

2022 ACS/AAST INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

FROM THE 2022 ACS/AAST INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR, ANTENEH GADISA BELACHEW, MD, FCS(ECSA), FACS

I received the good news from Tony Ortiz on tuesday afternoon on July 5, 2022. I was very extatic when I saw the email, but I haven't replied until July 9, because I wanted to make sure that I have a good chance that I can get a VISA, because there is a good chance that I may be denied because that is the case in the US Embassy in Ethiopia, but I took a shot and after a long process my request for VISA was approved on August 29, 2022.

Pre-travel preparations started after my visa was approved. My scholarship enabled me to attend the 81st Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference of AAST at Hyatt Regency in Chiago from october 20-24 and visit selected level 1 trauma centers in Chicago. The pre-travel preparations were smooth with timely information, free registration to all sessions and free accommodation for eight nights at Hyatt Regency Chicago, with complimentary high-speed internet service and access to fitness centre. Amentor was assigned for me, and centers selected for the visit were know and informed ahead of time. My mentor, Dr Marc de Moya made my stay in Chicago fruitful and enjoyable starting from the minute I arrived at the Hotel, where I met him at chekin counter.

During the conference, I attended almost all the sessions I registered for, but sadly I missed a meeting with the International Relations committee because I jetlagged from my 18hour flight from Addis Ababa, but I was well represented by my Mentor Dr Marc de Moya. I visited all the three Hospital selected for the visits, Northwestern, Cook County and University of Chicago Hospitals.

I learned a lot from the conference and site visits in the selected Hospitals. The lessons include but not limited to wide range of scientic knowledge from scientific papers and lunch sessions, trauma management system from the site visits, and networking with different people. I am hopeful that I am able to continue my work to establish the trauma system in my Hospital with the huge knowledge, experience and professional help that I got from this scholarship.

I recommend that this scholarship shouls continue, and scholars should be given the opportunity to present their plan for their home institution in the conference.

Finally I would like to acknowledge AAST/ACS, my Mentor Dr Marc de Moya, Brea Sanders, Tony Ortiz, Northwestern Hospital, Cook County Hospital and University of Chicago Hospital.

Anteneh Gadisa Belachew, MD, FCS(ECSA),FACS

2022 International Scholar