

Munnekeburen, March 1, 2025

Report Dermatologist 2024

This year too, the consultant Dr Ben Naafs was struck by "A Covid foggy brain" which luckily disappeared at the end of the year, after a new serious Covid attack.

In January he attended the CME in Moshi as usual. He then stayed with Dr Nelson Mosha who was sponsored by the Foundation for his training as a dermatologist. His lecture was "Clinical Leprosy". He didn't stay this time to teach. On January 18, he participated via Zoom in the promotion of Dr. Bwanali in Botswana. "Albinism in Botswana: "Epidemiologica-Clinico-Psycho-Social Factors and Skin Cancer. Implementation strategies". Dr Bwanali received his PhD.

From March 18-24 he visited Ethiopia and particularly the war struck Tigray. He belonged to a small group that was the first to visit Tigray after the "Peace". Before, he visited the old leprosy hospital Alert in Addis Ababa. In Mekelle he visited the Ayder Hospital and a Refugee Camp, as well as the Tigray Regional Health Bureau. He saw patients there; unfortunately, there was no medication in Tigray. He gave various lectures about Leprosy, his experiences with HIV/AIDS, about swollen legs, and the difference between white and black skin. What he saw, felt and heard in Tigray was later only surpassed in Gaza. Tigray was and is effectively secluded by Ethiopia from the world. This is what he heard and saw: "Tigray: 1 million dead, 200,000 victims of rapes under treatment. Health centres and schools consciously destroyed, harvest, agricultural machines and tools stolen or destroyed. Three-quarters of the population has fled within the country to other places to family or acquaintances after the war. Eritreans were still plundering and raping all over the country". During the visit to the refugee camps he had tears in his eyes. In the course of the year, he was able to mobilize peers to advice the Tigray Health Bureau. He himself has assisted the only remaining dermatologist (Dr. Giday Birhane) with advice and an AI App (for which he had supplied the pictures) - to be able to offer some help to the periphery with teledermatology. The developers of the app were visiting Dr. Naafs at home from 24-26 April to photograph his photos as a learning material for the App. On April 18 - Global Health Day - he tried to interest the young people of the Dutch Association for Global Health in help for Tigray, without any luck. But luckily, he had been more successful with the older, retired development workers. On August 16 there was an extensive Zoom contact with the Tigray Health Research Bureau. Advice and contact options were given.

In the weekend 20-21 October his wife and he were hosts to Dr. Salva who, like Dr. Nelson Mosha, became Staff member of the RDTC.

On November 22 there was another extensive zoom with Tigray.

Since the beginning of December, he advises Dr Pierre van Neer and Dr. Kees Peter de Roos who are researching Phrynoderma on Zanzibar and Pemba. The SUMBA project with Dr Marlous Grijzen and Professor Hardyanto Soebono is still running and has already yielded a number of publications and lectures. Dr Naafs has assisted many authors to make their research publishable.

Dr Naafs has done 44 peer reviews and more than 300 consultations for patients and platforms.

He is still one of the three editors of the Leprosy Mailing List (LML). He is also member of the Editorial Board of Tropical Medicine and International Health (TM&IH) and Arquivos do Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima, Hansenologia Internationalis, Community Skin Health, Brazilian Journal of

Dermatology, Indian Journal of Leprosy, RUHS Journal of Health Science, International Journal of medical parasitology and Epidemiology Sciences.

Published:

* Naafs B. Editorial; Save Parasitology! Int J Med Parasitol epidemiol sci. 2024; 5 (2): 35-36. DOI: 10.34172/IJMPES.4161

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* In print; Naafs B, Masenga J.E., Etemesi B.A, van der Werf T.J.S. The Skin. In; Principles of medicine in Africa. 5th Edition (Eds D. Mabey et al) Cambridge University Press 2025: Chapter 82: 912-94