

- Eritrea is located on the Horn of Africa and borders Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, and the Gulf of Aden on the west coast. It consists of the mainland and the Dahlak Archipelago in the Gulf of Aden.
- The country emerged as a nation in 1991 following a 30-year war of independence that has taken a costly toll on the social and economic infrastructure of the country and the quality of life of its citizens.
- Eritrea's capital is Asmara.
- Eritrea's climate is mild, comparable to California.
- Eritrea has no official language. Tigrinya, Arabic and English are used widely.
- The most widely practiced religions in Eritrea are Islam (40%) and Christianity (40%). By Eritrean law neither religion nor ethnicity can be the basis of a political party.
- Eritrea only has three physicians per 100,000 people and there are only four pediatricians and five surgeons in the entire country to support a population of more than four million people.

The Partnership for Eritrea: Pediatric Residency Program

The Partnership for Eritrea is unique collaboration between The George Washington University School of Medicine, Physicians for Peace and the Ministry of Health of Eritrea to establish post-graduate training programs in medical specialty areas and reverse the trend of medical brain drain in sub-Saharan Africa. The Partnership aims to build Eritrea's health care capacity, train Eritrean physicians to be excellent specialty clinicians, and ensure sustainability by training Eritrean physicians as future medical educators. To begin this initiative, the Partnership has launched two medical residency training programs, in pediatrics and surgery, at the Orotta School of Medicine in Asmara, Eritrea.

Overview of the Pediatric Residency Program:

The newly established post-graduate training program is a two-year pediatric residency which will produce new pediatric faculty for the residency program as well as practicing pediatricians for the capital and provinces. The Ministry of Health established the Orotta School of Medicine in 2003. Since the first class of Eritrean medical students will not graduate until 2009, the first group of pediatric residents will be comprised of six general practitioners who will matriculate through the program for the two years together. The five Eritrean pediatricians currently practicing at the 200-bed Orotta Hospital for Children will act as clinical faculty. Two U.S.-trained board certified pediatricians will coordinate the program. The program was launched in October 2007. A three month process of planning and orientation for the Eritrean faculty members is currently underway at Orotta School of Medicine and the six residents will start their training in January 2008. Subsequent classes of residents will enter the program yearly and will be drawn from the graduating medical students.

The curricular design for this program is similar to a U.S.

model with some variation. Clinical rotations are, for the most part, 2 months in duration rather than one. Rotations include: inpatient services organized by age, outpatient well-child and acute care, outpatient subspecialty clinics, NICU, and emergency medicine. A PICU has not yet been established. The curriculum will include an emphasis on public health, evidence-based medicine, and teaching methodology as well as clinical pediatric medicine. Didactic teaching includes: morning report, rotation-specific conferences, and weekly core conferences that will cover discipline-specific topics as well as evidence-based medicine skills and a morbidity and mortality conference.

How You Can Help:

Become a Visiting Faculty Member

U.S. visiting faculty are needed for all components of that didactic teaching, particularly in subspecialties. Didactic presentations must be adapted to the setting considering existing resources and health care needs of the Eritrean population. Visiting faculty will also round with ward teams, attend outpatient general and/or subspecialty clinics, and participate in evaluation of trainees. Given that this is a new program, it is likely that visiting faculty in the first year of the program will also assist in establishing diagnostic and treatment protocols. A minimum of two weeks is required for visiting faculty.

Become a Fulltime Faculty Member

The Partnership for Eritrea is seeking a board-certified/ board-eligible pediatrician for a minimum of one-year commitment to serve as co-coordinator and instructor of our newly developed pediatric residency training program at the Orotta School of Medicine in Asmara, Eritrea. This is a joint appointment with Physicians for Peace and George Washington University Medical Center and an excellent opportunity for young U.S. pediatricians to practice medicine and teaching in a developing country.

Need Additional Information on The Partnership for Eritrea?

Contact Dr. Huda Ayas

The George Washington University Medical Center
2300 Eye Street, NW, Suite 708
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202.994.2796
Fax: 202.994.0074
hayas@gwu.edu
imphma@gwumc.edu
www.gwumc.edu Visit

Contact Jaya Tiwari

Physicians for Peace
229 West Bute Street, Suite 200
Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone: 757.625.7569
Fax: 757.625.7680
jtiwari@physiciansforpeace.org
www.physiciansforpeace.org