

OBITUARIES

It is with a great sense of loss that we report the unexpected and untimely deaths of three young health professionals who were very closely associated with the Ethiopian Journal of Health Development. The sad news was all the more shocking because all of them occurred during a short span of four months in 1992.

Ato Desta Shamebo died on July 24, 1992 at the age of 47. He graduated from the former Gondar Public Health College with a BSc and then got his MPH degree in Biostatistics from the University of California (Berkeley). He pursued his studies for the PhD and was to receive his doctoral degree from the University of Umea (Sweden) in August 1992, since he had finished all the requirements. Ato Desta served in Addis Ababa University for over 20 years during which he attained the rank of Associate Professor. Administratively, he served as Head of the Department of Community Health and as Associate Dean of the Medical Faculty. He had done extensive research work in many areas with the "Butajira Health Project" as the most notable one since he was the founder of it. He had published papers in several journals including in our journal of which he was also a member of Editorial Consultants from the beginning. Ato Desta is survived by his wife and four children.

Dr. Haile Selassie Tesfaye died in June, 1992, at the age of 46. He graduated with a BSc in Biology from the then Haile Selassie I University. He later worked for higher degrees and got his MSc in Microbiology (USA) and his PhD degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Kansas, USA. He has served as a high school teacher for three years and for 14 years at the National Research Institute of Health, where he was head of the Departments of Clinical Bacteriology and Vector Biology and Deputy General Manager of the Institute, when he died. He had done a lot of research work much of which was published in several journals. He had contributed papers to our journal where he also served as a member of the Editorial Board. He was also the chairman of the Ethiopian Public Health Association. Dr. Haile Selassie was unmarried.

Dr. Areworki Gebre- Yohannes died on April 24, 1992, at the age of 49. Dr. Afeworki got his BA degree from Hamilton College (USA) in Biology. After he obtained his MSc, also in Biology, he worked and later earned his PhD degree in Microbiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Afeworki served in the National Research Institute of Health (NRIH) for about 25 years during which time he did a lot of research and published scientific papers in several journals, including our journal, the EJHD. Administratively, he had served as head of the Department of Clinical Bacteriology and Vaccine Quality Control. It was just after he was appointed as General Manager of NRIH that his unfortunate death occurred. Dr. Afeworki is survived by his wife and two children.

These three young scientists rendered a tremendous amount of service in their respective fields for the good of their country. Their deaths have deprived the country and the health profession the contributions they could have continued to make with the kind of education and experience they had acquired in professional and managerial work. They led exemplary professional lives for which they will always be remembered.

We wish to express our gratitude for what they have done and offer our condolences to their families.