

Historic Homecoming: Zimbabwean Becomes First Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon to Return, Treat Children At CURE International Hospital

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Dr. Chitsamatanga (second from the left) in discussion with Dr. James and Dr. Lubega at CURE Malawi in 2017.

UK-trained doctor is first native-born surgeon to return to practice pediatric orthopedics in the Sub-Saharan country

GRAND RAPIDS, MI- October 18, 2021: [CURE International](#), an NGO operating a global network of pediatric hospitals, proudly announces Dr. Tongai Chitsamatanga has made history today by becoming the first Zimbabwean to return to his country to serve as a full-time fellowship trained pediatric orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Chitsamatanga began practicing at [CURE Zimbabwe](#) today, October 18, 2021.

“CURE International is honored to make history with the return of Dr. Chitsamatanga to Zimbabwe,” said CURE International President and CEO Justin Narducci. “Tongai represents a new generation of highly-trained African medical professionals who choose to return to Africa to improve the lives of their countrymen. CURE will continue to invest in the next generation of national surgeons in all countries and regions we serve.”

Dr. Chitsamatanga grew up in Bulawayo and later moved to Harare for medical school. After an internship, he worked at a mission hospital for six years. It was while he was at the mission hospital that he realized God’s calling was for him to do similar work in the future. He trained in General Orthopedics with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa ([COSECSA](#)), graduating in 2017.

The Zimbabwean undertook a trauma and limb reconstruction fellowship at the University of Oxford NHS in 2019. He also recently became a Clinical Fellow in Pediatric Orthopedics at the University of Derby and Burton NHS Trust, UK. A longtime supporter of CURE International, Dr. Chitsamatanga first attended a pediatric orthopedics course run at Beit-CURE International Hospital in Malawi (Beit-CURE Malawi) in July 2013. He later completed a nine month fellowship at Beit-CURE Malawi hospital in partnership with The College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa ([COSECSA](#)) Oxford Link (COOL).

“It is a personal milestone, as well as a proud professional achievement, for me to be able to return to my beloved Zimbabwe to improve the health of children. Paediatric Orthopedics is my passion,” said Dr. Chitsamatanga. “I hope to heal, and maybe even inspire, many children who live in the country where I grew up.”

Dr. Collen Msasanure, President of the Zimbabwe Orthopaedic Association said, "We are all excited and grateful that Dr. Chitsamatanga is joining CURE Children's Hospital of Zimbabwe. Over the past few months the volume of work has increased beyond our expectation. We are grateful to God for the help that he is going to bring to so many children with orthopaedic deformities in Zimbabwe. Welcome, Dr. Chitsamatanga."

Thousands of young lives are changed every year because of the dedication of doctors like Dr. Chitsamatanga who put their abilities to work for some of the most deserving children in the world. To learn more about ways you can support CURE's mission, visit <https://cure.org/>.

About CURE Children's Hospital of Zimbabwe

Established in April 2021, [CURE Zimbabwe](https://cure.org/) is the first and only hospital in the country of 14 million people to provide orthopedic care for disabilities such as clubfoot, bowed legs, and knock knees to children regardless of their economic status. The teaching hospital has 13 beds, three operating theaters, and an outpatient clinic. The hospital was refurbished by the Zimbabwe Orthopedic Trust in partnership with the Zimbabwean government and is located adjacent to United Bulawayo Hospital in Bulawayo.

About CURE International

[CURE International](https://cure.org/) is a Christian nonprofit organization operating a global network of eight children's hospitals that offer free surgical interventions for children living with treatable disabilities. CURE hospitals provide life-changing care for children suffering from conditions such as cleft lip/palate, neglected clubfoot, bowed legs, burn contractures, spina bifida, brain tumors, and hydrocephalus. In addition to world-class clinical service, CURE ministers to the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their communities. Since its inception in 1996, CURE has completed more than 5 million patient visits and 300,000 life-changing surgeries. For more information, visit <https://cure.org/>.

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Media Contact: Austin Cantrell, Austin@CanComms.com, (954) 790-1015