

### **SYMPOSIUM 3: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND ETHIOPIAN-CANADIAN ACADEMIC COLLABORATION: THE STORY OF TAAPP AND TAAAC**

The massive expansion in Ethiopia from 3 to over 40 universities in the last few years has created an urgent need for teaching faculty. Addis Ababa University (AAU), the oldest and most established university in the country, has a mandate to train PhDs, medical specialists, and Master level graduates to serve as faculty members in expanded and new programs at AAU as well as the new universities.

Founded in 2008, TAAAC expanded from an initial partnership in psychiatry to address capacity building and sustainability for health professions education and other graduate programs, against a backdrop of significant brain-drain. The fast growth of higher education in the face of scarce material resources is not without risk: there is concern about quality at all levels of the graduate education process, including curricula, assessment, and models of clinical training. In addition to the significant challenges of infrastructure and equipment, qualified faculty members are key.

A key element is of TAAAC is of Ethiopian ownership with Canadian support as invited. The regular, well-negotiated and prepared UofT faculty training visits provide a bolus of teaching and supervision into new graduate programs which are led and run by the very few local faculty. This cements AAU leadership and provides built-in cultural contextualization to counterbalance the otherwise wholesale imposition of Western values and principles. Academic preparation for each trip is co-developed with the Ethiopian context in mind; attention to the prevalence of local diseases; the availability of material and technical resources; and the use of local journal articles for teaching. Mandatory pre-departure TAAAC briefing and the sustained relationship of each of the UofT TAAAC partnership leads with their Ethiopian counterparts, secure a shared vision and purpose contributing to the stability and continuity of each partnership.

#### Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this symposium participants will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to describe the development of an educational partnership, and the kinds of challenges presented by an educational partnership between a high income university and a low income university.
2. Participants will be able to name 3 of the lessons learned over the course of the TAAPP/TAAAC partnership.

#### References

1. Alem A, Pain C, Araya M, Hodges B. Co-creating a psychiatric resident program with Ethiopians, for Ethiopians, in Ethiopia: The Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Project (TAAPP). *Acad Psychiatry*. 2010;34:424-432.
2. Berhan Y. Medical doctors profile in Ethiopia: Production, attrition and retention. In memory of 100-years Ethiopian modern medicine & the new Ethiopian millennium. *Ethiop Med J*. 2008;46(1 suppl):1-77.