

Report of the Outreach visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Savvas Andronikou December 2 – December 9 2012

Background:

I was invited to participate in an outreach effort to Ethiopia by Prof. Kassa Darge of the Children's Hospital Philadelphia (CHOP). He is of Ethiopian origin and has an ongoing exchange, with the Tikur Anbessa Academic Hospital (Black Lion Hospital), the University of Addis Ababa, the Radiological Society of Ethiopia and CHOP. The visit comprised departmental teaching and on-site reporting training, examining exiting registrars as an external examiner and speaking at the annual Radiological Society CME congress in association with 4 members of CHOP, including their departmental chairman, Prof. Diego Jaramillo.

Representation and Financial Support:

My visit was supported by: the College of Radiologists of South Africa (by popular vote of its council), including flights, subsistence and hotel accommodation. This financial support is greatly appreciated as it allowed me to book into a conveniently located, modern, clean hotel with facilities such as Internet access. Accordingly I primarily represented the College of Radiologists of South Africa (as president and external examiner). In addition I also represented the World Federation of Paediatric Imaging (WFPI; as the Chariman of the outreach committee), the African Society of Paediatric imaging (AfSPI; as the President) and the South African Society of Paediatric Imaging (SASPI; as President).

Activities:

All activities were expertly arranged and executed by Prof. Darge who kept to a strict and busy agenda. I was tasked with delivering 4 lectures to the department during morning and afternoon teaching sessions in addition to sitting with registrars for reporting in ultrasound and plain film reporting. A full day was used up for the examinations where 9 registrars were examined by the two external examiners (myself and Prof. Jaramillo). For this task we had been asked to prepare 5 different examination sets, of 10 questions, each. We also were required to attend the post examination meeting with the department consultants and the dean of the medical school, and we submitted a typed report with comments for improved training and examining (appendix 1). Lastly we were required to present 3 lectures each, at the CME congress to approximately 100 delegates (appendix 2 and 3). All activities were carried out successfully.



Awarded:

We were awarded certification for participating in the examination with an Honorarium, which was donated back to the department, for purchasing of digital teaching resources (appendix 4). We were also presented with certification for participating in the CME activity and a placard on a traditional background for teaching the course. Furthermore we received gifts from the registrars (I received a set of coasters) and a gift from the head of department at Tikur Anbessa Hospital in the form of two bags of Ethiopian coffee. I was extremely pleased to accept these gifts.

Social:

I made a one-day pilgrimage to the Christian Orthodox rock churches of Lalibella with 2 members of CHOP at my own expense. In addition the group was taken to visit the Mercato (largest open air market in Africa) again at our own expense, after completing our allotted tasks, one afternoon. These were most stimulating and interesting visits, which were educational, culturally, religiously and politically. We were also treated to a traditional evening meal by the department and we were welcomed to Prof. Darge's home for dinner. We also spent an evening with the College of Surgeons of East Africa and one evening at the same group's gala evening, as guests of our host.



Overall impressions and continued contact:

Ethiopia has an organized and active radiological society that can form the basis for communications within the continent and with international societies. A list of radiologists with interest in paediatric radiology was compiled to add to the growing mailing list of the AfSPI under the administration of Dr. Yocabel Gorfu. I have committed to participating in another CME course in 2013 at the Ethiopian Radiology Society's invitation.

The Tikur Anbessa Hospital Department of Radiology is organized and motivated and hosts an invaluable training program for registrars. Registrars were of a high caliber and performed well under examination by two international external examiners. The new section of the radiology department including the new MRI scanner will definitely boost activity and learning. There are clear parallel lines of the examination process with our College of Radiologists in South Africa and I believe further collaboration and exchange is possible and will be mutually beneficial.



CHOP is an institution with the foresight and selfless capacity to lead the way for international outreach. It has not only shown the commitment of its staff but also the mechanism (by way of a 'sister' hospital system) of supporting another hospital in need, on another continent. It has achieved this with outreach visits, tele-radiology training, fellowship programs, observership exchanges and external examiners. I am proud to have partnered with this outstanding radiology outfit and its visionary leadership.

Conclusion:

This outreach and examination visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was extremely successful and well worth the effort. I commit to further collaboration and will endeavor to do this through the College of Radiologists of South Africa, the WFPI and the AfSPI /SASPI axis. My gratitude goes out to the College of Radiologists of South Africa for their financial support and to Prof. Kassa Darge for inclusion in this outreach mission.

Prof. Savvas Andronikou