

Dr. RAKOTOMALALA Heuric, Madagascar

Dr. Heuric has provided many years of service as a physician for SALFA, the Lutheran healthcare system in Madagascar. He is highly trained, first as a medical doctor in Madagascar, then further developing his skills as a surgeon through PAACS, the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons. PAACS asks the question, "What if you needed surgery and there were only a handful of surgeons for an entire country?" PAACS was formed in the 1990s as a response to this stark reality in many African countries, training doctors like Heuric to bring these critical skills back to serve people on the margins in their countries. Today, Heuric is one of Madagascar's most skilled pediatric surgeons as well as a general surgeon, and has served at multiple SALFA hospitals. As Medical Director at Manambaro Hospital, Heuric hosted University of Western Michigan Professor Dr. Richard Roach and multiple groups of residents and students for an exchange of ideas, with Malagasy doctors teaching the students about tropical medicine and the visiting physicians providing updates on the latest treatments for things like diabetes, hypertension and strokes. The students and SALFA both benefitted immeasurably.

Rita, who helped Heuric in his mastery of English early in his career, writes that "this gentle doctor is the epitome of what everyone expects in a great doctor."

Nominated by: Rita Gilmour Power



Heuric, in green scrubs, at Manambaro with Dr. Roach, students and SALFA health leaders