



EMORY ETHIOPIA NETWORK NEWSLETTER FEATURE STORY

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EMORY MEDICINE GOES GLOBAL FOR MAJOR IMPACT

The Emory Global Health Residency Scholars Program

After just three years of operating in Ethiopia, the Emory Global Health Residency Scholars Program (GHRSP) of the School of Medicine has earned the distinction of engaging the most Emory faculty through in-country teaching and service experiences. With 20 faculty, 48 residents and fellows, and 14 departments participating in the year-long curriculum and one month clinical rotations in Ethiopia, the program has helped accelerate global health experiences for Emory faculty and students at an impressive rate.

Initially funded in 2012 with support from the School of Medicine’s Dean’s office under Dean Thomas Lawley, and continuing to have the enthusiastic support of Dean Christian Larsen, the current School of Medicine Dean, the program provides opportunities for a global health experience for medical residents and fellows. The program also provides opportunities for Emory



Infectious Disease Fellow Dr. Jonathan Colsanti working with medical students at Black Lion Hospital.

faculty members to contribute to medical education and build capacity in Ethiopia by providing teaching and other service opportunities within

Ethiopian teaching hospitals in the capital city of Addis Ababa.

For the residents and fellows who undertake a global health residency rotation in Ethiopia, the experience offers career development unlike anything they could achieve in Atlanta.



Dr. Anna Yaffee, 2014 GHRSP resident, stands with Emory faculty Dr. Matthew Wheatley outside Black Lion Hospital’s Emergency Department.

“I believe the GHRSP experience has made me a better doctor,” notes Seema Kini, a 2014 GHRSP resident. “Many of the diseases we saw in Ethiopia I had only read about before, but never saw firsthand. As we’ve learned with Ebola, our world is becoming a smaller place and it’s important to think broadly when seeing patients [in America].”

Anna Yaffee says of her time in the emergency department at Black Lion Hospital: “I learned to be very resourceful, and use the resources available to the best of my ability. I was extremely impressed by the ingenuity of the emergency medicine residents from Addis Ababa University to think of creative solutions to enable patient care. I will continue to remember these

lutions and attempt to apply the same outlook on problem solving in the emergency department going forward.”

An innovative aspect of the GHRSP experience is the opportunity to apply for \$500 medical education mini grants, to aid in solving problems or improving interventions during a resident’s experience. The mini grant initiative was proposed by [Dr. Jennifer Goedken](#), (Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics and GHRSP attending) as a mechanism to foster the collaborative development of educational tools and resources tailored to the needs and resources available at Black Lion Hospital. In collaboration with an Emory faculty member and Addis Ababa University medical school counterpart, the mini-grants support a wide variety of innovative medical education projects. Jenna Streicher, a 2014 GHRSP resident, noted that her trip would not have been as successful without the mini-grant funding. Streicher emphasized the value of the



Emory’s Dr. Brent Hayek and Addis Ababa University’s Dr. Meserat practicing oculoplastics surgery skills.

mini-grants to her experience: “[The mini-grant] was vital to our teaching endeavors. We used it to buy devices which allowed us to connect iPhones to a microscope and project live glass slides on a wall in order to teach dermatopathology to [our Ethiopian counterpart] residents.” Yaffee describes her mini-grant, “I used my mini-grant to hold a procedural skills

“Spending an elective rotation in Ethiopia was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It opened my eyes to different models of teaching and allowed me to see dermatology practiced in a resource-scare setting. It taught me to pause and question the utility of expensive tests which may not always be beneficial.”
-Jenna Streicher, ‘14 GHRSP resident

workshop for the [Ethiopian] first year residents. They found it to be a very useful experience that improved their confidence in performing emergent procedures.”

While the impact of the program is evident from first-hand accounts, the program also measures its success. A 2014 evaluation, independently conducted by a team from the Rollins School of Public Health, found that the

GHRSP has a positive impact on the participants’ training and career trajectory. Analysis of data on the program shows that Emory residents and fellows had positive changes in attitudes and confidence levels after participation in the program, with an increase in confidence in all key focus areas of the program. All

participants in the program have reported that their GHRSP experience has increased their desire to pursue a career involving global health research or teaching.

The GHRSP is directed by [Dr. Carlos del Rio](#) (Professor and Chair of Global Health, RSPH, and Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases) and [Dr. Henry Blumberg](#) (Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Global Health, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease). For more information about the program, as well as application instructions, [please visit the program’s website](#).

With 18 residents (over 10 departments and divisions) slated to travel to Ethiopia during the 2015-2016 academic year, the GHRSP continues to offer global classroom experiences to Emory faculty and students, as well as opportunities to contribute to the enhancement of medical education at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.