

A Journey and Contribution in Pharmacy**Bisrat Hailemeskel, MSc. Pharm.D. RPh.**

Dr. Bisrat Hailemeskel is a full-time faculty member with the rank of Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences, Howard University. He is also Director of the Drug Information Center at Howard University Hospital.

He received his Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Science Degrees from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia and Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Toledo, Ohio. He worked as a clinical pharmacist at various institutions and later became Director of Clinical Services at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. He then joined the University of Illinois Medical College in Peoria, Illinois as an adjunct professor and taught Clinical Pharmacokinetics to residents and medical fellows there. Dr. Bisrat then moved to Howard University (HU) in July 1997 as an Assistant Professor, was promoted to an Associate Professor in 2002, and acquired tenureship the following year.

His trip to Ethiopia started in 2003 to teach a graduate course at the Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa University (AAU). Since then, he has traveled numerous times to Ethiopia to conduct training and provide consultation on pharmacy education. After teaching for about 3 years at HU, he received a grant

from the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) under the “Howard-Addis Ababa University Twinning Partnership” to promote the role of pharmacists in providing pharmaceutical care. Over the past four years, he along with other faculty from Howard University assisted AAU School of Pharmacy to adopt a 5-year curriculum for undergraduate pharmacy education, a post graduate program in pharmacy practice, and helped establish the first drug information center in the country.

Dr. Bisrat has received numerous research grants from governmental and non-governmental institutions. He was the recipient of a 2007-2008 Fulbright Scholarship as a teacher/research fellow, a distinguished award from the US State Department to teach and conduct research in Africa. Dr. Bisrat received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Mayor of the City Government of Addis Ababa for his significant contribution. He was nominated and received the “2010 Faculty of the Year” award from Howard Alumni Association.

Dr. Bisrat is a co-author (along with Howard University faculty colleagues) of a book entitled “The Impact of Lecture Series on Alcohol and Tobacco Use in Pharmacy Students: Advances in Psychology Research” published by Nova Sciences Publishers Inc. in 2006. Dr. Bisrat has delivered numerous presentations at scientific meetings both nationally and internationally, and is an author of several publications in peer-reviewed journals.

In order to promote pharmacy education in the Washington Metropolitan area, Dr. Bisrat founded the Washington Training Institute, a pharmacy technician training program, which is affiliated with a community-based center. As a result of the program, over 300 students received training and became pharmacy technicians, and are currently serving their communities at various pharmacies in the area.

Dr. Bisrat served as secretary and executive Committee member of the Ethiopian North America Health Professionals Association (ENAHPA). He was the founder and past president of the Ethiopian Pharmacists Association in North America. He was also appointed as a 2003-2005 Research Fellow by the Center for Minority Health Services Research (CMHSR), funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Dr. Bisrat is indeed an inspiring scholar and researcher, whom young upcoming professionals in the field of pharmacy can emulate, and *E-eJRIF* is pleased to feature his work and contributions in this issue.