

Report dermatologists 2017

It was a successful year with regard to the aims of the Foundation. The only problem was running out of the original funds. Without any doubt, this will determine the functioning in the future. Fortunately, it was possible to provide training at various levels, to initiate research, provide scientific support and to provide medicines, books and other aids where needed and possible.

The report on the activities of Dr. Naafs, the dermatologist of the foundation are given below.

Dr. Han Go and Dr. Arjan Hoogewoning shifted their attention from Tanzania to Malawi where they took care of the finances themselves and where they worked together with Dr. Colette van Hees and Dr. Rosemarie Moser. It is highly likely that Dr. Pierre van Neer shall go to help Dr. Naafs in Moshi in the future.

Dr. Naafs was fortunately able to help a lot of people without any financial help from the Foundation during 2017. Thanks to his contacts, he was also able to help Dr. Wagner Galvao (Brazil) and Dr. Workalemahu Alemu besides Dr. Samson Kiprono (Kenya) (wart virus research) with a Dutch promotor. Dr. Galvao shall investigate the modern therapies for psoriasis in Sao Paulo via Dr. Bing Thio in Rotterdam. Dr. Workalemahu shall pursue Leishmaniasis-research in Mekelle via Prof. Dr. de Vries in Amsterdam. Similar to Dr. Kiprono, both of them will conduct the research investigations in their homeland.

Traditionally, the first trip Dr. Naafs made was to Moshi. The RDTC is now fully under Tanzanian leadership of Dr. Mavura (administration) and Prof. Dr. Masenga (scientific).

The CME was preceded by a scientific dermatopathology meeting in which Dr. Workalemahu gave several presentations. He was trained and sponsored by the Foundation in the past.. He was also responsible transporting the Rotary Club Amsterdam-South financed Pentamidine to Mekelle, Ethiopia.

During the CME, Dr. Naafs held a presentation on "New findings, explaining early and continuous nerve damage in leprosy". He returned to the Netherlands and was opponent during the defence of the Ph.D. thesis entitled "Complement in neuroinflammation; Studies in Leprosy and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" by Nawal Bahia el Idrissi. Dr. Naafs then returned to Moshi, where he supervised residents in dermatology at the out-patient and in-patient departments. The same was true for the medical students and for the health-officers and nurses in training for community dermatologist. Further, he assisted the in Nijmegen trained George Semango and the final year resident in dermatology Consolata Swai in the development of the immunofluorescent microscopy. Dr. Naafs stayed till 25th of February.

Dr. Naafs then travelled via the Netherlands to Orlando in the U.S.A., where together with Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Mowla from Bangladesh presented a course to dermatologists during the AAD (the American Academy of Dermatology meeting). One of their students was Prof. Dr. Cita Rosita Sigit who invited him to visit Surabaya.

Dr. Naafs accepted this invitation taking into account that he was going to participate in the German-Netherlands-Indonesian congress on tropical dermatology in Yogyakarta where he gave a talk on the differences between the white and the black skin. In Surabaya, he visited the hospital and also the former Netherlands-Indonesian medical school, now a museum set-up with the memorials of the father of Prof. Indropo Agnusi who studied there first under the Dutch and later under the Japanese. Dr. Naafs gave a talk on the background and the prevention of continued nerve- damage in leprosy. Field-work was then done in a rural village about a four hours' drive from Surabaya, where he also gave a lesson and examined patients.

Dr. Consolata Ignas and Dr. Nelly Protas Magweni were financially sponsored by the Foundation to attend the EADV congress in May in Brussels after which they visited Dr. Naafs in Munnekeburen, where they stayed for about a week and visited among others Urk during the Urker days. Dr. Nelly Protas Magweni then returned to Moshi and Dr. Consolata Ignas followed a course on blistering diseases with Prof. Dr. Jonkman in Groningen, needed for the immunofluorescence microscopy in Moshi.

Dr. Naafs was in Moshi from 10th of July till 5th of August to assist with term paper of the third year residents in training with the preparation and conducting the examinations of future dermatologists and the community dermatologists. Dr. Naafs did this together with Prof. Dr. Gail Todd from South Africa.

Dr. Naafs visited Ethiopia from 27th of August till 17th of September, where first of all he gave several presentations in Addis Ababa, at Alert on HIV in relation to the skin and on the treatment of leprosy-reactions to residents in dermatology. He was in house with Dr. Shimelis also an earlier sponsored dermatologist, who still devotes his time to the less privileged. Dr. Naafs then went to Mekelle, where he stayed with Dr. Workalemahu. Dr. Naafs lectured to medical students and the staff, examined patients and discussed the Leishmaniasis-project sponsored by the Rotary Club Amsterdam-South. The possibility that Mekelle may become a second centre for residents in dermatology in Ethiopia was also discussed.

Dr. Naafs was in Brazil from 27th of October till 18th of November, this time mainly for the leprosy. First in Sao Paulo where as usual he met Dr. Maria Angela Trindade and Dr. Wagner Galvao. Once again he lectured to the residents in dermatology on the nerve-damage in leprosy at the Hospital das Clínicas da Universidade de São Paulo. He also lectured on the diagnosis and the treatment leprosy at the ABC hospitals a hospital for the under-privileged in the municipality of Sao Paulo and examined patients both with Dr. Maria Angela and with Dr. Wagner. It was agreed that Dr. Wagner shall do his Ph.D. via Dr. Bing Thio in Rotterdam. In Bauru, Dr. Naafs examined patients, discussed the research and gave a presentation on the nerve-damage in leprosy. Dr. Naafs lectured to the residents on HIV, differences between the white and the black skin and on migrants-dermatology.

Subsequently, together with Dr. Patricia Sammarco, Dr. Naafs attended the Brazilian leprosy congress in Belem on the Amazon delta, where gave a talk on the new insights as an explanation for the nerve-damage. The next visit was together with Dr. Maria Angela who was also present at the congress, to Santarem to examine the patients at the hospital and to give a presentation on the diagnosis of leprosy to infectiologists. He accompanied to a population study on leprosy in two villages five hours sailing per "race-taxi" into the inland of the Amazon. This survey is done once a year in these villages. Leprosy was established in 3% of the "inhabitants", the majority in children. Not for nothing was the motto of World leprosy day: "Reduce the nerve-damage in children" This can be achieved via early diagnosis. Both the villages had about 100 inhabitants.

Back in the Netherlands, lesson was given on the diagnosis and the treatment of leprosy together with an old leprosy patient to the doctors going to the tropics. Dr. Naafs attended the farewell reception of Dr. Marlous Grijzen who together with her husband departed for Jakarta, Indonesia for three years to do research and teach.

During the year, teleconsultations from the tropics were answered almost daily. Dr Naafs is co-editor of an European book on migrant-dermatology since the middle of the year. The fee of the authors and the editors go towards the medical treatment of migrants in Italy.

Publications:

1. Dassoni F, Frehiwot Daba, Naafs B, Morrone A.
Leishmaniasis recidivans in Ethiopia: cutaneous and mucocutaneous features.
J Infect Dev Ctries 2017; 11(1):106-110. doi:10.3855/jidc.8516.
2. Kennedy C, Naafs B.
Borderline lepromatous leprosy, erythema nodosum leprosum and a generalized Varicella Zoster virus infection.
J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol. 2017 Sep;31(9):e419-e420. doi: 10.1111/jdv.14233.
Epub 2017 Apr 10.
3. Mwageni N, Masenga JE, Mavura D, and Naafs B.
Management of TEN in developing countries: Care and Clinical skills.
<http://scitechz.com/dermatology/fulltext/Dermatology-17-1002.pdf>.
4. Federica Dassoni and Bernard Naafs.
Mycobacterioses in Pigmented Ethnic Skin.
Chapter 10 in: Pigmented Ethnic Skin and Imported Dermatoses A Text-Atlas (Editors: Orfanos, Constantin, Zouboulis, Christos C., Assaf, Chaled) Springer Verlag 2017.