

# Ethiopian Educational Training Program at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary

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**E**ighty million Ethiopians and fewer than ten ENT doctors to care for them. Is this fair? Not at all. But this is the reality for those living in the Horn of Africa country. Even if you get an opportunity to visit an ENT for an ear disorder in one of the hospitals in Ethiopia, most likely you will not get the surgery you need. Global ENT Outreach ([www.geoutreach.org](http://www.geoutreach.org)) has visited Ethiopia three times in 2005 and 2006, and working with Ethiopian colleagues, has performed more than 200 middle ear surgeries there.

Ethiopian ENT physicians are trained in either Russia or Europe and their training is basically a clinical residency with little, if any, hands-on surgery, especially in the specialty of otology. This has created a generation of ENTs without the skills needed to perform ear surgery. Seeing the shortage of skills in otologic surgery, Global ENT set out to get further training for their overseas colleagues, in collaboration with New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEEI), by creating a postgraduate training program for our Ethiopian colleagues.

Gebeyehu Kassaye, MD, and Girma Tessema, MD, both of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were the recipients of the first overseas educational grants. During their month-long visit to New York City, the two had access to the temporal bone lab and lecturers, and observed a variety of surgeries. Upon completion of the course, they returned to Addis Ababa and have started to perform surgeries at the Yekatit 12 hospital.

The educational grants were supported by Medtronic-Xomed, Gyrus, the New York Otolaryngology Society, Joseph Capriotti, MD's African Surgical Assistance program, the NYEEI Department of Otolaryngology, and individual donors. The hospitality that Steven D. Schaefer, MD (Professor and Chair, NYEEI), Christopher J Linstrom, MD

(Chief of Otology and Neurotology), and Ethiopian-born NYEEI resident Belcahew Tessema, MD, extended to these doctors is greatly appreciated. The collaboration of all parties involved will impact the delivery of healthcare in this African country. It's an example of how we can take a more active role globally in teaching otolaryngology to colleagues all over the world.

To learn more, visit the Academy's humanitarian website at [www.entnet.org/activities](http://www.entnet.org/activities) or email [humanitarian@entnet.org](mailto:humanitarian@entnet.org) **B**



## BOG, SRF Election Results

The Academy's Board of Governors (BOG) and Section for Residents and Fellows (SRF) both elected new officers during the Annual Meeting in September 2007.

Jerry M. Schreibstein, MD, was chosen as chair-elect of the BOG, to succeed Pablo Stolovitsky, MD, next year. Steven B. Levine, MD, was elected BOG secretary.

Lily Love, MD, was elected chair of the SRF, succeeding Spencer Payne, MD. Vasu Divi, MD, was named vice-chair. Other new SRF officers include Mark Lorenz, MD, as member-at-large, and Jeffrey Liu, MD, as information officer. As SRF representatives to the Board of Governors, Katherine Hemming, MD, was named BOG governor; Peter Marnes, MD, as BOG legislative representative; and Mark Zafereo, MD, as public relations representative to the BOG.