



CDT-Africa News



A Newsletter of the Center for Innovative Drug Development and Therapeutic Trials for Africa



Volume 2 Issue 3

Editorial

The imperative for authentic collaboration

Ethiopia, along with the rest of Africa, faces major development challenges, extending from poor access to essential medicines to conflict, and from food insecurity to energy insecurity. Addressing these and the many other development needs, requires citizens, experts, leaders, institutions and nations to work together. This is aptly captured by the idiom: *dir biyabir anbessa Yasir* / If we work together even the most daunting challenges can be tackled. *No major development challenge can be tackled alone/ not even by high impact institutions.*

Access to essential medicines is the case in point here—it remains a critical development challenge requiring high level leadership, multi-disciplinary expertise, manufacturing capabilities & effective national and international partnerships. Recently, we launched the Nexus partnership to leverage indigenous knowledge, resources, and university capabilities.

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Editorial's Cont'd

Through this partnership, we aimed to establish an effective, and expanding platform for the sustainable innovation and production of medicines from indigenous knowledge and herbal resources supporting the health and economic development of Ethiopia. This partnership has committed to reimagine methods and approaches of leveraging indigenous knowledge and resources and designing and developing mechanisms for community engagement and impact.

Through *Negat* project, we have embarked into a new partnership with high schools near the CDT-Africa Bio-Hub in the *Sefereselam* campus, to expose young students to the wonders of drug discovery. Two of the students are now working at the Bio-Hub with CDT-Africa scientists to develop their discovery into a medicinal product. We hope more institutions working in science and innovation space will partner with us to expand such opportunities. An important partnership highlight during this quarter has been the visit by a Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

If we work together, we can soon build the required multi-disciplinary expertise and industrial capacity to ensure local pharmaceutical production and secure access to essential medicines. We will find solutions to virtually all problems that we are currently facing. The alternative? የፋክከር ቤት ሳይዘጋ ያድራል // *Manni mormiin keessa jiru banaa bulaa*. Confronting unimaginable, lose-lose consequences, is not an option we want to contemplate. CDT-Africa serves as a platform for impactful partnerships—within Addis Ababa University, nationally and internationally. We thank all who have worked with us and helped us get where we are. We invite more like-minded institutions and individuals to join us in enjoying the pleasures and impacts of working together.

CDT-Africa Submits Patent Applications for new medicinal Products

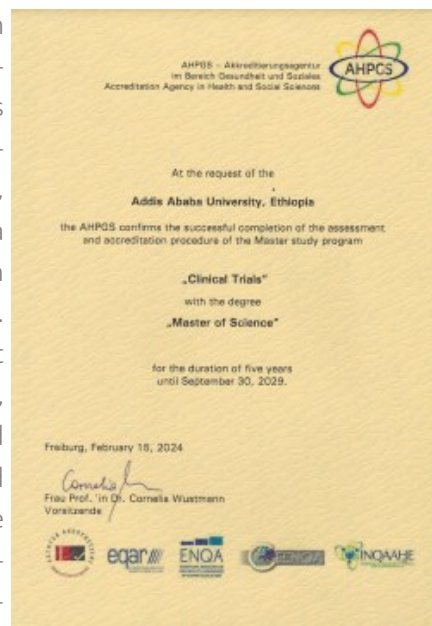
AAU, CDT-Africa has successfully filed patent applications for four patents and one utility model to the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA). This submission highlights CDT-Africa's commitment to innovation and the development of new products from local resources to address common health problems. This also reinforces its role in advancing research and technology in the region.

In addition to the current filings, CDT-Africa is actively engaged in the development of over 20 new products. This pipeline of products highlights the center's ambition and capability to deliver transformative innovations in healthcare sectors. By focusing on local resources and expertise, the Center is paving the way for scalable solutions that could have a profound impact on health outcomes across the continent.

MSc in Clinical Trials Programme Achieves International Accreditation

AAU, CDT-Africa's Master's programme in Clinical Trials, the first of its kind in the region, has received international accreditation from AHPGS, a German-based Accreditation Agency for Health and Social Sciences.

This accreditation was secured following a rigorous 18-months evaluation process, which included a 2-days visit by an expert group. The group met with leadership, instructors, and students, and inspected lecture halls, laboratories, and the clinical trial unit. Accreditation was recommended with no conditions, with five years validity.



MSc in Clinical Trials Programme Achieves International Accreditation Cont'd

Initially accredited in 2018, the program received national accreditation renewal from the Ministry of Education in 2022. The primary goal of the programme is to prepare skilled professionals for roles in pharmaceutical industries, regulatory agencies, contract research organizations, and academia, focusing on the design, execution, and reporting of clinical trials in compliance with good clinical practice and regulatory requirements.

CDT-Africa is now welcoming its sixth cohort into the programme, with four previous cohorts already graduated and contributing to research and clinical trials across the region.

International Accreditation for CDT-Africa's ClinOps Programme

We are thrilled to announce that AAU, CDT-Africa's flagship virtual training programme, ClinOps, has received international accreditation from the Accreditation Agency for Health & Social Sciences (AHPGS), a renowned German-based international accreditor. This achievement comes after a comprehensive year-long evaluation process, and we are proud to share that the approval was granted without any preconditions. This accreditation not only validates the quality of CDT-Africa's programs but also enhances the impact of the Centre's training efforts in clinical operations.

UK Parliament Members Met with AAU leadership and Visited CDT-Africa Bio-Hub



UK Parliament Members, accompanied by the Standing Health Committee of the House of People's Representatives, had productive meeting with the AAU president, H.E. Dr. Samuel Kifle and his team. They then visited the AAU, CDT-Africa Biohub Facility.

The visit aimed at understanding the impacts of the UK government's research funding, especially through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and the broader partnerships between AAU and UK higher education institutions. During the meeting, the president highlighted the various research collaborations across AAU and responded to questions raised by the MPs. At the CDT-Africa Bio-Hub, the joint MP team saw the state of the art medical discovery labs and the CDT-Africa scientists presented on the ongoing work to find better diagnostics and treatments for NTDs through the collaborations of scientists at AAU CDT-Africa and BSMS/University of Sussex. The UK MPs, in addition to appreciating the ongoing work, expressed their commitment to advocate for the search of cures and diagnostics.

Gates Foundation Senior Program Officer Visit

On June 24, 2024, Thy Pham, Senior Program Officer from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation visited CDT-Africa to engage with the team, in support of Addis Ababa University's Clinical Operations Course, which recently achieved the Advanced Certificate designation by AHPGS, an accrediting agency in health and social sciences. To learn more about this course, feel free to review the preprint located at: <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-4213344/v1> (DOI, <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-4213344/v1>). Thy also visited the Phase 1 Clinical Trial Unit at the College of Health Sciences, and the Africa Bio-Hub laboratories at the Sefereselam campus, where the CDT-Africa Medical Discovery team showcased their latest research efforts. This visit highlighted African scientific leadership in action and is an example of an important partnership working to advance clinical research and innovation.

Panel Discussion on Improving Access to Medicine



AAU, CDT-Africa, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Medical Association (EMA), hosted a panel discussion titled "Challenges, Opportunities, and Best Practices in Improving Access to Medicine" at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa.

Panel Discussion cont'd

This event was held as part of EMA's 60th Annual Medical Conference and International Health Exhibition. The event was attended by over 200 participants, including EMA members, industry, and non-profits. The panelists were delegates from the Ministry of Health, Policy Studies Institute (PSI), Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), local pharmaceutical manufacturers, and CDT-Africa. Moderated by Prof. Eyasu Makonnen, Deputy Head of CDT-Africa, the primary aim of the panel was to advocate for enhanced access to medicines in Ethiopia. The interactive panel session explored the current policy landscape, national priorities, and the role of innovation in improving access to medicine. Panelists discussed challenges and proposed a common national agenda supported by effective policy frameworks.

The NExUS Initiative to support the utilization of indigenous medicinal knowledge Launches



Some participants, launch event, Bonga University

In May 2024, a meeting at CDT-Africa, Addis Ababa University, proposed the establishment of the Network of Excellence for Utilizing Indigenous Medicinal Knowledge Systems (NExUS). This initiative, launched in collaboration with Bonga University, Debretbirhan University, and Arba Minch University, aims to enhance drug development from natural resources by leveraging Indigenous knowledge.

NExUS is a platform that fosters sustainable innovation in medicinal product development, applying indigenous knowledge and resources. It also aims to reduce fragmented research by integrating institutional capabilities, and strengthen the documentation and application of Indigenous knowledge. It seeks to reimagine methodologies based on traditional practices, engage communities to enhance capacity development, and advocate for the conservation of plant diversity and Indigenous knowledge systems.

Bonga University hosted the inaugural meeting of the NExUS partners on September 5-6, 2024. The event included a warm welcome from Bonga University officials and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize collaboration. The NExUS initiative marks a significant step toward leveraging Indigenous knowledge for drug development, promising effective solutions to public health challenges while promoting biodiversity conservation.

CDT-Africa Faculty Engages with South African Institutions

In its pursuit of becoming a leading regional Center of Excellence for Education and Research in Medical Discovery and development, AAU, CDT-Africa is actively fostering partnerships and enhancing its network with South African universities and research institutions. Guided by its core values such as continuous learning, creativity, and evidence-based medical research, the center benchmarks best practices and establishes mutually beneficial collaborations.

Four representatives from CDT-Africa, including Centre Director Prof. Abebaw Fekadu, Deputy Centre Director Prof. Eyasu Makonnen, Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr. Belete Adefris, and Postgraduate Research and Bioanalysis Training Coordinator Dr. Asfaw Debella, traveled to South Africa. During their visit, they engaged with institutions such as the University of Limpopo, Farmvos, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the University of Free State's African Medicines Innovation and Technology Development Platform, and Perceval.

The main objective of the visit was to explore opportunities for technology transfer and collaboration in drug discovery, clinical trials, and herbal medicine production. Following the visit to the South African facilities, a collaborative project has been initiated in partnership with the Ethiopian Bio and Emerging Institute (BeTin). This initiative represents a consortium effort involving a South African team, which has secured resources from the South African Government to conduct various studies in collaboration. The project protocol has been developed and is currently undergoing an ethical review and endorsement process. An official agreement between AAU(CDT-Africa) and BeTin is in its final stages.

Local Medical Products Manufacturing and Innovation Exhibition



From June 22 to 26, 2024, AAU, CDT-Africa participated in the Local Medical Products Manufacturing and Innovation Exhibition organized by the Ministry of Health in Addis Ababa. The exhibition aimed to promote access to equitable, high-quality healthcare services by encouraging the local manufacturing of health products and medical supplies. The event served as an important platform for engaging with stakeholders, discussing challenges in local medical discovery, and exploring investment opportunities aligned with CDT-Africa's broader goals.

CDT-Africa showcased its products and commitment to enhancing local medicine production. The Center highlighted its innovative solutions, shared its journey toward developing medical discovery capacity, and sought to foster future collaborations.

CDT-Africa Celebrates International Clinical Trials Day 2024

CDT-Africa commemorated International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) with the theme "Clinical Trials for Development."



The event, chaired by Prof. Eyasu Makonnen, Deputy Centre Leader of CDT-Africa, featured representative of the State Minister, Ministry of Health, H.E. Dr Dereje Duguma, Ms. Heran Gerba, Director-General of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) and representatives of leading higher education and research institutions.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Abebaw Fekadu, Head of CDT-Africa, emphasized the significance of ICTD as a platform for promoting clinical trials and highlighted the Master's in Clinical Trials program, supported by partnerships with the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI). He expressed the need for a resilient clinical trial system to navigate global challenges, aligning efforts with the 2030 agenda for eliminating Neglected Tropical Diseases.

H.E Dr. Dereje Duguma, State Minister, Ministry of Health through his representatives highlighted the crucial role of clinical trials for discovering new or improved treatments and enhancing patient care, which aligns with the Ministry's vision of a healthier Ethiopia. He Emphasized the importance of collaboration with key stakeholders like AAU to achieve the health sector transformation plan and promoting research and development of medical products. The focus of CDT-Africa on Academic and research activities relevant to the discovery and development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics aligns with the Ministry's priorities.

The event included presentations on clinical trials for health development by Dr. Kassa Haile (AHRI), human capacity development by Prof. Asrat Hailu (AAU CDT-Africa), and economic growth in healthcare by Prof. Damen Haile Mariam (AAU CHS). More than 90 participants attended the program, both virtually and in person, strengthening the collaborative spirit essential for advancing clinical research in Ethiopia.

ETEYE ALMAZ Book 2 Launch

The second book of Eteye Almaz's science stories, titled 'የሚፈጠሩት መድኃኒት ከየት ይመጣሉ?', was launched on 4th February 2024 at Ras Mekonen Hall, Addis Ababa University in the presence of distinguished guests and children.

This 2nd book is part of a series of books under a Copyrighted name of "የእትዬ አልማዝ የሳይንስ ታሪኮች". The aim of the series is to inspire young children to be creative, ask questions and build a new generation of citizens committed to science, and scientific inquiry. If you have any questions or would like to receive books, please contact Professor Abebaw Fekadu (abebaw.fekadu@aau.edu.et)



Global Health research team on NTD gathers in Addis



The 2024 Annual Meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia hosted by AAU, CDT-Africa in partnership with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School from May 18 to May 19. This year's gathering brought together participants from the United Kingdom, Rwanda, Sudan, and Ethiopia, fostering an enriching exchange of ideas and strategies among global health professionals.

Discussions focused on enhancing community participation in health initiatives, recognizing the importance of local insights in shaping effective programs.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting was a 2-hours panel discussion exploring “**How to continue doing impactful research in unstable environments to meet the WHO 2030 targets for NTD control, elimination and eradication? Moving from surviving to thriving...**” This interactive panel discussion on adaptive research and programme implementation aimed to explore the issue of fragility and research in some depth from humanitarian, social sciences, innovation, policy, and implementation perspectives. The panel offered an initial pragmatic recommendation for establishing an adaptive and resilient NTD research and partnership system in fragile contexts as well as highlighted issues for further studies.

Participants explored strategies to enhance skills and knowledge across the Global Health Research Unit, focusing on robust methodologies and impactful outcomes. Key discussions included embedding health economics and sound statistical practices into research, alongside sharing insights on securing funding—a critical factor for advancing health initiatives in today’s geopolitical climate.

A notable highlight was the launch of a Regional Hub for Neglected Tropical Diseases Genetics, aimed at driving research and intervention strategies for these diseases.

AAU, CDT-Africa and University of Karachi Host Leishmaniasis Training Workshop



AAU, CDT-Africa, in partnership with the University of Karachi, conducted a three-day training workshop on Leishmaniasis at the Ellily Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from May 28-30, 2024. The workshop was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Mian Atif Sharif, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia, and featured keynote addresses from Prof. Abebaw Fekadu, Head of CDT-Africa, among other distinguished speakers. The event brought together global experts to address the critical health challenge posed by leishmaniasis. Researchers and practitioners from Ethiopia and regional institutions participated. Others from regional institutions also joined virtually.

Anti-Leishmanial Therapy: Work to develop anti-leishmanial therapy by the leishmania drug discovery group, coordinated by Dr Abdrrahman Surur, is making promising progress. The study investigates flavonoids for their anti-leishmanial properties. Flavonoids, a class of natural compounds known for their therapeutic potential, have shown promise in combating leishmaniasis. In this study, the administration of luteolin to mice infected with *L. tropica* amastigotes resulted in a substantial reduction in cutaneous lesions, outperforming the standard treatment, Amphotericin B (AmB). The group is focusing on optimizing simplified flavonoid structures to enhance their efficacy and safety profiles. Six flavonoid derivatives have already been synthesized, with ongoing efforts to create novel analogues. The work, which involves systematic drug design and extensive evaluation, could pave the way for new treatments in the fight against leishmaniasis, a disease that remains a significant global health concern.

EnDPoINT-2: Introducing the Integrated Chronic Wound Management Guideline and Care Package

In the past 7-years, AAU, CDT-Africa has been partnering with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)/University of Sussex/ implementing projects to support the elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including conditions that cause chronic wound. As part of EnDPoINT-2, CDT-Africa has now developed the Integrated Chronic Wound Management Guideline and Care Package, which establishes a standardized, evidence-based approach to managing chronic wounds, ensuring that primary healthcare professionals are equipped with the latest best practices. This guidelines provide clear recommendations, helping healthcare providers stay informed about the most effective and appropriate care strategies.

Clinical Trial Unit Update

SPARK: Empowering Children with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

The SPARK initiative, a collaborative effort by AAU, CDT Africa, WHO, and King's College London, aims to improve the mental health and resilience of children with developmental disabilities and their caregivers in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the project operates across five sub-cities, engaging local communities and national stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

During this period, Key achievements include identifying 569 children with potential developmental disabilities, with 442 undergoing diagnostic assessments by psychiatrists. To support caregivers, 57 individuals are receiving specialized training at seven health centers to enhance their ability to provide nurturing care. The initiative has also trained 213 health extension workers for early detection and 139 primary care clinicians in integrated mental health care, aligning with national strategies.



Training Session

SPARK promotes community involvement through two Local Community Advisory Boards with 46 members and a National Project Advisory Committee of 25 stakeholders. These bodies ensure alignment with policies and community-driven solutions. Awareness campaigns have included consultations with 37 stakeholders to develop detection tools and sensitization meetings reaching 326 community members.



Community Advisory Board

NEGAT (The Next Generation Scientists for Africa's Transformation)

AAU, CDT-Africa aims to broadly contribute to the sustainable development of Africa by addressing the development challenge posed by poor access to medi-



cines (drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines) through high-quality research and regional training programs. To achieve this aim, careful pipeline building that leads to sustainable supply of medical discovery scientists is critical. It is also important to create a society that is aware of science as a way of life. NEGAT [(The Next Generation Scientists for Africa's Transformation)] project is designed with the aim to immerse young students, ages 13-15/ grades 7-8, in drug discovery through highly practical 5-days program as part of a broader initiative of societal engagement in solutions-focused science.

Annual Reporting and Planning Workshop



AAU, CDT-Africa held its Annual Reporting and Planning Workshop over a 5-day period in July 2024, bringing together over 35 staff members from various units for essential reflection and strategic planning.

The workshop hosted comprehensive discussions on activities implemented, in comparison to the approved Annual Plan for the fiscal year 2023/24. Presentations highlighted key achievements and identified challenges faced during the implementation period. Each unit drafted and presented its plan for the upcoming year, aligning with the center's strategic objectives.

This workshop not only served as a platform for accountability but also encouraged team members to share insights and strategies for improved performance. The outcomes will help shape future strategies, ensuring CDT-Africa remains relevant aligned with its goals and objectives.

Additional Unit Activities

Health Care Delivery Innovation Unit Updates

HOPE: Establishment of the Country Management Group

The HOPE project, a partnership with the University of Edinburgh, aims to develop a healthcare delivery innovation programme to address the complex issue of homelessness and serious mental illness. As part of this effort, the HOPE project team have established a Country Management Group comprising stakeholders from government, NGOs, religious organizations, and mental health service user associations.

During its inaugural meeting, the group identified two sub-cities for study implementation. Their expertise will guide strategies to meet community needs, marking a key step toward creating a more inclusive environment for those facing homelessness and mental health challenges. On the other hand, a Community Advisory Group (CAG) was also established for the project implementation in Addis Ketema and Arada sub-cities. The CAG, comprising of community members, and mental health service user representatives, will provide guidance, support and accountability for the community level implementations.





Fiker Belete
Grade 8

I want to be an astronaut. "What I liked most was observing the antibacterial activity of the extracted oils"



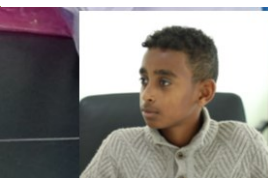
Liya Robel
Grade 7

I want to be a medical doctor and a minister "I was fascinated by the process of culturing bac-



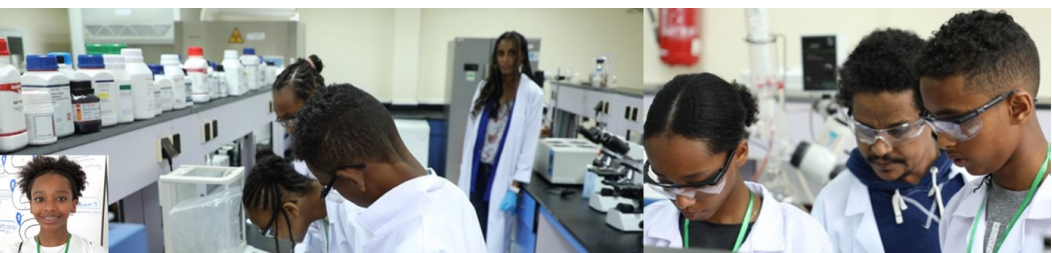
Fekreab Tesfaye
Grade 6

I want to be an Astronaut and a football player "I enjoyed both the extraction of oil from medicinal plants, and the games"



Amanawit Tesfaye
Grade 8

I want to be a photo model and singer "The life experiences of the CDT Africa Scientists taught me about tackling problems in our community and the importance of identifying our passions early on"



Ruth Fikre
Grade 8

"I didn't expect to participate in so many hands on activities, (.....) the program exceeded my expectations"



Who We are

Established by Addis Ababa University, with financial support from the World Bank, as an Africa Higher Education Centre of Excellence (ACE):

- To deliver high quality postgraduate education.
- To build collaborative research capacity to address the development challenge posed by poor access to medicines (drugs, vaccines and diagnostics)

Why We exist

We exist to contribute to the sustainable development of Africa through discovery and development of drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and complex interventions.

Our Vision

To contribute to the sustainable development of Africa by creating the advanced knowledge base for improving access to medicines (drugs, vaccines and diagnostics).

Our Mission

To be an Africa-based, world-class institute for ground-breaking medical discovery and development.

Staff Spotlight

Promotions of Two Core Faculty Members

We are proud to note that two members of CDT-Africa's core faculty, Prof. Yimtubezinash Woldeamanuel and Prof. Anteneh Belete, have been promoted to full Professorship.



Prof. Yimtubezinash serves as the lead of the Africa Bio-Hub, a regional Medical Discovery Facility and Incubation Center. She is also the lead of the vaccine development Unit. She was an Associate Professor of Medical Microbiology at the College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University. Her research focuses on infectious diseases, with a strong emphasis on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. She has also made significant contributions to the health research field serving as member of institutional review boards and advisor.



Prof. Anteneh Belete, the Training Lead at CDT-Africa and deputy lead of Africa Bio-Hub. He was an Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics at Addis Ababa University. His expertise encompasses bio-pharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmaceutical technology. Dr. Anteneh has held various leadership roles at AAU, including Head of the Department and Director for Research and Technology Transfer. He is also a fellow of the Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences and serves as Associate Editor for the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Journal. His research interests include drug delivery systems, alternative pharmaceutical excipients from local resources, and phytopharmaceutical development.

Both professors have played integral roles in advancing research and education at CDT-Africa and Addis Ababa University. Their promotions reflect their dedication to their fields and their ongoing contributions to improving health and pharmaceutical sciences in Ethiopia and beyond.

Professor Eyasu Makonnen received well-deserved Lifetime Service Award



Prof. Eyasu Makonnen, Deputy Head of CDT-Africa, has been honored with a Lifetime Service Award in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Addis Ababa University. With a distinguished career that spans numerous leadership roles in national, regional, and international programs, Prof. Eyasu has made profound impacts in both the academic and research communities.

Prof. Eyasu has published over 225 scientific papers, with a focus on phytomedicine, clinical trials, and neglected tropical diseases. He is also a founding member of the Leishmaniasis in East Africa Platform (LEAP). In 2003, he earned his professorship from Addis Ababa University, further solidifying his remarkable academic career.

Prof. Abebaw Fekadu and Dr. Girmay Medhin Recognized for Outstanding Scientific Publications



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – December 19, 2023 – Prof. Abebaw Fekadu, Head of CDT-Africa, and Dr. Girmay Medhin, Data Management Lead, have been honored by Addis Ababa University for their remarkable contributions to scientific research. They received awards for achieving high number of publications record for 2023 at the university this year, reflecting their dedication to advancing knowledge and research excellence.

The recognition ceremony in the university's main auditorium, attended by faculty members, students, and distinguished guests from various academic institutions. The event celebrated not only the achievements of Prof. Abebaw and Dr. Girmay but also underscored the vital role of research in addressing pressing societal challenges.

Their accomplishments serve as an inspiration to the academic community and reaffirm the commitment of CDT-Africa to promoting a culture of research and innovation.

Dr. Tsion Minas Appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor at CDT-Africa, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University



On April 18, 2024, Dr. Tsion Minas, a molecular epidemiologist and Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award recipient, was appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at CDT-Africa, Addis Ababa University. Dr. Tsion has been a valuable collaborator, significantly contributing to the Center's scientific activities.

She has been instrumental in establishing and organizing the Center's Journal Club, which meets biweekly and engages various scientists and fellows. Her appointment is effective from February 22, 2024, to February 21, 2026. In this role, Dr. Tsion will deliver lectures, support instruction, engage in scholarly research, participate in operational committees, and foster industry partnerships to enhance student internships and practical experiences.

New Project Briefs

- **African One Health Network for Disease Prevention:** ADAPT is a Project under CDT-Africa, Addis Ababa University funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The Project aims to build the capacity across seven sub-Saharan African countries for the improved management of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and for the improved stewardship of antimicrobials (AMS), using a One Health approach in partnership with state, local, and regional stakeholders. Partners are Academic and research institutions from 7 African countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan and two Institutions from Germany. This Project will investigate and sustainably develop the local capacity to identify and intervene with a diverse range of biomedical and sociocultural factors impacting human, animal, and environmental health in sub-Saharan African settings, in order to better control AMR and NTDs (particularly helminthic infections).
- **The Global Health Equity for Sustainable Development Project (GHSED) :** The Global Health Equity and Sustainable Development (GHESD) project, a collaboration among AAU, CDT-Africa, Emory University, and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, is supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia. Partnering with Saint Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College and Haramaya University, the initiative promotes bilateral training and knowledge exchange between U.S. and Ethiopian academics, researchers, and students.

Focusing on public health, epidemiology, and biostatistics, participants engage in joint projects, fostering collaboration and a deeper understanding of the cultural and policy factors shaping health systems in both countries. This effort aims to advance global health equity and sustainable development.

Upcoming Events

1. Innovation Ecosystem Project Dissemination Workshop, May 2025
2. Join Us for the Access to Policy Panel Discussion, February 2025
3. Celebrating AAU, CDT-Africa's Phase I, April 2025

CDT-Africa was established as an Africa Centre of Excellence to build endogenous expertise in Africa so that the continent can make its own drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics.

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 CDT Africa

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Training on Planning and Implementing Centers of Excellence



- ◆ Mediocrity, cynicism, and half-hearted and shortsighted efforts have hampered national and regional progress to a large extent.
- ◆ Excellence is a potential antidote to these barriers and an essential tool for addressing major national and global development challenges.
- ◆ In the current highly competitive world, excellence helps individuals, institutions, and nations to stand out.
- ◆ Yet, the concept of excellence and the intense processes required to achieve it are poorly understood and misrepresented.

Through extensive research and the process of establishing a thriving regional center of excellence, the Addis Ababa University's CDT-Africa team has developed and launched a pragmatic five days training on how to build institutional excellence through centres of excellence (CoEs).



At the end of the five days training, course participants will be equipped with transformative understanding of CoEs, be able to develop and revise their CoE implementation plans, prepare to implement their CoEs successfully and accelerate their CoE implementation.

The training is also modified for institutional leaders aspiring to transform their institutions and to make national and global contributions.

Experienced professors and practitioners with proven track record of national and international impact provide the training.

If you are interested in the program please contact



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