

EPHA Conducts its 28th Annual Scientific Conference.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) conducted its 28th Annual Scientific Conference 19-22 February 2017 in Harar town.

The main theme of the Conference was: “Public Health Challenges and Responses in Ethiopia: Opportunities and Prospects”.

The Scientific Conference was officially opened by the Message from H.E. Mr. Murad Abdulhadi, President, Harari People's National Regional State.



The President expressed his heartfelt appreciation to EPHA to select the Regional State to host its Annual Scientific Conference and extended his wish to the participants to have a fruitful scientific exchange and pleasant stay in Harar.

H.E. Mr. Murad assured that the Regional State Council would provide any assistance for the effective accomplishment of the event.

Dr. Fikreab Kebede, EPHA President warmly welcomed the participants.



In his remark, Dr. Fikreab stated that the Conference exhibited a wide range of activities including panel sessions on the main and sub-themes of the conference, concurrent sessions of about 269 Oral and Poster presentations.

Finally, Dr. Fikreab thanked the Conference hosting Region, Harari National Regional State, Haramaya University, all EPHA members, partners, EPHA Secretariat and others for their continued contribution to the growth of the Association and the

development of the national public health at large.



Welcoming the participants, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed, Head of Harari People's National Regional State Health Bureau noted that the Conference has been an important milestone to enhance knowledge sharing on health and related challenges and the design of healthy life.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chemedha Finensa, President of Haramaya University appreciated EPHA's endeavor in advancing public health in the country. He further stated that the University is interested to work in collaboration with EPHA in areas of joint strategic advantage.



In his keynote address, Prof Afework Kassu, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology /MoST/ FDRE said that EPHA has done significant contribution on the development of policies and strategies in the fight against tobacco and alcohol use. He also emphasized on the need to have wider and strategic collaboration to foster the Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP) with a due appreciation to EPHA for its excellent participation on the development of the HSTP



Mrs. Yemisrach Belayneh, Country Advisor, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, on her part exclaimed that EPHA organized such a huge Conference in which all gather to discuss on pertinent public health issues in Ethiopia and beyond.

On the occasion, a minute of silence was held on the death of EPHA members: Prof. Mesganaw Fantahun, Mr. Hailu Meche, Mr. Araya Demissie, Mr. Fekade Tsegaye, Mr. Haftay Meressa, Dr. Ewunet Seid and others.

EPHA Recognizes Individuals and an Institution

The opening of the 28th Annual Scientific Conference of EPHA was also marked by an award ceremony.



Eight Public Health Professionals together with one Senior Researcher in Economics and Political Science and an institution were recognized for their significant contributions for the improvement of public health in Ethiopia. Namely:

- Ato Negga Baraki Public Health Service Awardee
- Prof Yigzaw Kebede Public Health Service Awardee
- Prof Jemal Haidar Senior Public Health Research Awardee
- Mr. Demewoz Haile Young Public Health Research Awardee
- Mr. Ali Beyene Dedicated Long Service Years Award Awardee

Out of the usual trend EPHA has also awarded four individuals namely; Prof. Richard Pankhurst, Dr. Frida Hylander, Prof. Stig Wall Bios and Prof. Bernt Lindtjorn for their merit.

National Blood Bank Services of Ethiopia /NBBS/ is the winner of the 28th Annual Conference institutional award.

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EPHA General Assembly conducts its regular meeting

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) General Assembly conducted its annual regular meeting on the second day of the Conference.



At the meeting, Chapters' report, EPHA's 2016 Annual report, draft 4th Strategic Plan of EPHA for the coming ten years, and audit report were presented and discussed. The Assembly further discoursed on issues of reregistration and sustainability including EPHA's house construction.

On his report, Dr. Fikreab Kebede, President of the Association, stated that EPHA is implementing various project and non-project activities. EPHA supports Africa Federation of Public Health Associations (AFPHA), Ethiopian Public Health Officers Association, Public Health Laboratory Association (EPHLA) and other sister associations. In addition, EPHA has been actively participating and supporting through various Technical Working Groups (TWGs), taskforces, and public wing core members at FMoH.

On the event, the Election Committee (EC) highlighted the composition and terms of the Executive Board (EB) members and proposed to extend the term of four EB members for one additional round as the rest members have not completed their term. Hence, the General Assembly has endorsed the proposal presented by the chair of the EC.

After h ot d iscussion, a ll a gendas o f t he 2 8th G eneral A ssembly m eeting w ere a pproved. M eanwhile, representatives of the Center for Urban Health Development (CUHD) - Ethiopia made use of the evening session to advocate the CUHD functions as a center of excellence in urban health. The other objective of this particular session has been to share key findings on Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) reform appraisal so as to encourage further discussion and application of its outcome. The session was held and accompanied by dinner reception at Wonderland Hotel, Harar.

The 2017 EPHA Awardees

Mr. Negga Baraki: Public Health Service Awardee



He was born in 1954 in a village in the district of Adigrat town, currently part of the National Regional State of Tigray. He attended his elementary and high school in Adigrat town.

After completing 10th grade, he joined Gondar Public Health College and Training Center for the diploma Sanitarian training program. This was the beginning of his public health career.

After graduating from Gondar College of Public Health and Training Center, he was employed by the Ministry of Health as a Sanitarian and assigned in Hararghe, Garamuleta Health Center.

In 1997, he graduated with B.Sc. in Environmental Health Science from Jimma Institute of Health Sciences.

He has earned his Master Public Health from the University College of Dublin, the Republic of Ireland, in 2001.

He has also received a Higher Diploma Program Training in Higher Education Teaching from Haramaya University. He is now an Assistant Professor and teaches both graduate and undergraduate students. He has served in different institutions for many years.

In his career, he has taken several trainings in the field of public health including cold chain technician training for the Expanded Immunization Program in Dare Salam, Tanzania and other several courses in the country which gave him the capacity to be involved in addressing several public health issues. He has co-authored several lecture notes and modules which are still in use in different universities of our country and have also publications with colleagues in several journals. Now he is a retired person but still serving in Haramaya University.

He is affiliated to EPHA since 1995 and also a member of the Environmental Health Professionals Association.

Prof. Yigzaw Kebede Public Health Service Awardee



After completing his primary and secondary education in Gondar, he joined the then Gondar College of Medical Sciences for higher education. After earning his M.D, he started his professional career in 1990 as a medical practitioner, medical director, and district health manager in Finote Selam Hospital and Jabi-Tehnan District. He has served as zonal disease prevention and control team leader and later as head of West Gojjam Zonal Health Department. After getting his MPH degree from Addis Ababa University, he was employed in Gondar College of Medical Sciences in 1998 as an assistant professor of public health. He contributed a lot in launching Gondar College of Medical Sciences, in October 2003 and provided several courses for different cohorts of students. Since 2007, he served the University of Gondar as professor of epidemiology and public health. He has advised several masters and 6 PhD students.

In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities in the University of Gondar, he has served as Head of Department of Community Health, V/President for Administration and Business Affairs, Academic and Research V/President, and finally as acting president. During which, he was able to launch a joint public health graduate training program with Addis

Continental Institute of Public Health (a private institute) which created huge opportunity for professionals who wanted to specialize in public health. Prof. Yigzaw has published 45 articles in the areas of maternal health, child health, substance use, infectious diseases, mental health, traditional medicine, disability, injury and others. He has also shared his rich research experience to several universities in the country as external examiner for masters and PhD students. In addition, he has served as coordinator of Dabat HDSS and Editor-in-Chief of the Ethiopian Journal of Health and Biomedical Sciences. On consultancy basis, he has developed a 'Standardization of Activities and Definition of Terms, as well as data sharing and release policy' for the Ethiopian Universities Research Centers Network. Besides teaching graduate students in different health fields including clinical specialty programs, he has given research methods training for public health professionals selected by EPHA, and instructors in different universities like University of Gondar, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, and Arba Minch Health Science College. Together with his colleagues, he has published 5 teaching materials which are widely in use in different corners of the country.

In July 2010, the University of Gondar has given him an award in recognition of his great contributions to the teaching-learning process and undertaking academic researches aiming at solving the multifaceted problems of the community.

Prof. Jemal Haidar: Senior Public Health Research Awardee



Prof. Jemal Haidar was born in October 1960. He is an MD nutritionist who started his career in the Assab Hospital in the then Assab autonomous region of the Ministry of Health as a general medical practitioner in 1986. After two years of service, he pursued his accelerated studies in district health management hosted by the Ministry of health and soon appointed as the regional health director for the same region and served for nearly three years. In mid-1991, he joined the Ethiopian Nutrition Institute (ENI) as a program coordinator and researcher. Subsequently, he was promoted to the rank of a senior researcher in the institute. Since 1995, he taught public health nutrition courses for graduates and medical students in the then community health department of the Medical faculty as an honorary staff and continued serving as an assistant professor from 2003-2006.

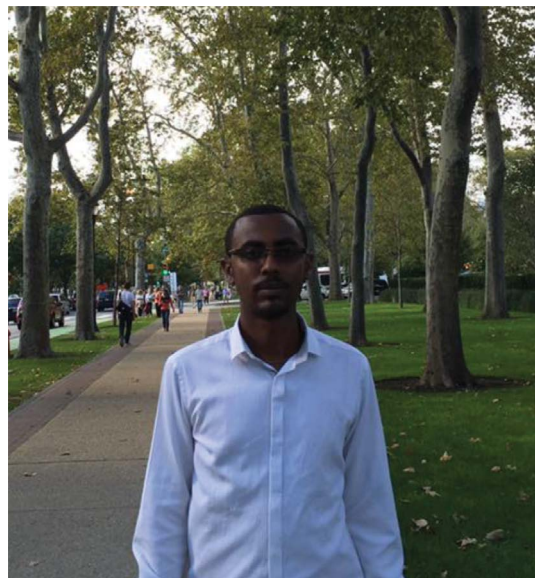
Since 2005, he was appointed as the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EHNRI and served as DDG for two years. Since 2007, Prof. Jemal joined the School of Public Health (SPH) as a full academic staff with a rank of an associate

professor and delivered courses in his specialization area and later promoted to the rank of full professor in December 2016. During his stay in SPH, he got a training in teaching methodologies and Certified as medical educator from University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Graduate Studies & Academic Fellowship Programs, 2009 (one year course). In addition Prof. Jemal served the School as well as the College as member of different standing and ad-hoc committees, and department head. Since April 2012, he is appointed as Dean of the School and also a member of AAU Senate for nearly one year. He served as facilitator for the Anglophone African countries on monitoring and Evaluation of Population, health and Nutrition Programs and has authored and coauthored over 80 articles in local as well as international journals.

He received the Swiss Trans-disciplinarily Award, Zurich, March 2000; Certificate of Recognition for the Development Market place Global Competition in 2003, December 4-5, 2003, Washington; Certificate of Recognition by School of Medicine as a Teacher of the year from the School of Public Health in recognition of the outstanding contributions made to the academic achievement and personal growth for the year 2011 and 2012.

Prof. Jemal has made a substantial contribution to public health nutrition through his various publications in the international as well as national peer reviewed journals reflecting his clear priority to maintain an international standing while uplifting the relevance of a national body of scientific pursuit more likely to reach his national constituencies. In terms of his accomplishment, he has gained a stellar international reputation through his collaboration with international agencies and institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Demewoz Haile: Young Public Health Research Awardee Senior



He was born in rural village called Gadi of Menz Mama District, North Shoa zone of the Amhara Regional State. He attended his primary education in Kolomargefia and Astoya Primary Schools, while he attended his high school at Molale Secondary and Preparatory School. In 2006, he joined Jimma University, Faculty of Public Health. He completed his BSc, Degree with very great distinction, and highest score of GPA in the department by the year. After graduation, he was assigned as assistant graduate at Madawalabu University; He served the university for two years before he left for MSc program. In 2012, Mr. Demewoz graduated in Applied Human Nutrition from Hawassa University. He then served as research advisory board member, research

proposal technical evaluation committee and other different academic and research affairs of the university. After three years of service at Madawalabu, he got transfer to Bahir Dar University.

Mr. Demewoz has made several scientific presentations in Ethiopia and Abroad. Among others, he has made presentations at water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina in 2016, and Brown International Advanced research training in 2016.

He is now an international fellow of Humanitarian innovation initiative, Watson Institute, Brown University USA. Mr. Demewoz Haile authored and co-authored 32 peer-reviewed scientific publications in refereed journals and serves as reviewer for more than 10 peer reviewed journals.

Mr. Ali Beyene Dedicated Long Service Years Awardee



Mr. Ali Beyene was born in the then Dessie Zuria Wollo Province East Wollo. He completed his elementary and secondary education in Negu Micheal and W/ Siheen schools respectively. He started his career as a nurse after he graduated from Teferi Mekonnen School of Nursing, Nekemt, in 1970. Then, he served in different positions until he continued his further training in Addis Ababa University. He graduated in 1980 with BA in economics and political science. After serving some years, he pursued his Public Health career in 1984 when he joined the Tulane Public Health University, USA and graduated in MPH. He took additional courses in Health Planning and Management and received two Diplomas from The Johns Hopkins University.

Since then, he has taken several additional trainings brining him certificates to diplomas, in project preparation as well as in different fields including nutrition. In 1991, he joined the Ethiopian Public Health Association and served the Association for about 25 years at different positions. Mr. Ali has been involved in most of EPHA's projects and he has been involved in organizing its annual public health conference since 1994. He has been the most widely known face of EPHA and he has represented the Association in various national, regional and international conferences. His commitment was vital for EPHA to reach its current level.

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NATIONAL BLOOD BANK SERVICE

A brief Background of National Blood Bank Service of Ethiopia

Blood bank Service in Ethiopia was started in 1969 G.C under the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. Until 2010 service was given by its 12 regional blood banks located in the capital cities of 8 out of the 11 regions and covering the requirements of 52% of the hospitals in the country.



In 2010, the service was transferred from the Red Cross to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to have a Government-led and managed service under the FMoH and the Regional Health Bureaus through a transition strategy and plan developed and supported by WHO.

A proclamation establishing the NBBS starting January 8, 2015 as an autonomous agency was passed by the council of ministers. A total of 25 blood banks are now functional and 12 satellite blood banks are under construction. This has increased the number of hospitals accessing a safe blood supply from 52% in 2012 to about 90% by 2014. A total of 30 mobile blood collection teams have been established throughout the country with 6 fully functional teams established in Addis Ababa alone.

The proportion of blood collected from voluntary blood donors has reached more than 97 % nationally from 10% in 2012 with majority of the blood banks including the center in Addis Ababa collecting 100 % from VNRBDs. The blood bank is currently working to strengthen the quality management service of the blood transfusion service in the country by carrying out the following major activities.

Accreditation by African Society for Blood Transfusion

The Ethiopian National Blood Bank Service (ENBBS) has been working towards attaining accreditation by the African Society of Blood Transfusion (AfsBT). The South African National Blood Services (SANBS) is providing technical assistance on behalf of World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that all the blood banks under the ENBBS have the required minimum standards to provide quality blood transfusion services in their areas. The final accreditation assessment will be done by the AfsBT before the end of 2017 and the regional blood banks will follow in a stepwise manner..

Blood Safety Information System

The NBBS is working to implement a blood establishment computer system to improve the quality of service. The Blood Safety Information Systems (BSIS) is developed by Jembi Health Systems with the support of CDC.

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At the Conference various panel discussions were held, where Panelists talked on various topics including, Health Sector Transformation Agenda /HSTP/ Public health challenges in Ethiopia, public health care, global health security, Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage

Similarly, several concurrent sessions and poster presentations were held which focused on the areas of Biomedical Science, Environmental and Occupational Health, Non-communicable Disease, Mental Health, Substance Use, Maternal health, Health Systems Research, HIV, TB, Malaria, Nutrition and Food Science.

One of the other events that marked at the Conference was voluntary blood donation. Accordingly, EPHA Members, participants and the Secretariat staff donated their blood to save lives.

Prior to the official opening of the 28th Annual Scientific Conference EPHA held a preconference session in which training was conducted on scientific writing.



Dr. Mirgissa Kaba, Dr. Girma Taye, Dr. Kindalem Damtie and Dr. Tegbar Yigzaw delivered a series of presentations on the basics of scientific writing.

Photo News

Partial View of the 28th annual conference of EPHA

