



Perspective/Opinion

A Global Partner's Perspective

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Drs. Andualem and Zebenay reflect on the impact of collaborative global research with the Medical College of Wisconsin faculty and students.

Dr. Andualem: The health system requires the right information for a sound policy and strategy development. There should be a robust data management system to run any health program or project. Surgical services are not different. Proper data intervention requires appropriate tools for data gathering and proper mechanisms of data utilization. In between are data assortment, analysis, and dissemination. Therefore, the system should be strengthened with rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

The MCW data intervention project in Ethiopia is working on the data management of the surgical services in Ethiopia. It focuses on data collection tools, data recording platforms and surgical key performance indicators. It tries to investigate this from health facility to the Ethiopia National DHIS II, an open-source health information management system. In addition, it works on capacity building in appropriate data tools and materials writing, resource mobilization and human resource development.

Dr. Zebenay: I have some things to say about the study. First and foremost, I would like to thank MCW student, Kayleigh Cook, for a well compiled and analyzed report of all what we have seen and done during our visit to the five hospitals in the Amhara region. The report clearly shows the change in culture of surgical data management in those hospitals is quite amazing after the 2018 data intervention by the Harvard University team together with the Amhara Regional Health Bureau and Ethiopia Ministry of Health. The report also points to the areas of improvement in the data collection, analysis, and reporting practices. In addition, it shows the recommendations to address those issues with the data management.

I think our study will help us design strategies to further improve surgical data collection and reporting practices at our hospitals.

For further reading:

The MCW Department of Surgery's global engaged faculty and residents are advancing the global health agenda to increase access to safe, high-quality surgical and anesthesia care set forth by 2015 [*The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery*](#).

Drs. Zebeay and Andualem are the global partners of the MCW Department of Surgery's Faculty, Dr. Katie Iverson, Assistant Professor of the Division of Trauma and Critical Care.