



PROF HASSAN SAIDI SEVEN YEARS ON: A LEGACY OF MEDICAL TRAINING TRANSCENDING TIME

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DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/aja.v13i1.1>

INTRODUCTION

It has been 7 years since Our Teacher, Mentor and Friend left us to carry forth the art and science of medicine and surgery. Though time matches on, the principles he taught and demonstrated in practice continue to shape medical training in Kenya, Africa and the world at large through his mentees who are now mentors in their own right. The legacy lives on! Professor Saidi's impact and influence on medical training is so expansive and would require an entire seminar to explore. This will not be the possible to cover in this editorial, but we will begin with his global Influence, continental and local contribution to the profession.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (ACS)

The Late Professor of Surgery was at the forefront of the presenting the passion, talent and vision for surgeons in Kenya at the global stage. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and this triggered the confidence, drive and urge for numerous young surgeons from the region and continent to follow in his footsteps towards attaining this professional commendation (Ng-Kamstra et al., 2016). To date the number of young surgeons inducted into the ACS has grown exponentially and in fact,

Kenya is now on track to recognition as a Chapter of the College in Africa. This will undoubtedly increase the visibility and networking of African Surgeons with the rest of the world, contributing to the body of knowledge and science while contributing significantly to humanity. His legacy of global association lives on through acknowledgement of the Surgical Society of Kenya (SSK) as a professional association shaping policy in Kenya.

INFLUENCE ON MEDICAL TRAINING

Mentorship has been shown to be an integral part of the medical learning process, providing medical students with opportunities to interact with their teachers in a supportive environment (Skjevik et al., 2020). Professor Saidi taught at the Department of Human Anatomy at The University of Nairobi for 28 years of which 7 years he was chair. Curiously, biblically speaking seven is God's number of completion, and indeed by the end of his time at the Department, he had influenced

thousands of young medical professionals into various specialities later on in their career. Subsequently as the President of the Surgical Society of Kenya, he continued to spur young professionals into higher order thinking, in-depth inquiry into various problems afflicting the training and practice of surgery in Kenya and Africa. So much so, that he was instrumental in the setting up and growth of the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). His legacy lives on in the

hundreds of surgeons that have graduated from the program and

continue to influence outcomes in Kenya and Africa.

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Professor had passion for research and advancement of new knowledge. Moreover, he was very intent on nurturing the skill of knowledge translation – the ability to use published literature while making healthcare decision- to his mentees during his sessions(Gagliardi et al., 2014). He never missed the opportunity to trigger research questions in his mentees. And yes, scientific papers began to be published. It was now necessary to

create a depository of this knowledge. The Annals of African Surgery Journal was born and he was the first Editor in Chief, a role he quickly began to mentor upcoming surgeons for. Currently, the Journal is run by experienced editors and editorial board, which he mentored and has published over 1000 articles from all over Africa and contributing to the body of knowledge globally, a statement to Professors Vision for African Surgery.

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