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It is endorsed by COSECSA and is a recognised sub-group of the College.  **https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/nSUFFY8xy6oluxtIgmFD5J6WolFb0KYAQNy8OLCGV5NuylsrO075_WiPfPSwHfccUnTiPJ41F0N_K6XWiY12NAcjvdlFoOvAo4BB9bs-uufBhgmwNvq4njkREHXRaSs9jSynqLf1**  WiSA is a peer support group which assists female surgeons, trainees and medical students with an interest in surgery to actively seek out mentorship relationships. WiSA promotes, facilitates and enables women to take up leadership roles and positions in surgery. It does so by its innate ability to understand the needs of women in surgery and the challenges women surgeons and trainees face. WiSA aims to promote professional networking and encourage multi-centre collaborations. It acts as a forum for discussion of pertinent issues peculiar to, and affecting its members. WiSA is working to advance the highest standards of competence and ethical behaviour for women surgeons in a supportive collegiate environment.  **To this end, WiSA offers its members the following benefits:**   * **Promotion of women in surgery and women surgical leaders in the COSECSA region by establishing WiSA chapters in each COSECSA country** * **Providing opportunities for mentoring through a new WiSA Mentorship Programme** * **Scientific funding through Annual WiSA Awards and Scholarships** * **Community networking through local chapters, the annual WiSA conference and monthly communications.** * **Professional development with an annual leadership course and other valuable resources**   **To become a WiSA member or to learn more about membership please see our** [Membership page](http://www.womeninsurgeryafrica.org/types-of-membership/)**.** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/2c99a350-3d45-4d6c-9be2-6a443501d622.jpg | | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/f3772b75-9f61-41d0-8491-5de3f61cf746.jpg |  |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/894a55d7-7f87-432e-8999-7aad3cef281d.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ec3a804d-09c0-4fda-877d-3f44ff22c50e.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **MEET THE WiSA BOARD** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The first WiSA Board was elected by WiSA Members at the WiSA Launch on 2 December. We are delighted to introduce our Board Members:   Ms Faith Muchemwa – Chairperson:** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/1ca4aea3-bc37-42cd-8161-aaa34238135c.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Ms Faith C Muchemwa is a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe (MBChB, 1998). She worked as a senior house officer in Plastic Surgery until 2003 when she decided to pursue research in Molecular biology of skin cancers. She graduated with a PhD from Kumamoto University in Japan in 2008. On her return to Zimbabwe in 2010, Ms Muchemwa was appointed a Senior Lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, College of Health Sciences, in the Department of Immunology, where she teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students. She also supervises Masters and PhD students with their research projects. In 2011, she enrolled as a Plastic Surgery Trainee with the College of Surgeons, East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).  The Zimbabwe Association of Surgeons in Training (ZASiT) was inaugurated in 2012 and Dr Muchemwa was elected first President. Being one of only two female trainees at the time, Ms Muchemwa always longed for an increased participation of females in Surgery. She was supported by the RCSI-COSECSA, to explore why women were choosing not to enter surgery as a specialty of choice. This research resulted in one publication and 2 presentations at the COSECSA AGM (2013) and the Bethune Round Table of International Surgery (2014). This raised great awareness on this subject, leading to the formation, in 2014, of DREAM: a group of female medical students and junior doctors with a desire to pursue Surgery as a career of choice, for which she is Patron.  With the support of RCSI-COSECSA collaboration, Ms Muchemwa attended the 35th Association of Women Surgeons Conference in Chicago in 2015.  This solidified a collaboration with this well-established group of successful female surgeons.  Ms Muchemwa was recently conferred with a Fellowship to the College of Surgeons in Plastic Surgery (FCS Plast) and she won the medal for best Plastic Surgery Trainee, 2015. She has trained in Plastic Surgery internationally; in Canada (2013) and in England (2015).  Ms Muchemwa enjoys a vast amount of international collaboration from international organisations such as Smile Train, 2nd Chance, Operation of Hope, ReSurge International and LEAP foundation. She greatly enjoys discussions pertaining to Global Surgery. She looks forward to more involvement and participation in future events.  Tweet Faith[@fcmuchemwa2000](https://twitter.com/fcmuchemwa2000) ****Dr Agneta Odera – Vice Chairperson:**** https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/fe2c676a-8916-4c06-a180-1a450200bb9e.png  Dr Agneta Odera holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from University of Nairobi, Kenya. Dr Odera is a 2012 graduate of COSECSA as well as PAACS, the Pan African Academy Of Christian Surgeons. She received the Marie Rahima Dawood award as Best student in General Surgery FCS- ECSA 2012 and was the first female Fellow in the college to win the award. Dr Odera is currently working as General Surgeon and serves as a faculty member training residents with COSECSA based at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.  Dr Odera will shortly commence a fellowship in Paediatric Surgery with special interest in sub-specialization in peadiatric cardiothoracic surgery.  Dr Odera is involved in local and international Christian Medical Dental Association , CMDA as well as Global Health Missions Conference , GHMC meetings, Speaker GHMC Louisville, Kentucky 2009. She also provides surgical care to the needy and under served; training, mentoring and capacity building of students, interns and residents. Dr Odera is especially interested in empowering females in leadership roles at the work place while embracing their femininity, given abilities and other roles. Dr Odera is a very proud member of WISA!  **Dr Ainhoa Costas Chavarri – Secretary:**  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/3d9de259-2865-4c28-bd63-acd61c74d09a.png  Dr. Ainhoa Costas Chavarri is a General Surgeon who does full-time global surgery work with an emphasis on breast cancer and global oncology. She has been living and working in Rwanda for the past three years teaching and training Rwandan surgery post-graduates and medical students. She enjoys travelling, foreign films, learning new languages and getting lost inside libraries.  Tweet Ainhoa [@ainhoac63](https://twitter.com/ainhoac63) ****Dr Pamela T K Samoyo – Treasurer:**** https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ac7a7b8b-6af1-4b1c-af41-d58c6ebed77c.jpg  Dr Pamela Samoyo is a senior resident in orthopaedic surgery at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Tanzania. Zimbabwean born and bred, she received her MD (2010) from Ryazan Ivan Petrovich Pavlov Medical University, Russia, afterwhich she did her internship at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania. Dr Samoyo’s interests are in paediatric orthopaedic surgery, arthroplasty, research and teaching. Currently she is doing a six month (September 2015-March 2016) fellowship in paediatric orthopaedics at Beit CURE Malawi, a clinical fellowship by the COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL) programme. She is involved in research on outcomes of clubfoot treatment.  Dr Samoyo has served as the secretary (2014-15) of the postgraduate ministry at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College. She is registered with the medical council of Tanganyika and is a full member of Women in Surgery Africa (WISA). Being the only female orthopaedic resident at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Dr Samoyo understands the challenges of being a woman and a surgeon in a male dominated field. Dr Samoyo advocates for gender equality in medicine and the bolstering of surgical services in African countries.  Tweet Pamela [@PSamoyo](https://twitter.com/PSamoyo) ****Dr Chiku Clara Mpanga – Membership Officer:**** https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/4f456ab8-34e1-41ea-9a1d-a11a6099c73f.jpg  Dr Chiku Clara Mpanga is a resident in Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr Mpanga received her MD (2008) from University of Malawi, College of Medicine and is currently studying for a Master of Medicine in Orthopaedics. She is currently working at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital which is the largest Tertiary and Teaching Hospital in Malawi. Dr Mpanga is also involved in teaching Undergraduate students at University of Malawi, College of Medicine.  She is the  Membership Officer for WISA and a firm advocate of education for girls.   https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ec3a804d-09c0-4fda-877d-3f44ff22c50e.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WISA 2016 - 2018 STRATEGIC PLANNING & CONSULTATION PROCESS** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/0d5f2ce6-96c8-4e95-81f7-17f00483be2b.png**  **Now that WiSA has officially launched, we begin the process of formalizing our Strategic Plan for the coming two years.**  Our overall objective is to promote and empower women surgeons in East, Central and Southern Africa. We have created and are proposing a list of five goals to work towards. These goals will be presented in a consultation process in order for us to hear from a variety of people, groups and organisations who are interested in and concerned about surgical training and care, global health, women’s rights and equality. We will be reaching out shortly to get all of your feedback through different platforms. We look forward to your contributions to this process. If you would like to learn more please see our [website](http://www.womeninsurgeryafrica.org/strategic-plan/) or take the survey below before 29th February 2016. We would love to hear from **YOU**! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**START SURVEY**](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WiSASurvey) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ec3a804d-09c0-4fda-877d-3f44ff22c50e.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
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The recipient is chosen based on her expressed interest in surgery, potential leadership qualities or research contributions to the field of surgery. The purpose of the bursary is to allow trainees/consultant surgeons wishing to attend a WiSA event or related conference.  The bursary is valued at USD$1000 and is intended to be a contribution to the applicant’s travel costs.  **To find out more about the application process check out the** [WiSA Website](http://www.womeninsurgeryafrica.org/scholarships-grants/)**.  Closing Date:** 18 March 2016 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ec3a804d-09c0-4fda-877d-3f44ff22c50e.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SURGEON SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Every month in this section we will highlight a WiSA member from a different member country. This month Dr Ainhoa Costas-Chavarri talked with Dr Phyllis P. Kisa from Uganda about her experiences in surgery as well as being the first COSECSA fellow to earn two fellowships by examination.**  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/26314f37-45ed-45ca-858e-5eff51e30a7b.jpg  **What is your full name?** My full names are Phyllis P. Kisa.   **When and where were you born? Where did you grow up?** I was born in Tororo, a town in Eastern Uganda. I grew up all over Uganda but predominantly in Kampala. My father's job took us all over the country.   **What is one your favourite memories of growing up?** Watching MGM classic movies with my brothers between midnight and 6 am. It was a stolen pleasure.   **When and how did you decide to become a doctor?** I did not always want to be a doctor.  The education system in Uganda dictates a lot where you end up. I had excelled in my ‘O’ Level exams, and between my mother and teachers, they decided that I must study Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Subsidiary Math. I wanted to study history and literature and be a tour guide, but I obviously did not win this argument. I ended up doing my mother’s choices with the exception of art instead of math. These subjects dictated what I could apply for in University. I again passed well and ended up in medical school at Makerere University in Kampala, which was my 1st choice.  I breezed through medical school but only felt like I was in the right profession when I started my internship at a district hospital. Being responsible for patients, albeit under supervision, making the day to day decisions about their care and seeing an impact, positive or negative, made me affirm that I was in the right place.   **When and why did you choose surgery?** Very early on, Paediatrics was my favourite. I declared that I would be a paediatrician if I specialised. Although I have to admit that one of my fondest memories as a medical student was during a pericardiectomy (for TB constrictive pericarditis). It was exciting; but not to deviate from the tale, I went to internship with no glimmer of desire towards surgery. I ended up as a medical officer on the surgical ward because no one was willing to, though I still had a mind to specialise in Paediatrics.  My boss at Lacor Hospital, Mr Martin Ogwang, a very gifted surgeon and teacher, started dropping hints about my becoming a surgeon. I, of course refused these hints. He employed the help of other surgeons who were good mentors too; John Craven (retired surgeon from York, UK) and Prof Armin Pycha (urologist from Italy). They all started badgering me about this. I must admit that I enjoyed surgery, it was exciting and I was a good study. Eventually my boss played the paediatric card. He told me that I could still be a doctor for children in surgery. If I completed my general surgery training, I could go further and be a paediatric surgeon. It seems that all I wanted to do was work with children, and early in 2009, I made the decision to train further in surgery. Surprise! Surprise! The decision made me happy, and all the people "bugging" me settled and moved on to supporting me. I immediately applied for MMED Surgery. You have to know that I had already enrolled for MCS ECSA, a year prior. Pushed by my boss, I thought that since I was spending so much time in surgery, I might as well get some "paper" from it.   **How did you decide to pursue two fellowships?** Once I made the decision to become a surgeon, it was always with the intention to become a Paediatric Surgeon. I always intended to become a general surgeon first and then sub-specialize in Paediatric Surgery. I never knew that I could just do Paediatric Surgery directly.   **How did it feel to be the first COSECSA fellow to earn 2 fellowships by examination?** It felt surreal. I thought that others had done it my way before. I was not expecting to be part of the history of COSECSA in this way. Surprise.   **Who is your role model/biggest influence in your life and why?** In truth, I have many people I look up to. They model different areas of my life and it's difficult to choose one. I'm one of those that embrace all experiences in my life as "a school day".   **Who is your biggest supporter?** This too is tough. I have so many cheerleaders. My family has invested in this, my husband is very supportive and all my professional mentors work hard to ensure I succeed. They all take pride in all my achievements. It's a great feeling to have such a network of people supporting me.   **How has your experience as a woman in surgery been so far?** Mine has been a good experience. I work hard and learn even faster. My teachers and colleagues recognise this and I have been respected and treated accordingly. It is a challenge working with jealous people, but the people that matter do not treat me any different because I'm a female. I admit to having a huge male support group. In fact, most of the petty friction is from fellow women surgical trainees.   **What are your hopes/plans for the future?** I hope to never write another academic examination, but never say never. On a personal note, I would like to settle away from "student mode" and move into "family mode". Professionally, I just want to do my job, mentor a bunch of people along the way making a huge difference in children's lives in both Urology and General Paediatric Surgery.   **What do you do for fun/leisure/hobbies?** I love travelling, meeting new people, listening to music of the 70s, 80s and 90s, and classical music, watching musicals on stage, playing minesweeper/hexaper, and my absolute favourite is reading novels.   **Is there anything you would like to say/share with other young women who may be interested in surgery?** Follow your heart but also listen to people around you. Sometimes they know you better than you know yourself. Humility is a huge key to learning. Be eager to learn. If you are, people will want to teach you. Do take time to enjoy your hobbies. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ab2f314c500d26e71642000af/images/ec3a804d-09c0-4fda-877d-3f44ff22c50e.png | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [http://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-twitter-48.png](NULL) | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [http://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-facebook-48.png](https://www.facebook.com/Women-In-Surgery-Africa-172555983094917/) | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [http://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-link-48.png](www.womeninsurgeryafrica.org) | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WiSA is endorsed by the College of Surgeons in East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).  Proudly supported by the RCSI COSECSA Programme, Ireland and the COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link Programme, U.K.** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Copyright © WiSA 2016  **Our mailing address is:** [wisa@cosecsa.org](mailto:wisa@cosecsa.org)  Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](http://cosecsa.us6.list-manage.com/profile?u=ab2f314c500d26e71642000af&id=1ab3ebb68a&e=) or [unsubscribe from this list](http://cosecsa.us6.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=ab2f314c500d26e71642000af&id=1ab3ebb68a&e=&c=a0c82bdf69) | | | | |