



## Scope of Work



Country: **Ethiopia – Addis Ababa**  
Host site: **Addis Ababa University,  
Black Lion Hospital and School of Pharmacy**  
Partner Organization: **Howard University**  
Assignment Title: **Drug Information Pharmacist**  
Length of assignment: **3-12 months**

### OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) manages the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, a PEPFAR-funded program designed to strengthen human and organizational capacity to provide quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services through volunteer-driven activities. In Ethiopia, AIHA currently supports seven twinning partnerships, as well as the Volunteer Healthcare Corps, a component of the Twinning Center that facilitates placement of highly qualified Ethiopian Diaspora professionals in long-term volunteer assignments within twinning partnerships and other organizations and institutions delivering HIV/AIDS services.

With the goal of strengthening pharmacy services to better provide quality HIV treatment and support as the country works to rapidly scale up ART in hospitals and health centers nationwide, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center has linked the Addis Ababa University (AAU) School of Pharmacy with Howard University in Washington, DC.

Since late 2006, the Howard University team has worked with AAU using annual work plans with a focus on three main objectives:

1. Strengthening the capacity of AAU School of Pharmacy to provide clinically-oriented, evidence-based, unbiased, up-to-date pharmaceutical health information for healthcare practitioners (*drug information*);
2. Enhancing the capacity of pharmacy professionals in Ethiopia to deliver patient-centered pharmacy services by implementing a model continuing education program at AAU School of Pharmacy (*continuing education*); and
3. Strengthening the quality of pharmacy services in Ethiopia by assisting AAU in implementing internationally recognized clinical pharmacy education and training (*pre-service pharmacy curriculum*).

## **Volunteer Activities:**

The volunteer pharmacist will assist the drug information pharmacist in assessing the drug information needs of the medical faculty and students at the Black Lion Hospital and meeting their demand. Some of the activities that the volunteer will be engaged in include but are not limited to the following:

- assist in the operations of the AAU Drug Information Center (DIC), which was established at Black Lion Hospital in May 2009
- assist in developing a systematic approach in handling drug-related inquiries from healthcare professionals
- promote the DIC's services to the medical community
- assist in training staff, faculty members, and students on the most common types of drug information resources
- assist in assessing the current status of the Drugs & Therapeutics Committee (DTC) and identify strategies to improve the function of the DTC at Black Lion Hospital
- assist in exploring the feasibility of conducting Drug Use Reviews (DURs)
- assist in exploring the implementation of an Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reporting system
- assist in developing a monitoring system (forms, spreadsheets, etc.) for quality control of drug information services
- assist in the development of Standard Operating Procedures for the DIC
- as needed, deliver lectures on drug information-related topics to undergraduate students
- assist in the development of a quarterly DIC newsletter, DIC services brochure, and other appropriate publications (e.g., bulletins, journal columns)
- assist in the improvement of the current DIC Web site
- assist in feasibility studies for establishing drug information satellite units in selected pharmacy schools and hospitals
- participate in community services to foster proper use of drugs, as appropriate
- assist in improving collaboration between pharmacists and the medical and nursing staffs

**Length of the assignment:** 3-12 months, assuming a full-time work schedule  
(8 hours a day for 5 days per week)

**Name and title of supervisor(s):** Dr. Ephrem Engidawork, Chair of the Department of  
Pharmacology, AAU  
Dr. Teferi Gedif, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, AAU

**Name and title of counterpart:** Ephrem Abebe, Lecturer, SoP, AAU

## **Volunteer qualifications:**

### *Required:*

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy or Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) degree
- Minimum of 1-2 years working experience in a drug information center
- Knowledge of basic concepts and practices of drug information services
- Experience in initial start up and/or implementing a fully functional drug information center

- Good written and oral communication skills and fluency in English
- In-depth knowledge of the most commonly used drug databases and references

*Preferred:*

- Knowledge of the host country's health system and culture
- Ability to work independently with strong leadership skills
- Previous experience working in a low-income resource setting
- Working knowledge of Amharic
- Previous experience in working with diverse professionals or working in a developing country
- Knowledge of drug information, HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, including ART and treatment adherence
- Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to develop cooperative working relationships with diverse professionals
- Ability to stay flexible and be innovative in problem solving appropriate to the setting
- Ability to collaborate and work effectively with various program/project implementation partners and officials of governmental and nongovernmental organizations

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT**

The overall goal of the AAU-HU twinning partnership is to strengthen the human and organizational capacity of the pharmacy profession to provide quality pharmaceutical care to patients in Ethiopia.

One vital aspect of practicing 'clinical' pharmacy is serving as a primary source of scientifically valid information and advice, regarding the safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications. The establishment of a role-model Drug Information Center at the Black Lion Hospital can facilitate the accomplishment of this goal. The model DIC at the hospital is being established as a Center of Excellence in Training & Research. This includes the training of students, future DIC faculty members for all Schools of Pharmacy in Ethiopia.

The objective of the volunteer assignment is to assist in the daily operation of the Center and to collaborate in expanding the DIC's services.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT**

**Deliverables:**

- Assist in the promotion of DI services through organization of events, meetings, presentations and marketing material to hospital staff
- Assist in responding to drug information inquiries via phone, email, fax or in-person consultation
- Support students and healthcare professionals through identification of resources to conduct operation research (i.e., drug utilization review) related to drugs, to improve patient care
- Assist in assessing the current status of the DTC (Drugs & Therapeutics Committee) and identify strategies to improve its function at Black Lion Hospital

- Assist in the publication of quarterly DIC newsletters
- Assist in training faculty and students on proper documentation of the drug information center's services
- Assist in establishing / maintaining a system for quality control of services provided.
- Provide a final report with recommendations to AAU-HU twinning partners

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

### **Volunteer:**

- Complete the scope of work in the timeframe outlined
- Complete organizational assessment within the first two weeks of assignment
- Complete monthly monitoring and evaluation reports
- Submit a post-assignment final report and participate in an exit interview
- Interact with patients, community members and local staff in a manner that is consistent with social, cultural, and traditional norms
- Adhere to the AIHA Volunteer Code of Conduct

### **Placement organization/institution:**

- Provide the volunteer with an orientation to Ethiopia's healthcare system, PEPFAR data requirements, AAU School of Pharmacy, Black Lion Hospital and pharmacy services
- Regularly contact the volunteer and host institutions to assess progress of the volunteer assignment
- Provide resources necessary for the volunteer to carry out his/her assignment successfully
- Identify a placement site counterpart for the volunteer to ensure sustainability of volunteer activities
- Submit periodic performance assessment reports on the volunteer to the Twinning Center

### **AIHA Twinning Center:**

- Conduct pre-assignment orientation and training for volunteer and placement site staff
- Provide volunteer with monthly allowances, medical evacuation coverage, and travel-related costs to and from placement site
- Provide ongoing support of volunteer as needed