



COPECSA Bulletin

Issue 2, 2019

WWW.COPECSA.ORG



It is my pleasure to send you this bulletin with updates on activities that COPECSA has been engaged with in year 2019.

I am pleased to inform you that after much negotiation and consultative efforts by all the ECSA HC constituent Colleges, the Medical Boards and Councils and Ministries of Health in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, and Zambia have given us the go-ahead to mount and administer our College exams. The process of determining the accreditation bodies and mechanisms is at various stages but almost completed in the different countries. This marks a landmark accomplishment for our College and also the other Colleges.

In this regard, our first collegiate exam will take place in 2020, and I would like to appreciate the commitment by Professor Lucy Muchiri and her team for leading the examination preparations work.

We also plan to confer fellowships on eligible practicing pathologists during the APECSA 2020 meeting. We call upon all Chairs of Pathology Departments to prepare lists of candidates using the guidelines provided before by COPECSA.

One of our significant achievements for this year was capacity building in cancer diagnosis for 19 pathologists from the ECSA region through our partnerships with African Strategies for Advancing Pathology (ASAP) and The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi. Our highlight for the year was a pilot elective south to south program sponsored through the-Global Partnership for Educational exchange in Medicine and the Health professions (GEMx). This partnership was made possible by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and its foundation, the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), with participation from five universities in the ECSA region offering postgraduate studies in Pathology.

In addition, our College Executive submitted a manuscript to the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine describing the establishment of COPECSA; the manuscript was accepted and is currently in press. We hope this paper will be our advocacy piece giving the College the much-needed visibility.

Last but not least, we have been working hard to ensure that our College website is up and running by 31st January.

We look forward to exciting times ahead for COPECSA and urge you to support the College by making timely payments of your outstanding dues.

We wish you and your loved ones a festive Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Yours Sincerely,

Prof Ephata E. Kaaya

President,
COPECSA



Global educational exchange in
medicine and the health professions

A service of  ECFMG®

GEMx is a global partnership for educational exchange in medicine and the health professions. A service of ECFMG FAIMER is committed to help facilitate short term electives for medical and health professions in Africa using the south to south model (regional mobility).

Main aim of the program is to assist with centralizing and operationalizing all student elective exchange activities by providing partial financial support through ECFMG's Challenge Grant program to eligible students who are selected by their institutions where funds are made available to assist students when they go on an elective and to make exchanges more affordable.

This pilot program for COPECSA enrolled 5 universities and 9 electives were placed in 2019.

In due course we shall share the outcomes of this pilot with the membership.



Strategic Partners

- Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
- University of Botswana, Faculty of Medicine, Botswana
- University of Nairobi, College of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Kenya
- University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Rwanda
- University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe



NIH R13: Training Pathologists in Africa on Cancer Staging

This workshop is a build on our previous NCI PAR 15- 155 Research on Improving Anatomical pathology in subSaharan Africa highlighted in COPECSA Bulletin, Issue 1- 2017.

The main focus of this workshop series was to cover current best practices for processing, diagnosing, and reporting common, locally relevant cancers, while introducing additional elements like review of local challenging cases, a clinic-pathological correlation, as well as an e-learning refresher course where participants review course work and discuss further with expert visiting faculty and local trainee faculty. Four cancers were features in the blended workshop style series. These cancers were of the head & neck, breast, endometrial & ovarian, and gastric & esophageal. One of the unique features of this workshop was that local and regional faculty delivered the courses alongside expert international faculty. This was to enhance the capacity of local faculty to train using the blended learning approach.

A total of 14 pathology departments in institutions from: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Madagascar, Kenya and Burundi were engaged. A total of 19 Pathologists were trained in these workshop series.



Strategic Partners

- University of Colorado Cancer Centre
- African Strategies for Advancing Pathology
- College of Pathologists of East Central & Southern Africa
- The Aga Khan University.



Achievements 2019



Submission of manuscript to the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine describing the establishment of COPECSA highlighting the journey of the College. Currently in press, the manuscript was compiled by the Executive committee members of the College as an advocacy piece geared to provide COPECSA much needed visibility.



Our reach within ECSA for training faculty and junior pathologists 2019 was **28** in total from the countries below.

- Botswana
- Burundi
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

