



IMPACT



Academics Without Borders (AWB) is committed to helping people in the world's poorest countries by sending highly qualified volunteers to share their expertise and skills with these countries' universities. AWB volunteers contribute their time, working entirely pro bono, to a wide variety of programs that have been initiated, implemented, and financially supported by the local post-secondary institutions. Our volunteers improve the education offered by local academics, who in turn educate others who become doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and computer scientists, and thus cascade the benefits of each program out through the society. In addition, AWB works with these universities to expand the capacity for critically important research necessary to advance development. The presence of a cadre of well trained local doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and others helps mitigate the devastating effects of natural disasters and reverse the processes that cause poverty. In this way, AWB helps countries improve their current situation and lay the foundation for a stronger future.

Over the past year, AWB has supported 15 volunteer placements. The program currently in the planning stage in Ethiopia exemplifies the kind of work we do.



Dr. Yazezew Kebede



Dr. Nazneem Wahab



Dr. Bibiana Cujec

Upgrading Healthcare Training in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a country of 95 million citizens that has just 12 cardiologists. There are more Ethiopian doctors in New York City than in Ethiopia. In the summer of 2014, Dr. Yazezew Kebede, head of the Medical School at Mekelle University (MU) in Mekelle, Ethiopia, contacted AWB and asked for our help. He explained the pressing need to upgrade the teaching of gastroenterology, cardiology, neonatology, and neuroradiology, and eventually to start residency programs in these areas. Dr. Kebede's first priority was cardiology, since cardiovascular disease is one of the big killers in the country. There is no standardized residency program in cardiology in Ethiopia. So AWB decided to send to MU two volunteers, Drs. Nazneem Wahab and Bibiana Cujec, from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine, to do a Needs Assessment targeting the Medical School and its associated 500-bed teaching hospital, Ayder Referral Hospital (ARH). ARH is the main referral hospital for a region with five million people. MU provided the AWB volunteers with housing and local transportation and AWB covered their travel and medical-related expenses. Because AWB volunteers work pro bono, there were no additional expenses. The cost of this two-week project, including management expenses, was **\$5,000 U.S.** (AWB's all-in-cost for sending out a single volunteer range from \$1,500 to \$8,000.)

Drs. Wahab and Cujec reported that setting up a residency program in cardiology at ARH is doable. The first step will be to improve ARH'S ability to provide basic cardiac treatment to its patients, 25% of whom suffer from cardiovascular disease. Completing this stage will involve sending teams of three volunteers, three times a year from 2016 through 2018, to "train the trainers." The AWB volunteers will include physicians, technicians, and nurses. With improved understanding of cardiovascular disease, the local medical staff at ARH will be in position to provide training in cardiology to MU medical students. Another five years will be needed to set up a residency program in cardiology to provide training in the full range of treatments for cardiovascular diseases. The eventual residency program at MU is intended to serve as a model for the rest of the country.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

1. Upgraded ability of faculty members at MU's Medical School to teach cardiology
2. MD Graduates from the Medical School with increased knowledge of cardiovascular disease
3. Residency program in cardiology at ARH
4. Residency programs at other universities in Ethiopia
5. Increase in the number of well-trained cardiologists in Ethiopia

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

1. Improved access for treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease
2. Lower mortality rate from cardiovascular disease, one of the major causes of death in Ethiopia



The Developing World Needs Your Help

We receive many requests from universities throughout the developing world. Each institution urgently needs help improving its administration, teaching, and research skills. With your kind help, we can send more volunteers to make a difference in the lives of people throughout the developing world. Please make a donation today.

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