



PUBLIC HEALTH

A Quarterly Newsletter of the School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University

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SPH Retreat 16-17 2017

The retreat aimed at revisiting the past performance of the School and envisioning the future in a new spirit towards improving the teaching learning, research and community services activities. The retreat had also created forum for staff networking, as there were considerable number of staff were new.



On 16th of November, first day of the retreat, Dr. Wakgari Deressa, previous Dean of SPH delivered a welcoming address followed by a keynote address by Dr. Mitike Molla, the new Dean of the School. In their speech, both deans emphasized the need to revisit the performance and challenges of the School since the past retreat in 2014 and envisioning the future by way of creating excellence in teaching, research and community services.

Following the welcoming and keynote addresses, principal investigators and program leads presented review of selected projects of the school including the Butajira Health and Demographic Surveillance Site (HDSS), GEOHealth, PMA2020, and Maltrials. In addition, the school administrative staff presented their work, key challenges and ways to overcome them. During the two days retreat, staff were actively engaged in small group discussions on different matters relevant to the transformation of the teaching, research and community services provided by the School.



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Teaching

Enrollment

In this academic year (2017/2018) the School of Public Health has accepted 193 graduate students through its Masters (183 students) and PhD (10 students) programs. Compared to the total number of graduate students enrolled during the last academic year this year there is an average increase by 14% in Masters and 20% in PhD programs. In line with the University's priority of building the capacity of other public universities and government sectors, majority of the graduate students who joined our programs this year are from other public universities and government sectors. In addition, the school enrolled young high performing female students through the university's female scholarship program and international students through the Postgraduate Academic Mobility for African Physicians-Scientists (PAMAPS) program.

Table1. Number of Graduate students enrolled n the 2017/18 academic year

Department	Masters Program Tracks	# of students
Reproductive Health and Health Service Management	Reproductive Health	13
	Public Health Nutrition	15
	Health Systems Management	10
	Masters in Hospital Administration	13
	Health Economics	12
Preventive Medicine	Epidemiology and Biostatistics	12
	Health Education and Health Promotion	8
	Environmental and Occupational Health	10
	Field Epidemiology	22
	Programs Coordinated by the School	Regular Program General MPH
	Extension Program General MPH	56
	Total	183

Successful completion PhD training:

This academic year (December 2017 through May 2018) a total of seven PhD candidates successfully defended their dissertations. This increased the total number of PhD candidates who have completed their training at SPH since the program was started in 2003 to 44. We warmly congratulate our students, the supervisors listed hereunder and their families for successfully defending their dissertations.



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Table 2- List of PhD candidates who defended their dissertation between Dec-2017-May 2018

Student	Title	Date of Defense	Year of entry	Advisors
Abiyot Asress	Challenges Of Tuberculosis Control In Southwest Ethiopia: Treatment Delays, Cost, and Outcomes	May 10, 2018	Jan 2012	Dr. Wakgari Deressa Dr. Degu Jerene
Mekonnen Eshete	The Role of Genetic and Environmental Factors in the Etiology of Orofacial Clefts in the Ethiopian Population	May 03, 2018	Jan 2014	Dr Wakgari Deressa, Dr Azeez Butali, Dr Peter Mossey
Tadesse Ejigu	Effect Of Antenatal Care Service Quality On The Continuum Of Maternal And Newborn Health Care Services; A Follow Up Study At Public Health Facilities Of Bahir-Dar City Administration; North West Ethiopia	May 03, 2018	Jan 2013	Prof Misganaw Fantahun Prof. Alemayehu Worku
Ewnetu Firdawek	Maternal Near Miss: Incidence, Causes, Factors And Adverse Perinatal Outcomes In Addis Ababa	April 20, 2018	Jan 2013	Prof. Alemayehu Worku Prof. Misganaw Fantahun Prof. Birgitta Essén
Zewdie Aderaw	Spatial Variation and Determinant Factors of Food Insecurity and Child Undernutrition in East Gojjam Zone, Ethiopia: A Multilevel Mixed Effects Model	Dec. 27, 2017	Jan 2013	Prof. Ahmed Ali Prof. Alemayehu Worku
Haftu Berhe	Epidemiological Study On Community Acquired Pneumonia Among Hospital Treated Adults In Tigray, Ethiopia	Dec. 11, 2017	Jan 2014	Prof. Fikre E/selassie Dr. Alemayehu Bayray
Tsion Assefa	Physician Workforce and Health System Response in Ethiopia: A Mixed Methods Study	Dec 06, 2017	Jan 2013	Prof. Damen H/Mariam Dr. Wubegzier Mekonnen Prof. Miliard Deribew



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Research

Collaborative research projects:

On top of the Masters and PhD students research projects currently School is running 15 collaborative research projects. Of these, the following are new collaborative research projects for this academic year (October 2017 through June 2018):

Table 3: New Projects in 2017/2018

Sr. no	Project name	Project PI
1	Building Capacity for applied research to reduce tobacco-related harm in low and middle-income countries	Dr. Wakgari Deressa
2	Female Cancer Ethiopia	Dr. Mirgissa Kaba
3	Complex Intervention	Dr. Mitike Molla
4	Evaluation of a quality Improvement Maternal and New-born Health Intervention in Ethiopia	Mr. Abiy Seifu
5	Evaluation of Maternal and New-born Health Quality Improvement Interventions in Ethiopia.	Mr. Abiy Seifu
6	1000 days+ implementation research project	Dr. Seifu Hagos
7	CBMP with Federal Ministry of Health	Mr. Wondimu Ayele
8	USAID Transform MELA	Dr. Mitike Molla (Dean)

Publications:

SPH is the leading school in Addis Ababa University in designing and conducting researches and publishing articles in peer review journals. This academic year (October 2017 through March 2018) SPH faculty members published 92 articles in international and national peer reviewed journals. The school congratulates all faculty members who have worked hard to contribute to the generation of new knowledge in their field to advance science and inform health policies, programs and practices in Ethiopia and globally.

Community service

Several of the staff at SPH are providing services to the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia as working groups in Research Advisory Council (RAC), National Immunization Technical Working Group (NITAG), National Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) Technical Working Group, board membership for different societies, editorial board membership and reviewer for peer reviewed journals and serving as members of different national and global committees and working groups.

Staff development

- 5 drivers and 8 administrative staff were trained on their respective areas of work
- 3 lecturers were promoted to the rank of Assistant professor and 4 Assistant professors were promoted to the rank of Associate professors.
- Graduate studies: 1 lecturer (MD) was enrolled in the MPH program while 3 staff members were enrolled in PhD programs (one at Addis Ababa University and two abroad).
- Requirement: 2 Assistant Professors & 1 Graduate Assistant (high performing female) were recruited.