

## Partners Open New Drug Information Center at Addis Ababa University's Black Lion Hospital

Twinning Center partners at Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Howard University celebrated the opening of a model Drug Information Center (DIC) May 27 at Black Lion Hospital.

AAU President Andreas Eshete and a number of AAU officials, deans, and department heads, as well as local and international stakeholders in the field of pharmacy education and training attended the event.

With support from PEPFAR through CDC/Ethiopia, as well as from the World Bank, partners from the AAU and Howard University schools of pharmacy, along with Howard's Pharmacists and Continuing Education Center, established the DIC to serve as a center of excellence on drug information services in Addis Ababa and, eventually, elsewhere in Ethiopia.

Staffed by trained faculty members from the AAU School of Pharmacy, the DIC provides comprehensive, objective, unbiased, and evidence-based information that assists and informs health professionals as they plan and provide clinical care.



The new DIC at Black Lion Hospital features a wealth of drug information resources. Staff are trained to respond to queries and assist with research to better inform clinical practice.

The DIC also serves as a training and research center, particularly as relates to the country-wide scaling up of ART and other drug treatments for PLWH. Such treatment involves increasingly complex pharmacotherapy, making pharmacists a critical member of a multidisciplinary HIV/AIDS care team.

Equipped with the latest drug information databases as well as reference books, the DIC represents an invaluable resource on drug research.

Center staff respond to queries related to drug therapy of diseases; drug therapy in special populations; adverse drug reactions; drug interactions; pharmacodynamics; pharmacokinetics; pharmacogenetics, the social use of drugs, and other related topics.

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