

## **Report on The Turkish Initiative for the Neurology Departmental Visit as a part of the WFN's the Africa Initiative Programme**

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The Turkish Neurological Society (TNS) has volunteered to become a part of the WFN's Africa Initiative Programme. Istanbul University Cerrahpasa School of Medicine and Hacettepe University School of Medicine in Ankara had offered a one month visiting program for neurologists from African Countries. Two candidates among 16 applicants from several African countries were selected by an evaluation committee consisted from members of the WFN Educational Committee members and Turkish Neurological Society representatives. Their visit was sponsored by a grant provided from the TNS.

Dr. Mehila (Zebenigus) from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) visited the Department of Neurology at Hacettepe University Medical School, in Ankara from March 1st to 30th, 2012. She was the first woman neurologist in her country. It was quite an experience for her when she landed in Ankara covered with snow and left when the trees had blossoms at the end of the month.

She attended the activities of EEG, video monitorization, EMG, SFEMG, evoked potentials, neurorehabilitation, grand rounds, journal club, case discussions and outpatient clinic in our department and joined MRI interpretation sessions in the Neuroradiology department. The language barrier was resolved with the help of a translator available sitting next to her. Her conference on "Medicine and Neurology in Ethiopia" was very informative, interesting and well attended by the staff members, residents and medical students. She was invited to Ankara Training and Research Hospital and Gazi University Neurology Departments where she was able to meet the neurology staff and observe their working environment. She met Dr. Grisold and TNS

council members during her visit to Istanbul where she had a brief tour in the historical city during the weekend. She was a highly motivated, knowledgeable, organized and conscientious physician with excellent command in English. We were all very pleased to have her in our department.

I believe this program established by WFN gave both sides an excellent opportunity to have relations with mutual interests and an insight to their culture and health system. I'm sure she will be helpful others when she is back. TNS supported this program with a strong belief of helping each other, benefit of cultural exchange, peace and the standardization of neurological care in the whole world. I think the mission has been accomplished and we will be looking forward to have a continuous relationship with her, her colleagues from Ethiopia and other African countries in the future as well.

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