

Consultant's report on 2023

As far as consultant Dr Naafs is concerned, this year was marked by a Covid dementia that at the beginning of the year turned into a post-Covid foggy head, that could easily be confused by stimuli. Still, Dr Naafs thought he could go to Moshi, as usual, to attend the CME. Once there, his head turned out to be very foggy. He had difficulty recognizing people but fortunately also had clear moments. His lecture on "Insights into Leprosy reactions—What is new?" went therefore well. He stayed with the trainee dermatologist supported by the Foundation: Nelson Mosha.

On February 13, he had an extensive discussion with Dutch researchers because clinical knowledge about tropical diseases was no longer available in the Netherlands. They wanted to organize a meeting with African clinicians. Dr Naafs advised Frehiwot Daba, who has also been supported by the Foundation, as African dermatological representative; she was invited. She is now head of dermatology at Addis Ababa's main hospital. The meeting took place at the end of May at the VU and was a success. It was recognized that the quality of African clinicians is high.

On June 13, he took part via Zoom in the commemoration 150 years ago that Armauer Hansen was the first to demonstrate a bacterium responsible for a disease (*M. leprae*). The approach of the World Health Organization and various leprosy organizations united in ILEP was criticized. Leprosy is far from being eradicated from the world.

Given his "Covid head", Dr Naafs did not go to China but gave his lecture via zoom. His comments were not appreciated by the Chinese government (censoring) and his lecture was interrupted: "Nerve damage in leprosy and its treatment". He could only complete it through the telephones of some of his African students there. Since then, he has been unable to communicate with China.

On October 29, he gave a lecture via zoom during the 60th congress of the Italian Dermatology Association entitled: "Difference between light and dark skin". From October 10-14 he attended the further training for European dermatologists, the CME of the EADV. He presented three digital educational posters: 1. "Be aware of a neglected disease: Leprosy", 2. "Insight into leprosy reactions. What is new?" and 3. "Follow-up of leprosy patients to prevent irreversible damage does not need to be time-consuming". On November 3, Dr Naafs gave a lecture during a Hydradenitis Congress in Milan about "Caucasian and Pigmented skin".

The university Dermatology department and training program that Dr Naafs helped to establish, at the Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekelle, Ethiopia, is almost completely without doctors and nurses. There is no money nor medicine. The doctors and nurses who stayed during the war were exhausted, or fled and disappeared, in the most terrible war of the last century until the fighting broke out in Gaza. Hundreds of people, especially children, continue to die every day from combat, hunger and disease.

During 2023, Dr Naafs has participated in various webinars as a discussant.

Dr Bwanali's PhD research in Botswana is going well. Dr Naafs is also involved in supervising a leprosy/dermatology project on Sumba, Indonesia, This is run by Dr Marlous Grijzen and Prof Hardyanto Soebono. He also supervises a student project in Nijmegen about coloured skin. Several authors have once again been helped to get an article

published. He peer reviewed 32 times. More than 400 consultations have been done for individuals and platforms.

Articles and chapters published in 2023:.

1. Naafs B., Noto S., Schreuder PAM. Morbidity, Associated Diseases and Mortality in Leprosy. IAL Textbook of Leprosy 3rd edition (editors Bhushan Kumar, Hemanta Kumar Kar, Sunil Dogra) Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers New Delhi) Chapter 38. 2022;603- 610.
2. Naafs, B. Be aware: "Leprosy"! Not for nothing an NTD. J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol. 2023 Jul;37(7):e900. doi: 10.1111/jdv.19009. Epub 2023 Mar 16. PMID: 36883806262.
3. Naafs B., Grijzen M.L. Neuropathophysiology in Morbus Hansen or Hansen's Disease: Mechanisms of Nerve Injury. In: Hansen's Disease. A Complete Clinical Guide (eds: Depps P.D, Virmond M., and Florian M.) Springer Nature Switzerland AG Pages 2023;139-145.