



HOME

TACKLING A TRULY  
DEBILITATING DISEASE  
THAT AFFECTS MILLIONS

# MossyFoot News letter June 2012



*The loss of a great man....*



A podo patient now open for business as a market trader, selling fruit after paying back her loan from the microcredit scheme funded by Mossy Foot UK via MFTPA

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to **Meskele Ashine**, Executive Director of the Mossy Foot Treatment and Prevention Association in Sodo, who died on 21st April 2012 after a short illness. We will miss him very much and our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they say good bye to this amazing man. He has been an inspiration to so many podoconiosis patients as well as visitors to Mossy Foot Project. His enthusiasm, love and care for all the podoconiosis patients has touched so many, reaching far and wide and encouraging all who met him to take up the challenge of podoconiosis eradication. He leaves behind a legacy of enthusiasm.....

*Podo patients graduating from the barber training course funded by MossyFoot UK . They are also provided with a set of tools for the job and then ready to start their work.*

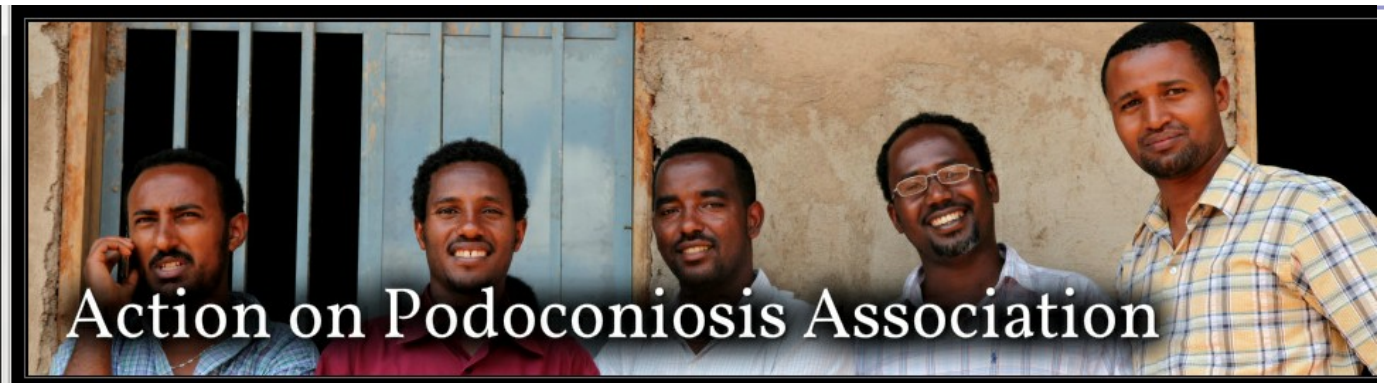
*A prestigious publication: Podo in the New England Journal of Medicine!*

**The HLA Class II Locus Confers Susceptibility to Podoconiosis (Non Filarial Elephantiasis).** New Eng. J. Med. 366,1200-1208.

Tekola F et al



**Fasil Tekola Ayele, Ph.D**



## Introducing the APA Team....

"Meskele introduced us to Zelalem who is heading up APA in November 2011. He is dynamic fellow. Meskele chose well!"

Dr Claire Fuller

APA is managed by a 5-person Executive Board which meets every 3 months. The day-to-day running of APA is performed by a team of full-time staff (including Trainers, Community Workers, Public Nurses, Counsellors, an Accountant and Cashier) under the leadership of the Executive Manager.

*Special thanks to Dr Paul Matts for permission to use all his excellent photographs.*

## *APA's First Prevention and Treatment Project— all official and signed up as of February 2012*

APA's first project "Podoconiosis Prevention and Treatment Project in Wolayta, Gamo Gofa and Dawro Zones of SNNPR" was agreed and signed by the SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region) Finance and Economic Development Bureau on February 20th 2012.

This three year project aims to:

- (a) Establish treatment sites in three zones - Wolaitta (Soddo Zuria and Offa woredas), Gamo Gofa (Kucha and Daramalo woredas) and Dawro (Maraka and Loma woredas).
- (b) Treat a total of 38,100 patients (28,100 women / 10,000 men) over the three year period.

- (c) Provide vocational training for up to 540 treated patients (e.g., shoe making, hair-dressing, carpentry, etc.) to benefit communities and generate income.
- (d) Provide microcredit to up to 450 treated patients, in particular widows and women shunned because of Podoconiosis.
- (e) Increase awareness of Podoconiosis in communities within the zones, to help eliminate prejudice and reduce the on-going rate of disease.
- (f) Transfer project activities to local Government authorities at the end of the three year period, with full involvement of the local community to help ensure a smooth Phase-Out.

**footwork**  
The International Podoconiosis Initiative

*Introducing FootWork the New International Podoconiosis Initiative Bringing together all working with podoconiosis*

Launched in Spring 2012 Footwork aims to work towards eradication of podoconiosis within our life time. Take a look at the website.

WWW.podo.org



World Health Organisation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



GLOBAL NETWORK  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES



National Institutes of Health

Children Without Worms

brighton and sussex  
medical school



UK COALITION AGAINST  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

