VOLUME XVII

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

AAU CONNECT

THE PAUSE BEFORE THE NEXT CHAPTER



MAJOR EVENTS COMING UP IN AUGUST

- 60th Anniversary of John F. Kennedy Library Aug 13, 2026
- AAU Information Week Aug 14, 2026
- Consultative Workshop on Online MBA Program Aug 6, 2026

JULY, 2026

Message from the President



Dear Addis Ababa University Community,

Every academic year brings with it moments of intensity, achievement, challenge and growth. When that cycle comes to an end, there is value in allowing ourselves a moment to step back before beginning again.

The period between academic years is therefore more than a break in the University's calendar. It is an opportunity to take stock of where we are, appreciate the work that has brought us here, and prepare thoughtfully for what lies ahead.

At Addis Ababa University, preparation for the coming academic year is taking place across our campuses. Our Colleges and Schools are reflecting on their academic programmes and reviewing curricula, while teams across the University are working to ensure that our classrooms, laboratories and other facilities are ready to welcome our students back.

Yet preparation is not only about buildings, programmes and plans. It is also about people.

Our students, faculty and staff need time to rest and regain their energy. In an institution driven by knowledge, creativity and human connection, creating space for reflection and renewal is essential. The quality of the work we do is strengthened when we give ourselves the opportunity to pause, recharge and return with renewed purpose.

As we look toward the new academic year, I encourage every member of our community to use this period in a way that brings renewal—whether through rest, reflection, learning, spending time with family and friends, or simply stepping away from the demands of the academic calendar.

At the same time, I extend my appreciation to those working behind the scenes to prepare the University for the year ahead. Their efforts remind us that even in quieter periods, AAU continues to move forward.

A new academic year will soon bring renewed activity to our campuses, new students to our classrooms, new questions to our laboratories and new opportunities for our community.

Let us welcome it with renewed energy, fresh ideas and a shared commitment to advancing Addis Ababa University.

Until then, let us take the time to pause.

Rest well. Reflect deeply. Return renewed.

I wish the entire AAU community a peaceful and restorative break and look forward to beginning the new academic year together.

Samuel Kifle (Ph.D)
President
Addis Ababa University

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

AAU CONNECT

The Pause Before the Next Chapter

Resting, reflecting and renewing AAU for the year ahead

There is a different kind of energy at Addis Ababa University during the weeks between academic years.

The familiar rhythm of lectures, crowded corridors, laboratory sessions and student activities slows down. Classrooms become quieter. The pace of the University changes. For a moment, AAU seems to pause.

But a university does not truly stop.

Behind the quieter corridors, preparations for the next academic year are already underway. Colleges and schools are reviewing their curricula, reflecting on the lessons of the past academic year and considering how teaching and learning can be strengthened for the year ahead. Classrooms and laboratories are being cleaned and prepared. Walls are being painted. Spaces are being maintained and refreshed.



It is the work of renewal, much of it happening away from the spotlight.

And perhaps that is what makes this period important.

An academic year demands much from the people who make up a university community. Faculty teach, supervise and conduct research. Students learn, participate, experiment and create. Administrative and support staff keep the University's many systems moving. By the time one academic year comes to an end, there is a natural need to pause, take stock and recharge.

Rest is not a departure from the work of a university. It is part of sustaining it.

The quieter months offer an opportunity to reflect on what worked, what could be improved and what the next academic year should look like. Curriculum review is one expression of that reflection: an ongoing effort to ensure that what students learn remains relevant, rigorous and responsive to a changing world.

The renewal of physical spaces tells a similar story.

A freshly painted classroom may seem like a small change. A cleaned laboratory may seem like routine maintenance. But these spaces are where teaching, research, discovery and collaboration happen. Preparing them is part of preparing the University itself.

Soon, the quiet will give way to familiar sounds.

Classrooms will fill again. Laboratories will come alive. Students will return to lecture halls and libraries. Conversations will spill into corridors and courtyards. Faculty and staff will settle into another cycle of teaching, research, service and discovery.

Before that happens, however, there is this moment of pause.

A moment to rest, a moment to reflect, a moment to renew.

At AAU, the next chapter is already being prepared, sometimes through visible transformation, and often through quiet work behind the scenes.

And when the University comes alive again, it will not simply be returning to where it left off.

It will be returning renewed and ready for what comes next.

VOLUME XVII

JULY 2026

MedEDAfrica 2026 Conference Opens in Addis Ababa to Advance Medical Education Across Africa

The African Medical Education Conference, MedEDAfrica 2026, is underway in Addis Ababa from July 6–8, 2026, at the Skylight Hotel, bringing together leading voices in health professions education from across the continent and beyond.

Addis Ababa University is among the key partners of the high-level conference, which serves as a pan-African platform for collaboration, innovation, and leadership in medical and health professions education. The event is hosted by Ethiopia's Ministry of Health in partnership with the Consortium of Medical Schools in Africa (COMS-A), whose secretariat is managed by the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE).

The conference has attracted medical educators, academic leaders, health professionals, students, policymakers, and development partners committed to strengthening health systems and transforming medical education in Africa.

Officially opening the conference, Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister, Temesgen Tiruneh, emphasized that Africa's future health and development depend on sustained investments in a skilled, innovative, and well-trained health workforce. He noted that Ethiopia is actively expanding its medical education capacity through increased investment in training institutions, improved access to health education, and the establishment of a decentralized system designed to reach all regions of the country.





Speaking at the conference, Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of Addis Ababa University, underscored the university's pivotal role in advancing modern medical education for more than seven decades. He highlighted the university's significant contribution to producing qualified health professionals and leaders in diverse fields, including medicine, mental health, and maternal health.

Participants at the conference called for stronger collaboration among African universities, hospitals, and industry stakeholders, stressing that research and innovation must be translated into practical solutions that improve public health systems and inform policy development across the continent.

The conference also highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing, innovation, and regional cooperation in building a healthier and more resilient Africa, where science and education directly contribute to improving people's lives.

MedEDAfrica 2026 reflects Ethiopia's broader vision of positioning itself as a continental hub for medical education, research excellence, and digital innovation while strengthening partnerships that promote sustainable development across Africa.

Addis Ababa University Signs Strategic MoU with ETiCPA to Strengthen Professional Accounting Education

Addis Ababa University (AAU) has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (ETiCPA) and ten other higher education institutions to advance professional accounting education and strengthen Ethiopia's financial sector workforce.

The agreement, formally signed during a ceremony attended by university leaders and stakeholders from the accounting profession, establishes a strategic partnership to integrate the Accounting Technician Qualification Ethiopia (ATQE) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) frameworks into university education systems. The initiative is designed to bridge the gap between academic instruction and industry requirements by equipping graduates with internationally recognized professional competencies.

The MoU was signed on behalf of Addis Ababa University by Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of AAU and former Board Member of the Accounting and Auditing Board of Ethiopia (AABE). In his remarks, Dr. Samuel emphasized that the agreement provides the legal and institutional framework necessary to expand professional financial training in the country.



"This MoU provides a strong institutional foundation that will enable the Institute to grow independently and produce world-class professionals," Dr. Samuel said. He reaffirmed AAU's commitment to fully support the implementation of the agreement through its academic expertise, institutional capacity, and resources. He also called upon universities to take greater responsibility in producing competent, ethical, and market-ready accounting professionals.

Mr. Fekadu Agonafir, Interim Administrator of ETiCPA, described the signing ceremony as a significant milestone in the country's efforts to build a strong and competitive accounting profession.

"Today, we have laid a solid foundation through this agreement. Considerable work lies ahead to produce highly skilled professionals capable of competing across the African continent," he noted.

By fostering collaboration among universities, training institutions, regulatory bodies, and professional associations, the MoU seeks to address Ethiopia's critical shortage of qualified financial professionals and contribute to the country's ongoing economic and financial sector reforms.

The partnership is expected to enhance the quality of accounting education, strengthen professional certification pathways, and develop a new generation of finance professionals equipped to meet both national and international standards.

AAU Student Wins Africa Health Innovation 2026 Award with Red Teff–Based Solution for Childhood Anaemia

An innovation developed by an Addis Ababa University (AAU) student has earned continental recognition after winning first place in the Idea Stage category at the Africa Health Innovation 2026 competition. The award celebrates innovative health solutions with the potential to improve healthcare outcomes across Africa.

The winning innovation, HerbIma, was presented by Iman Redwan, a fourth-year Pharmacy student at Addis Ababa University, during the Health Innovation Festival held in Accra, Ghana. Competing against aspiring health entrepreneurs from across the continent, Iman secured the US$2,500 first-place prize in the Idea Stage Track, recognizing the innovation's potential for product development and early market readiness.

HerbIma's flagship product, Iron+, is a high-bioavailability iron supplement powder developed from Ethiopia's indigenous red teff. The innovation aims to provide an affordable, natural, and locally sourced nutritional solution to help address iron deficiency and childhood anemia—one of Ethiopia's persistent public health challenges.





To further increase mineral availability, HerbIma addresses the effects of phytic acid—a naturally occurring anti-nutrient in grains that can inhibit iron absorption. The innovation applies controlled traditional fermentation and germination techniques to activate naturally occurring enzymes, particularly phytase, which breaks down phytic acid and enhances the release and absorption of iron and other essential minerals.

Speaking about the achievement, Iman described the award as an important milestone in transforming a locally inspired idea into a practical health solution capable of improving childhood nutrition and contributing to better public health outcomes.

The Africa Health Collaborative's flagship innovation festival brought together health innovators, entrepreneurs, mentors, and investors from across Africa to showcase promising healthcare solutions.

The event featured two competition tracks—Idea Stage and Early Stage—and was jointly hosted by Ashesi University and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

The success of HerbIma highlights the growing contribution of Addis Ababa University students to research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, demonstrating how locally available resources can be transformed into solutions that address pressing health challenges while advancing sustainable development.

JICA Donates Rapid Prototyping Equipment to Strengthen AAU STARTUPS Center



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has donated a range of rapid prototyping equipment to the Addis Ababa University STARTUPS Center, further strengthening the University's capacity to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based startups.

The donated equipment includes filament and resin 3D printers, CNC engraving machines, a laser engraver, and 3D scanner. The new facilities will enable student innovators, researchers, and startup teams to rapidly transform concepts into functional prototypes, accelerating product development, testing, and commercialization.



The donation builds on the long-standing collaboration between JICA and Addis Ababa University to strengthen Ethiopia's startup ecosystem. In addition to supporting entrepreneurship programs at the University, JICA has been working closely with AAU to enhance innovation capacity through knowledge exchange, startup ecosystem development, and collaboration with Japanese universities.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of Addis Ababa University, expressed his appreciation for JICA's continued partnership.

"This equipment significantly strengthens the capacity of the AAU STARTUPS Center. Our students, researchers, and startup teams will now have access to modern rapid prototyping facilities that will enable them to design, test, and refine their innovations more efficiently. We sincerely thank JICA for its continued support in advancing innovation and entrepreneurship at Addis Ababa University."

Mr. Hiroyuki Yakushi, Chief Representative of the JICA Ethiopia Office, emphasized that the equipment will help startups convert innovative ideas into tangible products and viable businesses.

He also highlighted JICA's broader support through the JICA Chair Program, which has brought distinguished Japanese professors to Addis Ababa University to deliver intensive lectures on startups, innovation, and related fields. He noted that JICA will continue to strengthen collaboration between the University of Tokyo and Addis Ababa University, particularly in the areas of startups, innovation, and AI-driven entrepreneurship.

The newly donated rapid prototyping equipment is expected to play a key role in enabling university-based startups to develop proof-of-concept models, validate technologies, and accelerate their journey from innovative ideas to market-ready solutions, reinforcing AAU's vision of becoming a leading hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia.

AAU PARTNERS WITH TIKA TO LAUNCH CEZERI LAB PROJECT AND STRENGTHEN STEM INNOVATION



Addis Ababa University (AAU) has agreed to cooperate with Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TiKA) on the CEZERI Lab Project, following a meeting with a delegation led by H.E. Berk Baran, Ambassador of Turkey to Ethiopia.

The cooperation agreement was signed through TiKA on the 10th July 2026, marking a new step toward advancing university-based research, practical training, and innovation-driven development in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Baran stated that the TiKA Addis Ababa Coordination Office, established in 2005, has implemented more than 450 projects across Ethiopia in areas including education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation, and the preservation of cultural and historical heritage.

According to the Ambassador, the cooperation with AAU will extend beyond the CEZERI Lab initiative to include partnerships with additional stakeholders such as the International Maarif Schools of Ethiopia (IMSE), as well as Turkish Airlines, among others. He highlighted scholarship support provided over the past two decades, which has reached more than one thousand beneficiaries.

The Ambassador said the CEZERI Lab Project in Ethiopia forms part of TiKA's wider global effort to establish digital design and fabrication innovation hubs.

The initiative is designed to equip participating universities with advanced tools such as 3D printers, CNC routers, laser cutters, and robotics kits, enabling researchers and students to move from theoretical learning to applied engineering development.

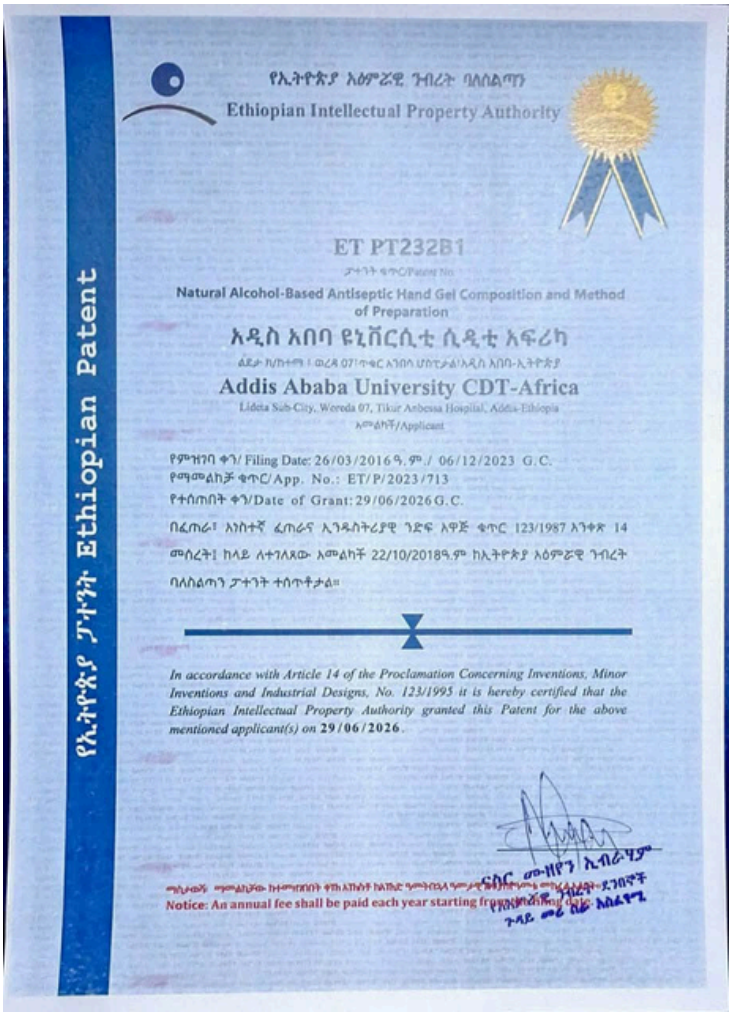
During the signing ceremony, Samuel Kifle (PhD), President of Addis Ababa University, said AAU is "more than willing" to cooperate with TiKA across a range of fields. He highlighted the university's breadth of expertise, from space science to agriculture, as a foundation for joint work in multiple directions.

Dr. Samuel also referenced the City of Harar as a meaningful symbol of the longstanding historical and cultural ties between Ethiopia and Turkey, underscoring the partnership as part of a broader shared heritage.

With the CEZERI Lab Project agreement now in place, AAU and TiKA are expected to advance new pathways for STEM training, engineering innovation, and prototype-driven research, reinforcing Ethiopia's growing capacity for digital manufacturing and technology development.



AAU WINS PATENT RIGHTS FOR FIVE NEW INNOVATIONS IN CDT-AFRICA FINDINGS


የኢትዮጵያ ፓተንት Ethiopian Patent

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Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority

ET PT232B1

Natural Alcohol-Based Antiseptic Hand Gel Composition and Method of Preparation

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Addis Ababa University CDT-Africa

Lideta Sub-City, Wereda 07, Tikur Anbessa Hospital, Addis Ethiopia

የምዝገባ ቀን/ Filing Date: 26/03/2016 ዓ.ም./ 06/12/2023 G.C.
የማመልከቻ ቁጥር/App. No.: ET/P/2023/713
የተሰጠበት ቀን/Date of Grant: 29/06/2026 G.C.

በፈጠራ፣ አነስተኛ ፈጠራና ኢንዱስትሪያዊ ንድፍ አዋጅ ቁጥር 123/1987 አንቀጽ 14 መሰረት፤ ከላይ ለተገለጸው አመልካች 22/10/2018ዓ.ም ከኢትዮጵያ አዕምሯዊ ንብረት ባለስልጣን ፓተንት ተሰጥቶታል።

In accordance with Article 14 of the Proclamation Concerning Inventions, Minor Inventions and Industrial Designs, No. 123/1995 it is hereby certified that the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority granted this Patent for the above mentioned applicant(s) on **29/06/2026**.

Notice: An annual fee shall be paid each year starting from the filing date.

Addis Ababa University (AAU) has announced that its CDT-Africa initiative, the East Africa Centre of Excellence, has received intellectual property patent rights for five newly developed inventions, following certification by the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority.

The patent rights were granted in accordance with Articles 14 and 42 of Proclamation Concerning Innovation, Minor Inventions and Industrial Design, No. 123/1995, with the authority issuing the corresponding Utility Model Patents on June 29, 2026.

This development marks a significant milestone for AAU's applied research efforts, as it formally recognizes CDT-Africa's innovative findings as protectable intellectual property within Ethiopia's national framework.

The five newly patented inventions include advances spanning multiple fields, reflecting chemical processing and health-related product development, as well as biotechnology-based manufacturing processes. The certified Utility Model Patents cover the following findings:

- Method for the Synthesis and Purification of Phenyl Carbamate
- Preparation of Fermentation Medium for Dextran Production
- Process for Synthesis and Purification of O-isopropoxyphenol
- Preparation of Xanthan Gum from Xanthomonas campestris CDT1 and CDT2
- Natural Alcohol-Based Antiseptic Hand Gel Composition and Method of Preparation

Solomon Kiros (PhD), Director for Innovation at AAU, explained the significance of such certifications to the university's innovation and technology transfer goals. He said that being certified in these products "means being licensed, which leads to business contracting to investors." He noted that this step is one way of technology transfer, knowledge dissemination, and income generation for the university, adding that it can "increase world visibility and ranking of the university."

Dr. Solomon further said the generated income is intended to be reinvested to expand more laboratories so that additional researchers can engage in further research activities. He also stated that "all these certifications are the results of the recent reform of the university," and that these innovations have been found under Professor Abebaw Fekadu and his teams at different levels.

AAU also reported that, beyond these newly issued rights, the university obtained two additional intellectual property rights earlier in the academic year, demonstrating sustained progress in innovation outputs. It was also reported that several other prototypes are also under process for registration in pursuit of certification.

Overall, the granting of these patents underscores AAU's continuing commitment to transforming research into practical, legally protected innovations that can contribute to value creation, knowledge development, and broader technological advancement within the country.

AAU Hosts Public Lecture on "The Future of Work" and What It Means for Business Schools



Addis Ababa University's (AAU) College of Business and Economics (CBE) organized a public lecture focusing on the evolving realities of work and the strategic responsibilities of business education on the 9th of July 2026.

The event featured Professor Ian O. Williamson, Dean of the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine, who delivered a keynote titled "The Future of Work and the Implications for Business Schools." Prof. Williamson emphasized that major disruptions are reshaping organizations and challenging traditional business strategies. He highlighted that change is occurring across three interconnected dimensions: the nature of work, the profile of workers, and the tools used to operate in modern economies. These shifts, he noted, can quickly render existing approaches ineffective if institutions fail to adapt.

The central theme of the lecture was the question of how academic institutions, particularly business schools, can respond to disruption while staying relevant to their communities. Williamson argued that effective engagement requires both awareness and capability.

He said that engagement must be locally responsive and globally relevant, through business schools, should identify the key economic and social challenges affecting their communities, understand how these issues reflect broader global trends, and determine the role business education can play in addressing them.

Prof. Williamson further said that lasting engagement demands innovation, which often emerges through the combination of complementary knowledge and the involvement of multiple stakeholders to implement and sustain meaningful action.

He stressed that business schools influence more than markets, they shape the kind of society businesses create. He highlighted the importance of mission-aligned strategies that enable institutions to contribute to a sustainable, responsible, and resilient global future. He also encouraged schools to define focus areas where their scholarship, expertise, and partnerships can deliver measurable societal value.

Dakito Alemu (PhD), Vice Dean of Research and Engagement at CBE, explained that hosting the lecture is part of AAU's effort to prepare for technological transformation and align institutional engagement with emerging realities. He added that the purpose of the lecture is to respond to dynamic changes in technology, workplace culture, and the human workforce, to ensure that the curriculum, teaching methods, and community service remain future-oriented.

With its focus on disruption, engagement, talent development, and societal impact, the lecture provided a clear message for educators and institutions: the future of work is not only a workplace transformation; it is a transformation in how business schools prepare, teach, and contribute to society.



ETHIOPIAN DOCTORS HONORED FOR RESILIENCE AND DEDICATION ON 9TH NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY



Addis Ababa University (AAU) College of Health Sciences commemorated the 9th National Doctors' Day on July 2, 2026, under the theme, "Anchors of the Nation: Honoring the Resilience of Ethiopian Doctors Amid Unprecedented Challenges." The event brought together physicians, healthcare professionals, and senior officials to celebrate the invaluable contributions of Ethiopian doctors to the nation's health system.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Rahel Argaw, Vice President and Chief Executive Director of the AAU College of Health Sciences, expressed her pride in celebrating the occasion in collaboration with the Ethiopian Medical Association. She noted that physicians are not only healthcare providers but also role models whose dedication strengthens institutions, improves the healthcare system, and advances clinical services across the country.

Reflecting on the university's vision, Dr. Rahel emphasized the importance of continuously redefining the role of physicians in response to rapid technological advances, evolving ethical standards, and changing societal needs.

"As we celebrate our past and reimagine our future, this is our motto for the university. The role of physicians in society must continually be re-evaluated in light of technological advancement, ethical practice, and professional contribution," she said.

She further described doctors as "more than healers," noting that they are pillars of national resilience who guide communities through difficult times with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

Addressing participants, Dr. Ebenezer Tersit, President of the Ethiopian Medical Association, announced that National Doctors' Day would be observed throughout July in public and private health institutions across Ethiopia. He said the annual celebration serves as an important platform to recognize the exceptional contributions of Ethiopian physicians, strengthen professional solidarity, and inspire the next generation of medical professionals.



"As we celebrate today, we also recognize the extraordinary commitment shown by Ethiopian doctors who continue to provide quality care despite numerous challenges," he said.

Among the invited speakers was Dr. Ahmed Reja, an endocrinology specialist, who described Ethiopian doctors as unsung national heroes whose commitment to serving communities often goes unrecognized.

Sharing his personal experience, Dr. Ahmed said that helping patients regain their health has been the greatest source of fulfillment in his career. Although he had opportunities to pursue a medical career in wealthier countries, he chose to remain in Ethiopia and serve his fellow citizens—a decision he said continues to bring him deep personal and professional satisfaction.

The celebration concluded with a renewed call to recognize, support, and invest in Ethiopian physicians whose resilience, professionalism, and unwavering commitment remain vital to improving the nation's healthcare system.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - DR. SEGENET KELEMU



From AAU Alumna to Global Scientific Leader

Dr. Segenet Kelemu, a distinguished alumna of Addis Ababa University (AAU), is an internationally renowned Ethiopian scientist and a leading voice in agricultural research, food security, and sustainable development. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Botany from AAU in 1979, beginning a remarkable journey that would take her from Ethiopia to the forefront of global scientific leadership.

Over the course of her distinguished career, Dr. Kelemu has held several prominent scientific and leadership positions, including Director General and CEO of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), where she became the institution's first woman to serve in the role. She has also served in senior leadership positions at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA) Hub. She currently serves as Executive Director of Pan African Programs at the Mastercard Foundation.



A trailblazer for African science and women in STEM, Dr. Kelemu has received numerous international honors, including the 2014 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award and the 2022 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Her achievements exemplify the transformative power of education, research, and leadership—and stand as a source of pride for Addis Ababa University and its growing community of distinguished alumni.

Dr. Kelemu's journey from the classrooms of AAU to the global scientific arena reflects the University's enduring commitment to nurturing knowledge, innovation, and leaders who serve humanity.

Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS): Usage, Barriers, and Training Needs Among Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Physicians in Ethiopia



In emergency medicine and critical care, rapid and accurate assessment can make a critical difference. Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) has become an important bedside tool for resuscitation, diagnosis, monitoring, and guiding procedures. Although POCUS has been incorporated into Ethiopia's emergency medicine residency curriculum for more than a decade, little was known about how extensively it is used in practice, the availability of equipment, and the training needs of physicians.

A collaborative study involving Ethiopian emergency and critical care physicians and Canadian researchers explored these questions through a survey conducted between November 2024 and January 2025.

Thirty-nine physicians participated in the study, with an average age of 32.8 years. The findings demonstrate that POCUS is already well integrated into clinical practice: 79.5% of respondents reported using POCUS daily, while 71.8% reported receiving sufficient POCUS training during residency.

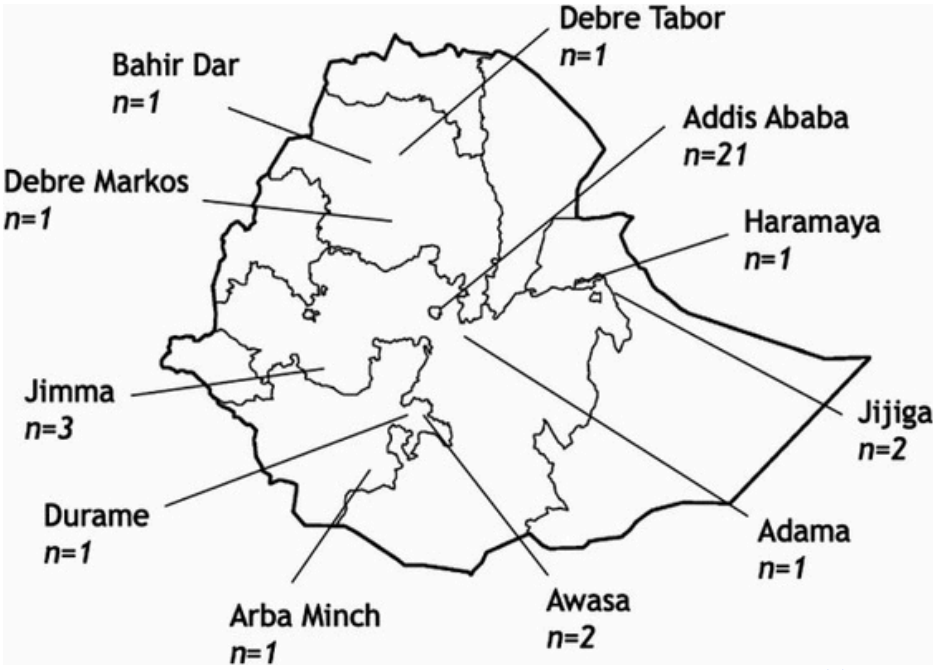
The most frequently used applications were eFAST (97.4%), ultrasound of the inferior vena cava for fluid assessment (94.9%), the RUSH protocol (84.6%), basic echocardiography (71.9%), and lung ultrasound (61.5%).

However, the study also identified significant challenges. Access to functioning equipment varied considerably. Only 43.6% of physicians reported equipment availability in more than 75% of cases, while 17.9% reported availability in fewer than 25% of cases. Broken or malfunctioning probes and machines were among the most frequently reported barriers. Repair times were also lengthy, with approximately half of respondents reporting that repairs took more than a month.

As physicians increasingly incorporate POCUS into routine care, the demand is also shifting toward advanced training. Advanced echocardiography (69.2%) and emergency abdominal ultrasound (64.1%) were the most preferred areas for further training. Importantly, 90% of respondents supported establishing a local one-year POCUS fellowship programme.

The findings highlight both an achievement and an opportunity. Ethiopia has developed a strong foundation for POCUS use through residency training and clinical practice. The next step is to strengthen access to reliable equipment, improve maintenance systems, and expand advanced training opportunities.

By investing in these areas, Ethiopia can further equip emergency and critical care physicians with the skills and tools needed to make timely, informed decisions at the patient's bedside.



PARTNER OF THE MONTH

IMPACT INITIATIVES (IMPACT)

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives

IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) is an independent, Geneva-based international non-profit organization specializing in applied research and data analysis in crisis-affected contexts. Through initiatives such as REACH, AGORA, and PANDA, IMPACT works to generate timely, rigorous, and actionable evidence that enables humanitarian and development actors to make better-informed decisions. Its collaboration with Addis Ababa University brings together this applied research expertise with AAU's academic and research capacity, creating a partnership focused on turning knowledge into practical opportunities and impact.

A year into its collaboration with IMPACT Initiatives, Addis Ababa University is seeing the value of a partnership designed to connect academic expertise, applied research, and opportunities for students and young professionals.

The partnership, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding, established a framework for cooperation in joint research, internship opportunities, staff exchanges, workshops, training initiatives, and the dissemination of research findings.

In its first year, the collaboration has already translated these commitments into tangible results. Joint projects have been successfully implemented with AAU's School of Public Health, creating opportunities to bring academic knowledge and applied research together in addressing real-world challenges.

One of the partnership's most notable achievements has been its internship programme, which has created a meaningful pathway from university to employment. More than four students participated in the programme during the past year, and three were subsequently retained by IMPACT as GIS and Database Officers. This progression from internship to professional employment demonstrates the potential of university–industry partnerships to develop practical skills while opening pathways for talented graduates to enter the workforce.

The partnership demonstrates how strategic collaboration can move beyond institutional agreements to create research opportunities, strengthen capacity, and translate student talent into professional careers.



AAU CONNECT

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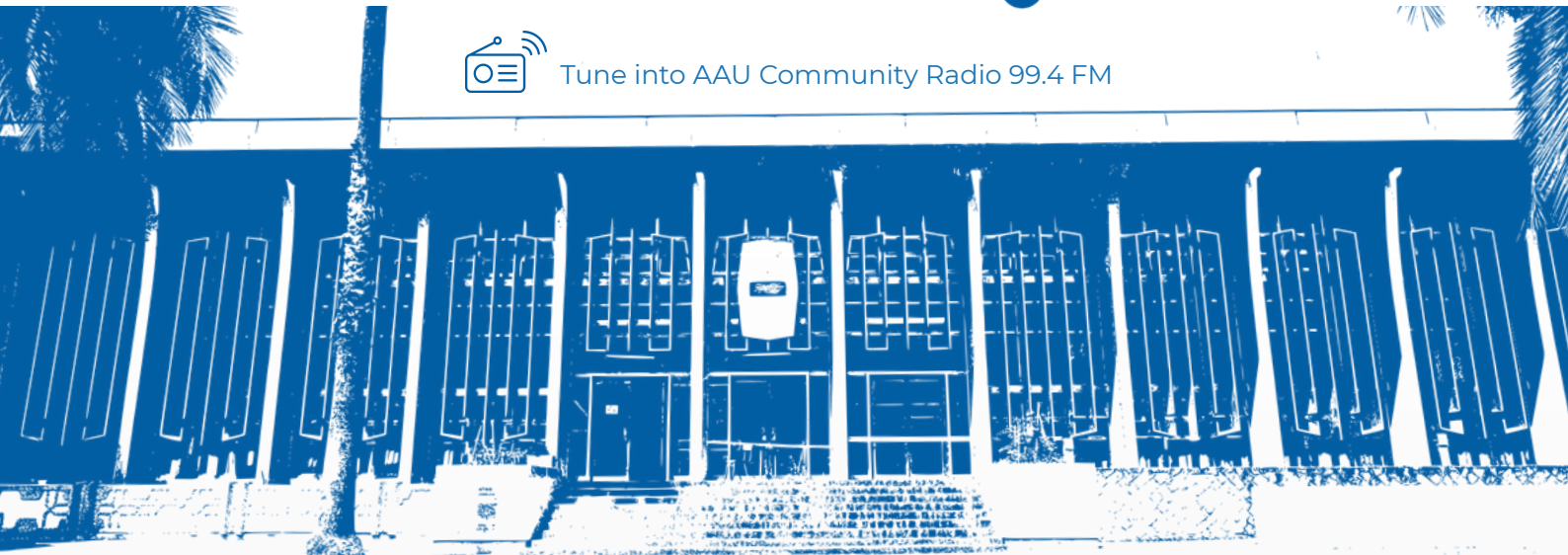
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