

# Continuing to Develop A Roadmap for Emergency Services in Africa

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The past year saw several achievements in the development of the specialty of emergency medicine in Africa. The continent faces the dual burden of increasing rates of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. Furthermore, Africans suffer a disproportionate morbidity and mortality due to traumatic injuries—especially due to road traffic accidents. The African Federation for Emergency Medicine invited experts in international emergency medicine to a roundtable in November, 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa. The group convened as a satellite to the EM Society of South Africa’s “Emergency Medicine in the Developing World” conference. Participants discussed a framework for continuing the development of the specialty-- to address acute medical illness and traumatic injuries, as well as the training of its practitioners. I was fortunate to participate in the roundtable focusing on pre-hospital emergency care and hope that our shared experience will provide foundations for relevant, timely systems creation and strengthening in addition to multi-center research for quality improvement.

While in Cape Town, I met a particularly motivated young emergency physician practicing in Khartoum, Sudan who was eager to share with



me her clinical experiences. I had the privilege of mentoring her through her first abstract submission and international poster presentation. She presented “Mass Methanol Intoxication: The Sudanese Experience” at the International Congress on Emergency Medicine in Dublin, Ireland in June, 2012. Dr. Rhaman and I are currently completing



a manuscript detailing her unique experiences with mass casualty intoxications in Khartoum.

During the summer of 2012, I was honored to be invited as a guest lecturer and emergency consultant physician in the emergency department for Ethiopia’s first emergency medicine residency training program. For two weeks, I gave daily lectures, supervised bedside care and worked alongside the graduates and new trainees at the Tikkur Anbessa Specialty Hospital in Addis Ababa. Currently, the Ethiopians are celebrating the graduation of the first class of Master’s Emergency Nurses and specialist pediatric emergency medicine fellows. Meanwhile, the emergency medicine residents (physicians with specialty focused training) are entering their final year of the three year training program. These achievements, as well as the approval of the Ethiopian Society of Emergency Medicine Specialists, will be honored this fall at the first national emergency medicine congress and continuing professional development event.

Finally, I have had the privilege to work with colleagues in the African Federation for Emergency Medicine throughout the last year

to shape the agenda of the African Congress on Emergency Medicine in Accra, Ghana in October, 2012.

As a member of the local organizing committee and scientific committees I have had the opportunity to work alongside the pioneers in emergency medicine across the continent. I participated as faculty for the pre-hospital skills workshop as well as the trauma track in the main congress. As Africa continues to place more emphasis on the treatment of acute medical conditions and traumatic injuries by specifically trained practitioners, the UF COM-Jacksonville Department of Emergency Medicine plans to continue to partner with African institutions to improve education and management while together measuring and reporting the outcomes of our work.

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