

Dermatologist Report 2018

2018 was a successful year with regard to the aims of the Foundation. It was again possible to provide training at various levels and to initiate research. The funds for books, medicine and support were regrettably depleted, which is unfortunate as it seems that the consultant-dermatologist of the Foundation (Dr Ben Naafs) can continue another year, and hopefully even longer. This will also depend on finances.

As in previous years, the year started with the CME in Moshi, where Dr Naafs gave a lecture on the failing of the laboratory techniques to diagnose leprosy and on the fact that the clinical expertise is disappearing due to neglect. He connected with the only certified dermatologist of Angola.

Dr Workalemahu took part in the CME and gave a lecture during the preceding dermatopathology meeting, which resulted in an invitation for him for the Indian National Dermatopathology Congress. Dr Workalemahu went back to Ethiopia with dapsone and pentamidine for the patients in and around Mekelle supplied via the Foundation.

At the end of January, Dr Naafs returned to the Netherlands, after which he gave a lecture on blister diseases in Africa for the society of the German paediatricians during their annual meeting on the 3rd of February. Two days later during a training of the same paediatricians, he gave a lecture on the difference between the white and the black skin. He himself learned a lot about children's diseases in Africa and their treatment.

From 16th to 21st of March, Dr Naafs attended the post graduate training of the American dermatologists in San Diego, where he taught about the reactions of leprosy patients to the leprosy bacteria, which can lead to nerve damage. He did this together with the Bengali dermatology Professor Mohammad Rafiqul Mowla. The lecture was well attended by participants from developing countries, but poorly attended by Americans, who actually are in need of it.

From mid-April to mid-May Dr Naafs was in Ethiopia, specifically to teach the residents and to evaluate the Leishmania research. He stayed with Professor Workalemahu, who has now been able to initiate the training for upcoming dermatologists. Dr Naafs gave a talk on HIV to the medical students, practical lessons and four lectures to trainers- and dermatologists-in-training.

During the summer, Dr Naafs and his wife received visitors in the Netherlands. Dr Frederica Dassone from Italy and Ethiopia, Father George Abraham from Ghana, where Dr Naafs has been numerous times to teach leprology and dermatology, and Dr Kevin Mponda from Malawi, a former student of Dr van Diggelen and him.

At the end of July Dr Naafs left to Moshi to teach and to be an "external examiner". Fortunately, everybody passed their dermatology exam, though the marking of the MD-theses was a lot of work. Also all the "ADDV" (advanced diploma in dermatology and venereology), students, community dermatologists, passed. At the beginning of September he was back in Friesland.

Towards the end of October, it was time to head to Brazil again, as usual, first to Sao Paulo where he visited Dr Maria Angela and stayed with Dr Wagner Galvao. He lectured at three universities, being the State and Municipal universities of Sao Paulo. The trip continued to the Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima in Bauru where he discussed with Dr José Garbino and Dr Marcos Virmond the nerve surgery, as well as politics of leprosy with Dr Virmond. Together with Dr Narashima Rao and Dr Joël Almeda, he attended as a guest the 15th Brazilian National Leprosy Congress in Palmas, Tokantin, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Brazilian Leprologist Society. He gave a lecture on the history of the therapy of leprosy and

participated in discussions on various subjects. Back in Sao Paulo, he lectured at the ABC-universities and together with Dr Wagner Galvao saw patients in the clinic for under-privileged. He brought Dr Wagner in contact with Professor Van de Kerkhof, the leading Dutch expert on psoriasis. Dr Naafs visited Bauru for a second time, to give various lectures to dermatologists-in-training, as well as a lecture about working in Africa to students of the new medical university in Bauru.

Almost immediately upon returning to the Netherlands early December, Dr Naafs went to Tigray in Ethiopia to participate in the congress "Skin on the Move". He presided over various discussions and provided additional training to the new assistants-in-training in Mekelle and to the residents from Milano who attended this congress.

Throughout the year, dermatovenereological teleconsultations were provided. Dr Naafs peer-reviewed over twenty articles and assisted the writing of various articles and chapters for books. In addition, he worked together with Professor Roger Hay and Professor Aldo Maronne on a book on migration dermatology, which was scheduled to have been completed this year, but due to an illness of Prof. Maronne has been delayed by a year. He has been interviewed by NPO (Dutch news channel) and the Dutch Society for Tropical Medicine. In the coming years, Dr Naafs is planning to take it easier, as the money of the Foundation is depleting and financing travels personally is no longer viable.

Articles published in 2018

Naafs B.

World Leprosy Day 2018: How forward respecting the past?

Indian J Med Res. 2018 Jan;147(1):1-3. doi: 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR_109_18.

Dassoni F. and Naafs B.

Mycobacterioses in Pigmented Ethnic Skin

Chapter 10 in: Pigmented Ethnic Skin and Imported Dermatoses. A Text-Atlas

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