

Nolan Kagetsu Ethiopia summary

I completed one week of teaching and learning at the Tikur Anbessa Specialised Hospital (TASH) also known as Black Lion hospital in Addis Ababa.



I knew I was at the right place!

The hospital is the public referral center for the entire country of about 130 million people!

They have a 64-slice and a 128-slice CT scanners. Sadly their MRI has not been working for over one year. They do not perform myelography or do angio. The fellows were interested in the myelo and angio images I showed them.

When I first walked into the reading room, one of the residents had Radiopaedia open (just like at home!)

The fellows and one attending are planning on a multi week “attachment” to U Penn, coinciding with ASNR 2025.

Typically one fellow always rotates at the MCM General Hospital

(<http://www.mcmet.org/vision-mission>) so they get realtime 1.5 MRI experience. Since it was founded by South Korea, the fellows call it Korea hospital. (they serve kimchi in the hospital dining room). I visited this site one afternoon with the fellows and also saw the interventional room with DSA.

I saw fascinating cases that I’ve never seen before. Sadly TB and schistosomiasis are endemic and need to be added to the differential diagnosis!

The attendings and/or fellows hosted me for lunch every day. One of the highlights was trying out coffee at Tomoca!

I spent most of my time with the 3 fellows (who really knew their stuff!) The fellows are all finishing their first of two years.

Their PACS was down so CT cases were brought to the reading room via disc. The fellows overread the residents, and the attendings final read the fellows.

The timing stated on the ASNR form was chosen because there is good weather in Addis between January and February! It certainly was a nice break from the cold of NYC!



The staff and fellows took me out to dinner toward the end of the week where we enjoyed a traditional meal and entertainment. (and honey wine)

Before our time in Addis, my wife and I were able to visit Lalibela during the Timket (Epiphany) celebration. We climbed around the rock hewn churches (at altitude!)

We also saw the castles at Gondar.

In Addis, we were able to see the real Lucy!



We later traveled south to Awassa and the Omo Valley.

I would like to thank the Anne Osborn ASNR International Outreach Professorship Program for this opportunity. I would like to thank my hosts, Drs. Tewodros and Amal (folks use their first names in Ethiopia) for a wonderful experience. I would be happy to chat with anyone interested in this program.