Knowledge Transfer and Accessibility: Equity for Health Professionals in Ethiopia

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Comparisons

Canada: 1 physician per 467 People

United States: 1 physician per 320 People

Ethiopia: 1 physician per 42,000 People
Transportation – travelling to a hospital or clinic may take days for those living in the rural areas but transportation within the city can also be challenging.

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Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births

- Canada: 4.85
- U.S.: 5.98
- Ethiopia: 75.29

Source: CIA World Factbook 2012
Library Science
About the TAAAC Library Program

In the Spring of 2008, Sandra Kendell, library director at Mount Sinai Hospital, was invited to travel to Ethiopia, East Africa as part of the Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Project (TAAPP). Sandra had the opportunity to meet with the chief medical librarian at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and saw first hand the limitations to accessing print and digital resources in the Black Lion medical library.

A partnership was established with the medical librarian with the goal to improve access to e-resources, to improve the print collection and to provide training in clinical librarianship. Shortly thereafter, the program was expanded to include medical disciplines of Emergency Medicine, Paediatrics, Pharmacy and several others. This new program, the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC), is a collaboration between the University of Toronto and Addis Ababa University and was established to assist the Ethiopian faculty enhance residency training programs.

To achieve the goals set out in the Library partnership letter of 2008, the TAAAC Library Program established an Action Plan which is continually updated. An important part of this Action Plan is to develop a mentoring program in clinical librarianship at the university level. Clinical librarians who wish to participate in this program are asked to view the global health outreach opportunities and decide which phase of the program, whether in Canada or Ethiopia, best matches their skills and experience. Candidates may also wish to view the selection criteria established for participants in the Library Program.

For further information on the TAAAC initiative, please contact:

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Partnership letter between the libraries of Mount Sinai Hospital and the Black Lion Hospital:
(1) request for current medical print textbooks
(2) access to e-books and e-journals
(3) remote and in-country training
TAAAC – Library Science Program Evaluation

2011

• Over 140 library professionals, physicians, nurses and allied health workers received training.
• 3 months later – 16 librarians had trained over 140 additional hospital/university staff.
• “Pen-pals” providing email reference services support and document delivery services.

2012

• Over 250 learners of which over 200 were clinicians
• Currently a waiting list for Medical Library Literacy training
TAAAC – LSP Our Next Steps

- November 2013 Memorandum of Understanding AAU and UofT.
- Assessing our program and outcomes use of University of Toronto Libraries, registered Ptolemy Library Users.