



PRESS RELEASE

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AIHA Launches New PEPFAR-supported Partnership to Establish an Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program in Addis Ababa

US-Ethiopian partnership will build training capacity at St. Paul Hospital and Millennium Medical College, improve maternal and newborn care

May 29, 2013 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) recently launched a new twinning partnership designed to strengthen Ethiopia's pre- and in-service training capacity in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. The partnership is supported by the American people through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Ethiopia.

Women in Ethiopia are 200 times more likely to die in childbirth or from pregnancy-related causes than women in developed countries. Lack of adequate prenatal and birthing care contribute to the country's high maternal mortality rate; this is also closely linked to high newborn death rates. Against this backdrop, the Ethiopia currently has only four Ob/Gyn residency programs that cumulatively graduate fewer than 30 specialists each year — a number that is severely deficient in a country with more than 24 million women of reproductive age.

In response, AIHA's HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Program is now supporting an existing alliance between St. Paul Hospital and Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia and the University of Michigan's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; the University of Michigan School of Medicine's Global Research, Education and Collaboration in Health (REACH) Program and the Office of Enabling Technologies are also playing a vital role in this partnership. These Ethiopian and American institutions have been working together since April 2011, when the Michigan partners began providing technical assistance to improve maternal and child health at St. Paul's through targeted training and faculty development opportunities.

With Twinning Center support, the partners will be able to greatly expand their knowledge transfer efforts and more effectively build local human resource capacity, including the in-country training capacity needed to ensure high quality obstetric and gynecological care is available to women in this East African nation of 94 million people.

The Ethiopian partners began construction of a new Maternal and Child Health Center, which is slated to open in 2014, so this newly expanded training program comes at a critical time. Working together, the partners are developing innovative competency-based educational modules and enabling technologies suitable for delivering obstetrics and gynecology training in low-resource settings. They will also focus on improving faculty development opportunities in teaching, research, and leadership that will help ensure sustainability of local capacity to train new care providers, as well as upgrade the knowledge and skills of current practitioners.

A delegation of experts from the University of Michigan is currently in Addis Ababa working with their Ethiopian partners on issues related to curriculum development and block teaching.

**For more information on the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, visit www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org.
For more information about AIHA, visit our Web site at www.aiha.com.**

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