

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

—Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

UPC graduates like Celeste are essential contributors to Congo’s development from within



Dr. Celeste Mujinga Musasa,
2017 UPC graduate

“Education is to me one of the pillars of the development of my country,” declares Celeste Mujinga Musasa, a 2017 graduate of the Congo Protestant University’s (UPC) Medical School. A native of Kinshasa, Celeste had imagined becoming a doctor since she was a child. Due to childhood illnesses, she spent quite a lot of time in hospitals and quickly saw the ‘super powers’ the doctors possessed and wanted to develop the same skills to help others.

UPC Medical School’s 8-year program is very comprehensive and requires dedication. Midway through, when the curriculum became focused on medical studies, Celeste was inspired by her professors, particularly Dr. François Lepira, who made the world of medicine come alive. Her decision to study medicine was reaffirmed. Celeste spent her internship year at the rural hospital in Vanga where she found her calling. Witnessing so many children dying

of malaria in Vanga had a tremendous impact on her. Influenced by UPC professor Dr. Thierry Bobanga, Celeste decided to pursue parasitology to participate actively in the eradication of malaria.

After completing her Master’s degree in medical microbiology, Celeste continued to plan for the future. She located a Ph.D. advisor and program at Keele University in England that would champion Celeste’s work in malaria. Early in her medical studies, she realized that despite her ability to treat an ailment, a true advancement in medical interventions in the DRC can only come with years of advanced biomedical research. Celeste strives for a healthy Congo as she continues the fight against malaria.

Newly married, Celeste enjoys spending time with her husband. She also makes time for singing and reading.

UPC interns gain valuable clinical experience at Christian Medical Institute of Kasai (IMCK)

One of the primary goals of UPC when it established a medical school in 2006 was to help improve healthcare in rural Congo. Toward that end three rural hospitals, all with excellent reputations (IMCK, Vanga Hospital and Kimpese Hospital), were selected as partners of the UPC Medical



Dental work in action

School where UPC students could spend their final year of medical school and gain hands-on experience. Many of the medical schools in Congo rely purely on classroom instruction, and their graduates have very limited experience in treating patients until they become doctors.

L’Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai (IMCK), or Christian Medical Institute of Kasai, was founded in 1954 as a nursing school at the rural Presbyterian mission station of Lubondai (75 miles south of Kananga) in what was then the Belgian Congo. More than 60 years later it has come a long way. In 1964 it relocated to Tshikaji, ten miles south of the city of Kananga, and has since added a laboratory technician school, a college-level nursing program and a higher Institute of Medical Techniques (ISTM) which trains nurses of A1 level in nursing laboratory, pediatrics, midwifery and nutrition.

In addition IMCK includes a 160-bed hospital, programs for nutrition, public health, research and medical internships, outpatient clinics (in nearby Kananga as well as in village areas), a dental program and specialized services in surgery,

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ophthalmology, maternity and pediatrics. Each year some 15 to 24 UPC Med Students spend a year as interns rotating through various specialties, developing bedside manners and gaining solid exposure to rural medicine in Congo. In their daily work, interns are supervised by the hospital's permanent doctors. Professors also come from UPC to provide specialized training.

Interns work for a year, learning what it is like to perform as a team as well as working under the pressure of sometimes being the only 'expert' available who must find a way to meet, greet, diagnose and treat patients.



Congo Protestant University (UPC) interns at IMCK in Tshikaji for their final year of medical school. Training at this hospital, which serves a large region, furthers our goal and that of the medical school to help improve rural healthcare. The UPC medical school also sends interns to rural hospitals in Kimpese and Vanga so that all its graduates will receive vital hands-on experience.

IMCK welcomes new director—Dr. Jean Jacques Mulalu



Dr. Jean Jacques Mulalu and Dr. Serge Makola

Medical students during their internships as well as to Dr. Mulalu. Best wishes to Serge and a hearty welcome to Dr. Mulalu!

The new director, Dr. Jean Jacques Mulalu will soon take over the senior leadership role at IMCK/ Good Shepherd Hospital from Dr. Serge Makolo.

IMCK has built-in term limits in its bylaws, and Dr. Serge has done a great job over the last four years. He will remain at IMCK as a physician and certainly will be a valued mentor to our UPC



Rev. Dr. Paul "Lokula" Williams with Rev. Sophie Mbuko

Education Congo Scholarship Fund

Rev. Mbuko studied at and graduated from UPC in Theology. She completed her undergraduate and master's degrees with support from the Kathryn Williams/Mama Losengya Scholarship.

The scholarship fund was established by Rev. Paul and his three siblings—Sharon, Carl and Susan—to honor their mother, Rev. Dr. Kathryn Williams (1925-2013), and her years of service with the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North America.

Since graduating from UPC, Rev. Mbuko has served congregations in Mondombe (Province of the Tchuapa) and Mbandaka (Province of the Equator). She is currently the pastor of a Disciples of Christ congregation in Kinshasa.

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Me.le.si' (thank you in Lingala)

Strategic estate planning can enhance the utilization of all your assets, defining what you want to leave to your heirs and what would best meet your philanthropic goals during your lifetime and beyond. For more information email us at execdir@educationcongo.org.