

CPAR (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief) was founded in 1984 in response to the famine in Ethiopia. It was initially strictly an aid organisation which delivered direct food and medical assistance. Over time it has evolved into a community development organisation concerned primarily with helping communities in east Africa develop sustainable solutions to the most basic challenges of life and health. It is known for its responsiveness to the needs of local communities and for its loyalty to the regions in which it has been active, regardless of the challenges. The website is www.cpar.ca.

Fitche Hospital Project

This project was initiated in 2016. Fitche Hospital is located in the North Shoa zone of Oromia region in Ethiopia. It was chosen as the site for this pilot project for CPAR based upon a long history of CPAR activity in the area. CPAR has a very good organizational reputation for its work in the zone. Fitche is located approximately 125 km from Addis Ababa. This also makes for reasonable logistics for this pilot project.

The program consists of placement of international physicians with good ER experience. These may be ER nurses, emergency medicine specialists or rural general practitioners with good ER experience.

Typical placements are of approximately 1 month duration.

For the most part nurses and physicians spend their time working alongside the ER duty doctor. The duty doctor is an Ethiopian general practitioner. They are recent graduates from their internship programs and are stationed at Fitche Hospital for 2-3 years prior to eligibility for application to specialty training programs (a near universal route). The Ethiopian GP is the MRP in the ER. The GPs tend to have good book knowledge but are wanting at times in their approach to the sick patient from an organizational and skill set perspective.

Teaching is at the bedside. The teaching targets are the GPs as well as the nursing staff, the emergency surgeons and students in the community health officer and public health programs of various universities including the newly established Selale University in Fitche.

There are also teaching opportunities via case review and also via lectures at the twice weekly morning sessions for medical staff. We are currently formalizing a schedule of monthly teaching topics for our volunteers to emphasize during their placements. Embedded in this will be a few teaching modules on various topics such as airway management, cardiac emergencies and trauma care. As much as possible we will be partnering with local agencies such as the Health Sciences Faculty at Selale University and staff and upper level residents from the emergency medicine residency program at Addis Ababa University.

We will be supporting the hospital, at least modestly, to improve their technical resources in the ED as well.

The goal of this project is to improve the overall capacity of the department to deliver high quality care in the emergency department.

We are in early discussions and planning for some further activity in the region including a possible larger scale health systems strengthening project which would include upon our present activity at the hospital but include "train the trainer" activities which would target everything from the University level to basic community care and determinants of health. CPAR is an expert organization in the latter areas.

Currently we are looking for ER MDs and nurses to participate in our roster.

CPAR will cover air travel and in country accommodation and transportation.

We have excellent in country staff who will help with local logistics and ensure a safe and smooth placement.

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