



June 18, 2021

Congratulatory words to Professor Kassa Darge from Addis Ababa University

On behalf of the Graduate Program of Radiology of the School of Medicine, and College of Health Sciences of Addis Ababa University, and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound happiness in seeing Dr. Kassa Darge receive the Robert Suskind Faculty Prize in Global Health for his work improving equity and quality of pediatric healthcare provision in Africa and other parts of the developing world.

My acquaintance with Kassa goes back to the 1980s when we both practiced medicine as general practitioners in Jimma in southwest Ethiopia. Right from the outset I knew Kassa had unique qualities and was destined to achieve a great deal, both in his own career and in advancing medical education and healthcare provision for others.

As a beneficiary of CHOP's Global Outreach & Education program and a partner in the ongoing collaborative projects, I can bear witness to the successes we have achieved over the years in the residency and pediatric radiology fellowship programs at Addis Ababa University as well as the annual continuing medical education events in which the entire radiology community of Ethiopia participates.

Kassa's efforts have enhanced the role of pediatric radiology in Ethiopia, making such a tremendous impact in the quality of pediatric healthcare provision across tertiary hospitals that they have come to the attention of national health authorities. We have also gained recognition in other parts of Africa where there is talk of replicating this model of outreach program for pediatric radiology and even other clinical specialties.

I would like to close my brief congratulatory remarks by changing the name I previously gave Kassa. I used to call him our "Dear Son of Ethiopia," but I now feel that this name is not fitting. From now on I call him the "Dear Son of Humanity" as his work echoes across and beyond borders.

All my colleagues and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and pledge to work with him on this project and possibly others as well.

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