The following departments and faculties at the University of Toronto are involved in TAAAC. The list is growing!

- Anaesthesiology
- Critical Care
- Dentistry (1 fellowship program)
- Education
- Emergency Medicine
- Engineering
- Family and Community Medicine
- History
- Internal Medicine (3 fellowship programs)
- Library Sciences
- Medical Imaging (4 fellowship programs)
- Nursing
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Occupational Therapy
- Paediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Surgery

Each department or division has a designated point person who runs that particular partnership and can provide information about the program.

Please consult the Programs section of the website (www.taaac.com) for more information on each specialty.

Origins of TAAAC

The Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration - TAAAC – was created in 2008 as a unique, multidisciplinary educational initiative partnering University of Toronto (UofT) with Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia. The goal is to build and strengthen capacity and sustainability for medical, engineering, social sciences and other academic and technology graduate training programs. The collaboration is focused on academic excellence between the two universities and their partner hospitals.

TAAAC is a non-profit organization and is supported by the leadership of the participating faculties, departments, divisions and institutes. TAAAC has a well-defined organizational structure and a clear governance model.

Der biaber anbessa yaser is an Amharic saying that translates as: together a spider’s web will tie a lion.

For more information please visit www.taaac.com or email taaac@utoronto.ca
In Ethiopia, there are approximately 2,000 doctors to serve a population of about 90 million; less than one doctor for 45,000 people. Of these, there are only 200 specialists and a handful of subspecialists e.g. one cardiologist, two pediatric surgeons for the whole country. Ethiopians who go abroad for specialist training rarely return. This massive shortage of specialist doctors, nurses and other essential health workers affects primary care. Sadly, people die or become disabled because there are not enough professionals to provide basic necessary health care.

Why train specialists?
We believe change can happen from the top down. With doctors and nurses in such short supply, high quality training of mid-level and primary care health professionals suffers. With inadequate training, no one benefits.

The brain drain is a shocking 80%, so it is essential that post graduate training be provided in Ethiopia. As the critical mass of professionals and academics increases in the country, research increases exponentially, the health and other systems benefit with a ripple teaching effect – facilities improve, and so does access to health care.

Why is TAAAC needed?
In Ethiopia, there are approximately 2,000 doctors to serve a population of about 90 million; less than one doctor for 45,000 people. Of these, there are only 200 specialists and a handful of subspecialists e.g. one cardiologist, two pediatric surgeons for the whole country. Ethiopians who go abroad for specialist training rarely return. This massive shortage of specialist doctors, nurses and other essential health workers affects primary care. Sadly, people die or become disabled because there are not enough professionals to provide basic necessary health care.

What is TAAAC?
TAAAC is an educational partnership between programs, divisions and departments in a number of faculties at the University of Toronto (UofT), Canada and Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia. Its goals are to build educational capacity and sustainability by increasing the number of trained health professionals and academics in the Ethiopian health care system and in other related fields.

How does it work?
The best and the brightest academic faculty from UofT volunteer to teach and co-build with Ethiopian colleague’s essential residency, fellowship, Masters and PhD programs on the ground in Ethiopia. Under the leadership and guidance of AAU faculty the volunteers teach courses, supervise PhDs, provide clinical supervision and teach technical skills.

How you can get involved?
TAAAC is a growing and collaborative educational partnership. We welcome the interest and assistance of anyone who is ready to help!

There are many ways for you to get involved:

- Make a donation to TAAAC today! Donations can be made on our website – for flight tickets, to buy much-needed medical textbooks, to help fund an Ethiopian student or resident in one of the training programs. You can also donate your Air miles or make a donation to help offset our carbon footprint with much needed trees in Ethiopia.
- 100% of your donation is used for the project.
- Volunteers are always needed in Toronto to help with a variety of support tasks and fundraising activities. Please contact us and tell us your skills and interests.
- If you are faculty at UofT, please consider applying for a teaching trip to Addis Ababa University, or involving your program or division in TAAAC.
- We need a resident or senior student with each trip – please consider volunteering.

* We work at AAU with our Ethiopian colleagues to co-educate post graduate medical and academic trainees so as to develop and strengthen sustainable post graduate Residency, Fellowship, Master’s and PhD training programs in a variety of medical and academic specialties at AAU.