From Training to a Surgeon

Dr. Olivia Kituuka MBChB, FCS-ECSA is a COSECSA Fellow by examination specialized in General surgery. She works as a consultant surgeon in the Department of Surgery at the Mulago National and Referral Hospital in Uganda. She held a position in Council as a country representative for Uganda and served as the President of the Association of Surgeons of Uganda (ASOU). She also participates in the COCECSA Membership and Fellowship examinations as an examiner.

This is what Dr. Olivia Kituuka has to say;

“I got interest in surgery during my 3rd year undergraduate training under my great teacher Prof. Kakande. I went on to do internship and worked as a medical officer at a mission hospital where I was inspired by other surgeons especially the late Mr. Lawrence Ekwaro and Sr. Dr. Goretti Nassali. With the mentorship of Prof. Kakande, I enrolled for my Mmed Surgery and completed it in 2005. I have continued to get support and inspiration from many surgeons both male and female who have treated me as a colleague and have driven me to better my skill. Through them I have had opportunities to train at various centers of excellence in India and Italy and have developed various newer skills from there. I now specialize in hepatopancreatic biliary and upper GI surgery with a bias to minimal access surgery and endoscopic surgery”

Dr. Olivia shared the following inspirational lessons;

- **Look for a mentor to help guide you and help you grow**
- **Mentor others below you to grow the profession but also to improve yourself**
- **Be humble and willing to learn from your surgical team. A theatre nurse or an anaesthetic may be able to give you a life saving tip during a difficult surgical situation**
- **Teamwork. Your success in surgery is only as good as how you are able to work as a team. Never under look anyone on your team.**
- **Prioritize your family. Your work will one day go away but your family needs you and you need their support.**
- **Associate with other surgeons so that you can encourage each other, learn and grow.**