


ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS OF UGANDA

# RISING STARS



WOMEN IN  
SURGERY IN  
UGANDA



In our previous publication to celebrate the International Women's Day 2021, we brought you the most influential women in surgery in Uganda.

This year we shine a light on the rising stars, Women leaders in Surgery who are on a journey to transform the practice of surgery in Uganda and the broader East, Central and Southern Africa.

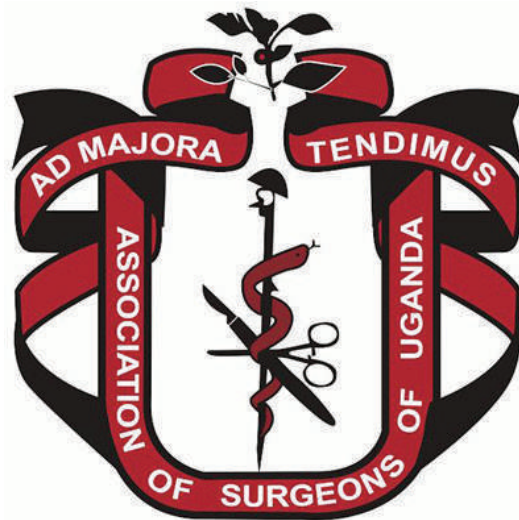
These leaders have dedicated their lives to mentor others as well as starting up initiatives that change the livelihoods of the people in the community.

They are multi-talented and have overcome all the odds against them to serve others and are not afraid of reaching out to the most vulnerable populations in rural communities.

They have harnessed digital technology to come up with innovations solutions that support education and mentorship not only for their peers but also for the populace.

We present to you the most notable rising stars under 40, who are transforming the practice of surgery as we know it.

*Happy International Women's Day 2023*



## ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS OF UGANDA (ASOU)

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## Dr. Were Flavia

Dr. Were is a General Surgeon at Doctor's Hospital in Seguku and the Deputy General Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Uganda (ASOU).

Prior to this, she served on the Executive Council of the Association of Surgeons of Uganda as a representative of surgical residents countrywide.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from Kampala International Hospital and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University.

She is a source of encouragement and support to women in surgery and works to eliminate all barriers that hinder their participation in leadership.



# Dr. Wesonga Shikanda Anne

Dr. Wesonga is a Pediatric Surgeon at Mulago National Specialized Hospital, the Information Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Uganda (ASOU) and a Lecturer at Islamic University in Uganda.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from Gulu University and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University.

She also completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and a Clinical Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery from the University of British Columbia, BC Childrens Hospital in Vancouver, Canada. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Prior to joining Mulago Hospital, Dr. Wesonga worked at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital where she spearheaded the project to save children born with gastroschisis, an abdominal wall defect, and successfully reduced mortality from this condition from 100% to 50%.

She also volunteers with Whispers Magical Children Hospital in Jinja City,

where she offers free consultations and surgeries to vulnerable children. "Every child should have access to safe surgery and anesthesia, no child deserves to die," she says.

She is married and a mother of three adorable babies.

Her mantra is that, "You must be the change you need to see in the world"- a quote attributed to Mahatma Ghandi.



# Dr. Namugenyi Christine

Dr. Namugenyi is a General Surgeon and the Deputy Information Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Uganda (ASOU). She is also the Chair of the ASOU Scientific Committee.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Kampala International University and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University.

Dr. Namugenyi also completed a Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery with the World Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons, and trained in simulation training from the University of Cape Town.

She is passionate about mentorship for peers and young surgeons and currently co-ordinates the ASOU Mentorship Series. She also developed a SHARED SURGERY forum, a platform that allows young surgeons to share knowledge and experiences to improve care for their patients.

Dr. Namugenyi is a co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bambi & Kesta Love Ltd - Kesta Fasions Limited and a Member of the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI).



# Dr. Nanjula Lydia

Dr. Nanjula is a Neurosurgeon at Mulago National Specialized Hospital and the Administrative Officer the Women in Surgery in Africa (WiSA).

As the Administrative officer of WiSA, she has boosted the participation of women surgeons and female surgical residents in leadership roles and advocated for a safe environment to facilitate their maximum contribution.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and a Master of Business Administration from Makerere University Business School.

She also completed a Fellowship in Neurosurgery of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa.

Dr. Nanjula is a mentor and instructor to medical students and surgical residents who have their clinical rotations at Mulago National Specialized Hospital and Mengo Hospital.

She is a social entrepreneur working with the leisure and hospitality industry to boost tourism in Uganda.



# Dr. Cathy Kilyewala

Dr. Kilyewala is a Breast and Endocrine Surgeon, a Lecturer at Makerere University Department of Surgery, and the President of the Uganda Chapter of Women in Surgery in Africa (WiSA).

She is also a Co-Director of the Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anaesthesia (CHESA) Fellowship program of the University of California St Francisco.

She received the Shield Maiden Award from WiSA in 2019 in recognition of her support and empowerment of female residents as well as being an agent of change in the community.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and a Master of Medicine in General Surgery from Makerere University. She is currently undertaking a Master of Health Systems Research.

She also completed an International Clinical Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery at Yale University.

She harnessed the digital

transformation and came up with innovative ways of teaching surgeons through live video recording, relaying and archiving of surgical procedures for remote training, tele-consultation and future referencing.

She was also key in the development of the curriculum for training for training breast and endocrine surgery in Uganda.

She is married, and a member of the Lions Club, Kampala New Century.





# Dr. Gladys Atto

Dr. Atto is an Ophthalmologist and the Head of the Department of Ophthalmology of Moroto Regional Referral Hospital in Karamoja.

She is the first ophthalmologist in Karamoja Sub-region and she works in collaboration with Sight Savers Uganda to improve access to affordable and quality eye care services in the region.

For the past three years, she has carried out over 5000 sight restoring cataracts surgeries through community outreach programs.

Dr. Atto received the 2021 Women in Medicine Award from the Uganda Medical Association and was also

nominated for the Doctor of the year and Global Health Champion - North categories of the Heroes in Health Awards by the Ministry of Health in 2022.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from Kampala International University; a Master of Medicine in Ophthalmology from Mbarara University of Science and Technology; and a Master of Science in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

She also has training in Leadership and Management in Global Health from the University of Washington.



# Dr. Judith Nassaazi

Dr. Nassaazi is a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon at the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CORSU) Hospital.

She holds a Doctor of Medicine from the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and a Master of Medicine in Orthopedic Surgery at Makerere University.

As a resident she represented her colleagues on the Executive Council of the orthopedic Society of Uganda.

She also completed a clinical and research fellowship in pediatric orthopedic Surgery from the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Nassaazi is the founder of [littlegrowingbones.com](http://littlegrowingbones.com) a blog that provides parents with the latest information about the bones of children and the appropriate therapy in case of deformities.

"In a world where bad things happen to innocent children, we are here to slay the scary monsters and make the ouches go away!" she writes about why little growing

bones was created. She is driven by a passion for seeing children thrive and enjoying their childhood.

She is the first surgeon in Uganda to embrace blogging about mentoring other surgeons on how to get started with writing and on the different platforms available for them to share their expertise and experience.



# Dr. Rovine Naluyimbazi

Dr. Naluyimbazi is a Pediatric Surgeon at Mulago National Specialized Hospital.

She studied both the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery; and the Master of Medicine in General Surgery at Makerere University.

She also completed a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa.

Dr. Naluyimbazi is passionate about research and prior to becoming a resident, she worked at Makerere University Joint AIDS Project (MJAP), a tertiary HIV care Centre, where she was mentored in conducting clinical research. She went on to successfully conduct several research projects during her postgraduate training and now she offers mentorship to medical students and young surgeons on how to do the same.

She is married with 3 children including a set of twins.



# Dr. Akello Esther

Dr. Akello is a Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon at the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CoRSU) Hospital.

“I’m glad be part of a team that changes lives of people with disabilities through surgical intervention,” Dr. Akello is quoted in a post on the CoRSU Hospital twitter handle.

She is an exceptional orthopedic surgeon, the third female surgeon to qualify in a field dominated by male surgeons and she has inspired many other female doctors to join the field.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery; and Master in Medicine in Orthopedic Surgery from Makerere University.

She is currently undertaking a fellowship of Pediatric orthopedic Surgery from the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa.

Her passion is to see children happy and living lives to their fullest with no difficulties including bone deformities.



# Dr. Josephine Namugenyi

Dr. Namugenyi is a General Surgeon at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital (SRRH) and a Lecturer at Soroti University.

She participated in the separation of the now famous conjoined twins at SRRH, a low resource setting with limited capacity to routinely carry out such complex operations.

She was recognized by the Parliament of Uganda and awarded with a Hero's Medal by the President of Uganda for her extraordinary service to the community.

Dr. Namugenyi is spirited about women health and works as a visiting Fistula Surgeon at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital (TWCH) in Soroti, a facility that specializes in treatment and rehabilitation of women and girls who suffer from fistulas due to childbirth. She was instrumental in the establishment of this facility and she served as its first Medical Director.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Volgograd State Medical University in Russia, and a Master of Medicine from Uganda Martyrs University.

She also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Service Management from the Uganda Management Institute.

She is currently undertaking a fellowship in Urology of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa.

She is a mother to two daughters. She is a devout catholic passionate about Christian teachings.



# Dr. Luwedde Aliba Flavia

Dr. Luwedde is a General Surgeon and Lecturer at Soroti University.

She is a co-founder of Doctorplus Medical and Surgical Solutions in Tororo, a private healthcare facility that provides healthcare to the people in her community.

She is a Global Surgery advocate currently heading the process to establish a Global Surgery Unit at Soroti University and represents the University on a team working to form a Global Surgery Universities' Consortium.

She has a keen interest in research geared toward health promotion, prevention, and early detection of colorectal cancer and she is currently researching biomarkers for colorectal cancer in Uganda.

In partnership with Rural Health Uganda, she travels to hard-to-reach rural communities to provide safe surgical care. She sits on the board of this Community Based Organization.

Dr. Luwedde holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and a Master of Medicine in General Surgery from Makerere University.

She also completed a Master of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.

She is married with four children.



# Dr. Lois Asiimwe

Breast Surgery at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England.

Dr. Asiimwe is a Surgical Oncologist at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya Cancer Center and a Lecturer at Kampala International University.

She is married with a daughter, loves to cook and has designed and taught her own course on cooking known as “Fabulous Home Cooking for Beginners”.

She is dedicated to the fight against breast cancer among women and has designed and executed several breast cancer awareness and screening programs.

She is also an amateur interior designer.

She is a passionate teacher and mentor to medical students and surgical residents at Kampala International University and at Mother Kevin Postgraduate Medical School – Nsambya.

She also designed a curriculum for the Basic Surgical Skills Course which she offers to new groups of medical interns and Surgical Residents joining the Department of Surgery at Nsambya Hospital. She intends to roll out this course to cater for all medical interns and surgical residents countrywide.

Dr. Asiimwe holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Makerere University, and a Master of Medicine from Uganda Martyrs University.

She also completed a Fellowship in General Surgery of the College of Surgeons of East, central and Southern Africa and a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology from Artemis Hospital in India.

She is currently undertaking a Master of Science in Oncoplastic



# Dr. Irene Asaba Mugisha.

Dr. Asaba is a Plastic and reconstructive Surgeon and Head, Plastic Surgery Unit at Mulago National Specialized Hospital. She was instrumental in the re-establishment of this unit.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Kampala International University and a Master of medicine in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and technology.

She also completed a Plastic Surgery fellowship with the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. She also trained in Hand Surgery, Reconstructive Microsurgery, and Acute burn care.

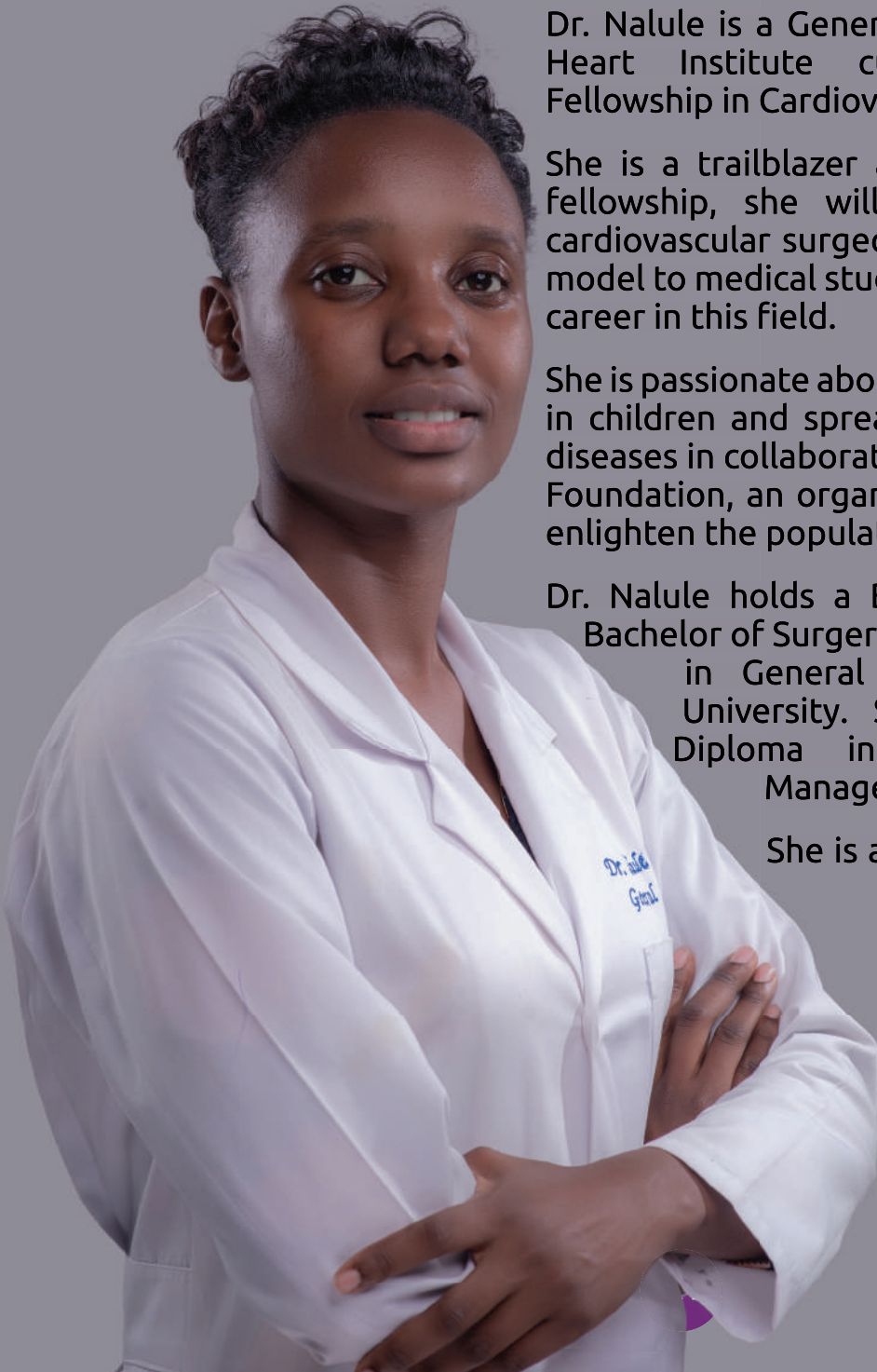
Dr. Asaba is passionate about training and mentoring medical students and to inspire them to pursue careers in Plastic Surgery.

She is a minister at Eagles Nest Church, Evangelical Ministries, a wife and mother to two handsome boys.





# Dr. Nalule Miriam



Dr. Nalule is a General Surgeon at the Uganda Heart Institute currently undertaking a Fellowship in Cardiovascular Surgery.

She is a trailblazer and at completion of the fellowship, she will be the second female cardiovascular surgeon in Uganda. She is a role model to medical students who wish to pursue a career in this field.

She is passionate about heart diseases especially in children and spreads awareness about such diseases in collaboration with the Healthy Heart Foundation, an organization whose desire is to enlighten the population about heart diseases.

Dr. Nalule holds a Bachelor of medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and a Master of Medicine in General Surgery from Makerere University. She also a Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital and Health Management.

She is a wife and a mother to one daughter.

# Dr. Clara Atieno Odhiambo

Dr. Odhiambo is a General Surgeon at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya and an Honorary Lecturer at Mother Kevin Postgraduate Medical School - Nsambya.

She is an accomplished instructor and mentor for postgraduate students who is passionate about supervising and teaching students in both clinical care and research.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Gulu University and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Uganda Martyrs University.

Dr. Odhiambo completed a Fellowship in General Surgery of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa. She is currently undertaking fellowship training in surgical oncology at Tata Medical Center in India.

She is Married and a proud mother of 3 children, a devout believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and an Excellent Cook.



# Dr. Katusabe Josephine Linda



Dr. Katusabe is a Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and a co-founder and Executive Director of Willin Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Associates Limited. (Willin PSA Centre). The center is designed to reverse medical tourism and it is the first of its kind in Uganda.

She also the first

surgeon to venture into mobile Advanced Wound Care Services providing both facility and home based care including the use Vacuum Assisted Closure (VAC) techniques.

She is an honorary lecturer at Mother Kevin Postgraduate School in Nsambya and a consultant at several hospitals in Kampala. Dr. Katusabe is instrumental in the training of plastic surgery residents.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and a Master of Medicine in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery from the same University. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital and Healthcare Management from Uganda Management Institute and also trained in monitoring and evaluation from the University of Washington.

Dr. Katusabe completed a Fellowship in Burn Surgery a Cloitham Hospital in India and a BFIRST Fellowship from the Royal Denver and Exter Hospital in UK. She also completed a fellowship in Hand and Microsurgery.

She supports children within orphanage homes and believes that it is everyone's responsibility to show love and care to the less fortunate in our society.

# Dr. Namugga Martha Monica

Dr. Namugga is a Urologist at Mulago National Specialized Hospital. Prior to this, she served as a Medical Officer in the Accident and Emergency Unit, a very demanding unit that requires quick decision making often under taxing situations. She made her mark in trauma care.

S h e

served as the Global Partners in Anesthesia and Surgery (GPAS) Scholar coordinator of the Kampala Advanced Trauma Care Course for 2 years. She participated in the development of the curriculum and also trained medical interns countrywide. She is still dedicated to improving trauma outcomes within Uganda.

As a Urologist, she participates in fistula camps to restore hope and dignity to girls and women that suffer from this condition and she is just getting started.

She holds a Doctor of Medicine from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University.

She also completed a Fellowship in Urology from the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa. She is currently undertaking a Fellowship in Global Surgery with the Centre for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia.

She is married and a mother to two boys. She hails from a very supportive family in masaka, the 5 of 9 siblings.



# Dr. Nagadya Catherine Kiruyi

Dr. Nagadya is a General Surgeon at Kiruddu National Referral Hospital and a Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Girls Unstoppable Uganda.

Girls Unstoppable Uganda a Charity Organization that supports the education and development of marginalized adolescent girls. The organization has awarded 29 scholarships since 2017.

She is a founding Member of the Uganda Fellowship of the Fountain for Change – Wells Mountain Initiative that brings together current and graduate scholars of this initiative in Uganda.

She is also a co-founder and managing partner of BLOOMS Care Limited, a mobile community healthcare delivery systems.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University. She also completed a Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery.

Dr. Nagadya is a co-Host of the Doc talk show, a Television show that hosts medical doctors to educate viewers about all their health concerns.

She is married and a born again Christian whose life's purpose is to preserve and restore life.



# Dr. Kabagenyi Phiona

Dr. Phiona Kabagenyi is the first Pediatric Otolaryngologist in Uganda working at Mulago National Specialized Hospital, and a Lecturer at Makerere University College of Health Sciences.

She was instrumental in the formation of multidisciplinary Pediatric Airway Teams at Mulago National Specialized Hospital.

She is also the General Secretary of the otolaryngology Society of Uganda and the Regional Secretary (South Africa) of the Yo-IFOS (Young Otolaryngologists of the International Federation of Otolaryngological Societies)

She qualified with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and a Master of Medicine in Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) from Makerere University.

She also completed a fellowship in Pediatric Ear, Nose and Throat from the University of Cape Town.

Dr. Fiona is a member of PENTAfrica (Pediatric Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons in Africa).



# Dr. Vivian Valin Akello Oketch

Dr. Akello is a Gastrointestinal Surgeon at Mulago National Specialized Hospital, and the President of the Society of Uganda Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

As the president of SUGES, she is overseeing the designing and development of curriculums for fellowship training in Gastrointestinal and Minimally Invasive Surgery.

She obtained both the Bachelor of Medicine and the Bachelor of Surgery, and a Master of Medicine from Makerere University.

She also completed a Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery from the World Laparoscopic Hospital and a Fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgery in Medanta, India.

Dr. Akello is a wife and a mother to three children and a Member of the Rotary Club of Sonde.



## Dr. Dorothy Nakuya Bbaale

Dr. Nakuya is a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at C-Care International Hospital in Kampala.

She is a co-founder of the Global Aid in Pediatric Burns (GAP-Burns) a collaborative NGO whose focus is to improve management of burns in children in low and middle income countries through research and training.

Dr. Nakuya holds a Doctor in Medicine from St. Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University in Russia and a Master of Medicine in Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

She is a member of the advisory board of Lamu Global Surgical and Reconstructive Hospital in Jinja City, a facility that aims to provide quality surgical services.

Dr. Nakuya gives back to her community by participating in surgical camps and offering free surgeries to people who would otherwise have no access to these services. She also supports efforts to fight cancer in Uganda by participating in the Annual Cancer Run organized by the Rotary Club in Uganda.



# Dr. Nimanya Stella Alice

Dr. Nimanya is a pediatric Surgeon at Mulago National Specialized Hospital.

“For the past few years, I have worked in the pediatric surgery unit, I have not only fallen in love with the discipline but also grown to respect it immensely,” she says.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and a Master of Medicine in Surgery from Makerere University.

She also completed a Fellowship in pediatric Surgery of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa.

She is a Member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Global Initiative for Children’s Surgery (GICS) working with other members of the GICS she contributing to the development of WHO Academy Children Surgery Modules..

She volunteers with Watoto Church and is a member of Malta Swim Club





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