenwek.org/about-fot/ways-to-help/

Serve at Tenwek

If you want to use your medical skills and specialty training to serve the people of Kenya, it's never too soon (or too late) to visit. Physicians from all specialty areas are needed and welcomed. Short-term service trips to Tenwek Hospital for Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical professionals are arranged through World Medical Mission, a division of Samaritan's Purse. For information about short-term assignments, please visit the World Medical Mission web page at samaritanspurse.org/index.php/wmm/

Share Your Story!

In our experience, every U.S. physician who serves a short-term medical mission at Tenwek has a deeply personal experience. Your Tenwek experience is important to us – and to your colleagues. Please visit the FOT website to learn how to share your story. We want to hear from you!

Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website (friendsoftenwek.org) brings you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital, and keeps you up-to-date on what the missionary doctors and their families, visiting physicians, and hospital staff are doing in support of Tenwek's unique medical and spiritual mission in Kenya. The site includes links to the blogs maintained by Tenwek staff and offers you the opportunity to share your own Tenwek story.

Visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/FriendsOfTenwek), to join a vibrant online community of Tenwek "alumni" who want to remain in touch with the hospital and with their Tenwek colleagues.

