

## **Report of the 4 week WFN-Turkish department visit programme to the neurology department of the Hacettepe University Neurology Department's, Ankara, Turkey**

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First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Turkish Neurological Society (TNS) and WFN for organizing and sponsoring this visit. My special thank goes to Hacettepe University Neurology Department's staff and students and particularly to Prof. Tülay Kansu, who not only educated and mentored me, but also made sure that each day was comfortable and memorable.

During my stay in the month of March 2012, I attended different activities in the electrophysiology laboratory observing SFEMG, cortical magnetic stimulation, evoked potentials and routine NCS/EMG. I acquired ample experience in the video EEG laboratory and neuroradiology department. I also attended outpatient clinics, grandrounds, journal clubs and case discussion. A translator was usually available even if the meetings were in Turkish. Brief visit to neurorehabilitation department and other universities (Ankara University, Gazi University and Ankara State Hospital) gave me a broader insight about the advanced level of medical practice in Turkey. I was given the opportunity to present (joint session with Prof. Berna Arda from Ankara University who visited my department a year ago) on “medicine and neurology practice in Ethiopia” to Neurology department staffs at Hacettepe University, as well as Ankara State hospital, which was highly appreciated and taken with enthusiasm.

My visit was spiced with off-work hour visits of wonderful and historical museums, city parks, open bazaars and shops in Ankara, which still are fresh memories. I had the privilege of accompanying Prof. Kansu on her meeting trip to Istanbul on the last weekend of my stay, where I met with the executive committee of the TNS. I had a historic tour of the extraordinary Istanbul city as well. Although my journey was relatively short I highly enjoyed being in Turkey and acquired as much new information as possible, which I have already put into practice.

I am hoping this is just the first of many more similar visits for other fellow colleagues in Africa and Ethiopia in particular. My recommendations for future visits and visitors, who would make a similar visit, are

1. Focused training on one area of interest of the candidate.
2. Longer period of visit; no less than 2-3 months.
3. Awarding Certificate/letter of the visit to the candidate who completed the stay.
4. Other European countries could participate in a similar program to help African neurologists.
5. Bilateral relation; European neurologists to visit African University Hospitals.

Lastly, I am grateful to Addis Ababa University, Department of Neurology head, staffs and my colleagues at Yehuleshet Higher Clinic for making this visit a reality.

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First week; At Hacettepe University



Second week; Presentation on “Medicine and Neurology in Ethiopia” to neurology staff and residents.



Last week; With Prof Tülay Kansu and Prof Grisold from WFN, Istanbul



Last week; TNS executive committee meeting, Istanbul.