

## Twining Center Launches New Partnership to Strengthen Emergency Medical Services in Ethiopia

The Twining Center recently launched a new partnership in Ethiopia designed to build critical capacity in the field of emergency medicine.

Established in close cooperation with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health with support from PEPFAR and CDC/Ethiopia, this partnership links the University of Wisconsin at Madison and People to People International with the Addis Ababa University Faculty of Medicine and Black Lion Hospital to strengthen their capacity to provide quality care — including ART and treatment for opportunistic infections — to people living with HIV or AIDS.

Addis Ababa University Faculty of Medicine at Black Lion Hospital established the first residency program for emergency medicine in the country and the hospital's emergency room opened in August 2008.



Black Lion Hospital's busy ER is stretched well beyond its capacity with more than 1,400 patients seeking treatment each day. The majority of patients present with complications stemming from HIV infection.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Health has committed to creating an Emergency Medical Services Center of Excellence at Black Lion, where the majority of urgent care patients present with internal medical emergencies related to HIV/AIDS.

In early July, the Ethiopian delegation traveled to Madison, where they met with their US partners and Twining Center staff. During the exchange, they developed their year-one work plan, toured various clinical sites, participated in grand rounds, and shadowed professional counterparts to learn about effective models of urgent care, service organization, and clinical education and training.

According to Medical Faculty Dean Dr. Milliard Derbew, the School of Medicine was established in 1964 and now has 1,670 students enrolled in its programs. "It is one of just eight medical programs in Ethiopia and we have recently increased our intake of medical students to meet the country's growing needs."

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