



## THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



### THE RENAISSANCE OF AFRICAN SURGEONS

**M**r Mugumbe is having his gallbladder removed. It's a simple procedure, but his surgery is different. In the room is Miriam Mutebi, a postgraduate medical resident from Aga Khan University and only the fifth woman in Kenya to study surgery. "I love the precision of surgery both in clarity of thought and practice. Surgery, literally, cuts to the heart of all our clinical practices, which is to have a fundamental respect for patient physiology."

Miriam's attraction to AKU's Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) programme was its potential for research. "We require an urgent catalyst for further development of research in the region. Africa bears the bulk of the world's disease burden: In certain conditions, 9 out of 10 child deaths worldwide occur in Africa alone. We have the potential to contribute to the greater understanding of

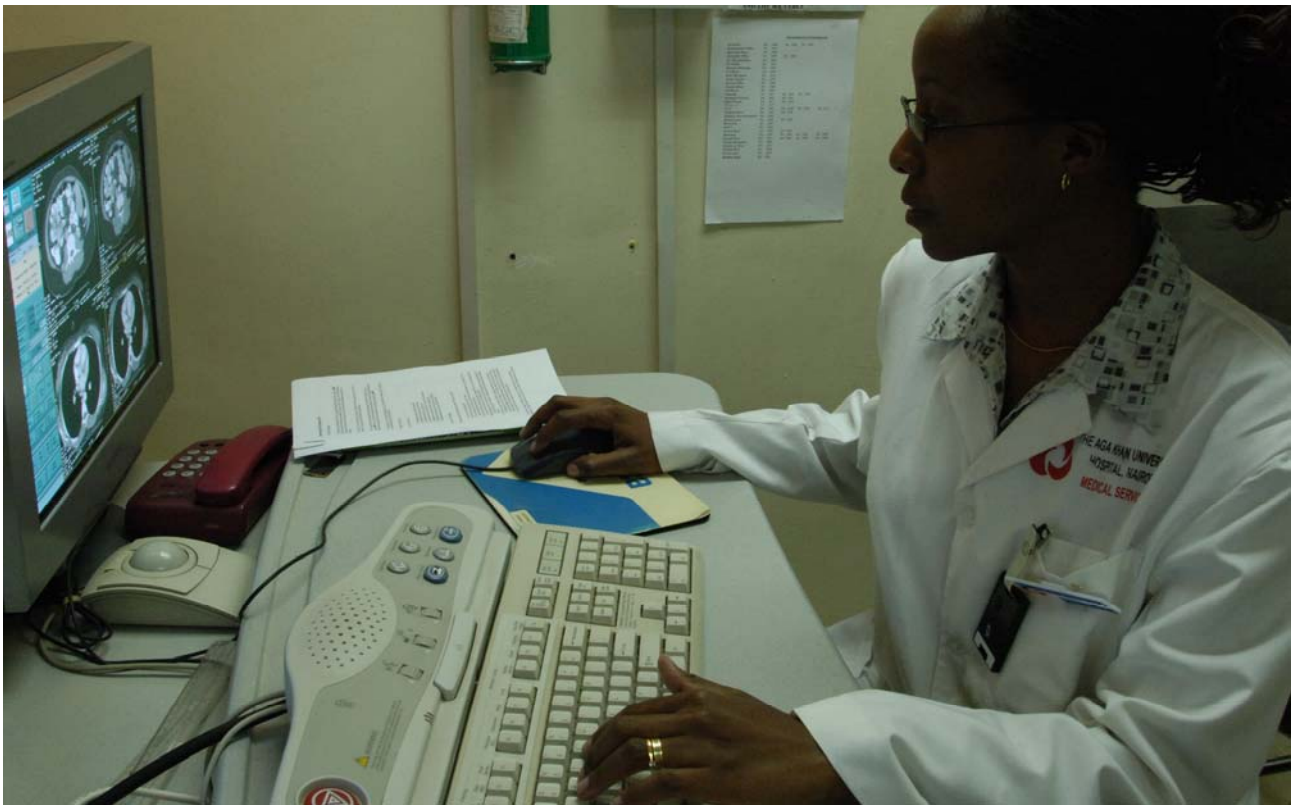
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disease pathology. There is a need for a 'Renaissance' of African surgeons and scientists. The resources are available, what we need to change is our mindset."

Lack of research and specialisation opportunities often push East African doctors to seek career opportunities

elsewhere. To retain these physicians and help them develop into compassionate and competent specialists, the PGME programme provides clinical knowledge, along with international standard research opportunities.

"There is, as always, emphasis on the more cerebral and intellectual aspect, but the principles of ethical and compassionate practice are still very much at the core. We are not being trained to just be surgeons. We are being trained to be leaders." Miriam is an example of that leadership: only a second year resident, she has already published two research articles in the *Annals of African Surgery*.



The PGME programmes in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in East Africa have been operational since 2005. Currently, there are 71 students studying and working at AKU to join Miriam as the next generation of African surgeons and medical specialists. It costs \$XXX to provide the infrastructure, training and research material for a PGME class for one year. Your donations will help prepare a new generation of health care leaders and specialists, who are essential for generating innovative and effective solutions to manage Africa's disease burden.

## Aga Khan University

Chartered in 1983, Aga Khan University is a private, autonomous university that promotes human welfare through research, teaching and community service. Based on the principles of *quality, access, impact and relevance*, the University has campuses and programmes in Afghanistan, East Africa, Egypt, Pakistan, Syria and the United Kingdom.

Through its needs-blind admissions policy based on merit, the University imbues the most promising leaders and thinkers of tomorrow with an ethic of service and the skills to help communities solve their most pressing challenges while instilling the highest professional competence.



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