

Prof. Netsanet Workneh: New member of the GO STAR Board

About Prof. Dr. Netsanet Workneh

Prof. Netsanet is a pediatrician by education. She had a key position in the University of Jimma, being vice president for research and partnerships and thus also responsible for the relationship with GO STAR. Due to her impressive work at Jimma University, she was recently promoted to 'Head of health bureau of Oromia region'.



We are delighted to welcome you to the Board, Prof. Netsanet. Could you tell our donors what prompted you to accept this position?

I have worked now for many years with GO STAR and I have seen the great results they produce. Over last 10 years, they have assisted our Jimma Medical Center to develop a "Center of Excellence" for trauma and orthopedic care in Jimma, where in the beginning, nobody would have thought this is possible. They have not only helped thousands of insured people, but also brought career perspectives to many of our hospital staff. I call this the 'GO STAR Way'.

How would you describe the "GO STAR Way"?

GO STAR has since its beginning found the right way of support for our cause. For a long time, the reverse fellowship was the way to teach our doctors. In the recent years it was more to help with infrastructure, help our leaders with team building and project management. Pele and Michael are adjusting their way of support to what is needed and always and that our people get trained to train others. I see a different kind of spirit in the GO STAR supported ward and with the new operation rooms the excitement is growing.

You have now taken on a very important role as Minister of Health of the Oromia region with over 50 million inhabitants. What plans do you have in cooperation with GO STAR?

I would like to see the 'Gostar way' multiplied in other clinics, not only for trauma, but maybe in the future for other related disciplines, such

« At the GO STAR trauma surgery centre, I feel a special dynamic, and the enthusiasm is only growing with the new operating theatres. »

as emergency department. First, we need to deliver on our "Center of Excellence" in Jimma and have a very stable operation, but after that we can dream of bringing trauma care to more hospitals than just Jimma. The way to do this, will be in a joint effort – my organization with the support of GO STAR in terms of know-how, training, expertise in implants, surgical skills - and in general the 'GO STAR way' of tackling challenges and overcome them, together with our local workforce.

Thank you very much, Prof. Netsanet! We look forward to working together.

Give yourself or your loved ones the gift of pleasure and do something good at the same time!

Our "better than organic" donated coffee from Ethiopia: 5 francs per pack go to our foundation. The coffee from directcoffee grows in the Jimma region.

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Our excellent Bordeaux "Chateau Ramafort" Jg 2016, from Philipp Schwander is a trouvaille. CHF 20 per bottle goes to our foundation. While stocks last.

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Winter 2024

NEWS

GO STAR LETTER



25 years: An anniversary of trauma surgery in Ethiopia and a year full of breakthrough results

Return from the "Bike Challenge 24" – exhausted, but happy

We have just returned from Ethiopia with our "Bike Challenge 24" group - tired but full of joy. In our memory we carry impressive human encounters, top sporting performances and numerous donations collected by our dedicated ambassadors. We are particularly proud of the participation of prominent personalities, such as Nino Schurter (multiple MTB world champion), Alex-André Balmer (MTB junior world champion), Pierre-André Baume (husband of Swiss Federal Councillor), Andreas Meyer (former CEO of SBB) and Bettina Schelker (singer). Bettina even composed her own song for our mission: "Ethiopia", available on Spotify and Apple Music. After just a few days, the song became a catchy tune - not only for us, but also for our youngest team members, teenagers Lynn (15) and Rik (14).

After 13 days on the bike and 1300 kilometers in our legs in the heat and dust, we arrived in Jimma drenched in sweat. On site, our team was able to experience first-hand the difference our foundation is making in Jimma. We were particularly pleased to meet Professor Netsanet Workneh, who has since been promoted from university management to become Oromia's Minister of Health. She represents the largest region in Ethiopia in terms of area in the center, south and west, including the capital, Addis Ababa. Professor Netsanet honored our commitment with her presence when we arrived in Jimma. She has already visited Switzerland in 2024, when she attended the Charity Night in January as a guest of honor.

We are particularly pleased that Netsanet will be supporting the Foundation's work in future as a new member of our Board of Trustees (read the interview in this newsletter). With her support, we want to continue the success story of the GO STAR project: through documented standards, scientific publications, process optimization and quality controls. Our aim is also to attract doctors from other African countries to train in Jimma.

Our "Swiss Surgeons in Ethiopia" foundation remains committed to the GO STAR project - through the temporary deployment of experts and the funding of urgently needed surgical material, implants and surgical infrastructure. The road to becoming a "Center of Excellence" is still long and challenging, but the progress is visible, as the pictures on the following pages show.

None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for your loyal support - also on behalf of the GO STAR Ambassadors, our partners, specialists and patients.

Your contribution makes all the difference!
Thank you for your donation.
Your Pele

Donate now!



The GO STAR Bike Challenge 24 team and the hospital management pose with GO STAR President Dr. Jörg Peltzer, who received the President Award for his life's work. His foundation has already helped to treat over 10,000 people injured in accidents..



Pictures say more than 1000 words: The GO STAR success story



GO STAR milestones since the launch

- Over 60 Swiss reverse fellows
- 100 Ethiopian surgeons trained
- 13 Ethiopian surgeons head the orthopaedic department
- Orthopaedic teaching center since 2022
- Specialized experts in the team
- Instrumentation and wound care specialists, physiotherapy, prostheses

"In the interests of sustainability, we promote local development. We have an Ethiopian team on site that implements our strategy. Whenever possible, we buy locally or have things made locally. Our foundation will continue to initiate important projects with Swiss experts (hygiene specialists, training for surgical procedures, maintenance plans), but the goal always remains to build up the local team in such a way that it can in turn train staff."

Michael Weller, Member of the Board



Pictures above from left to right:

Musabe Naji (8) was the first patient to undergo thigh surgery in the new operating theater on 15.11.24. He is delighted with the ball from bike boss Stéphane Joliat. He will soon be able to play soccer again, as Pele promised him.

Pele and Michael present the "GO STAR Excellence Award" to employees who have rendered outstanding services.

Bianca Lump and Suzanna reorganize the operations.

Prof. Netsanet with our ward sister Abinet Bekele.

New operating theater set up by GO STAR.

Picture bottom left: The 13-strong orthopaedic team meets daily at 8 a.m. to discuss night-time cases with the trainee surgeons.

Not all accident victims can be treated yet. The expansion of the infrastructure should increase the surgical capacity to 500 operations per month.

Finance a hospital bed

With CHF 3,000 per year or CHF 250 per month, you can provide 365 days of medical treatment for people who have been injured in an accident, including meals. Each donor-financed bed receives a sign with your name on it. GO STAR ensures that your hospital bed is always occupied.



DONATE NOW

Every contribution helps!

Sustainability through promoting local development

- An Ethiopian surgeon and management team is working on site
- The 500 new patient and visitor gowns were sewn by local tailors
- A local project manager for our "Center of Excellence" vision is in place
- Continuous training in project management, communication and team leadership
- Local career and development plans for employees in key roles
- On-site purchase of medical equipment with local service contracts
- Prof. Netsanet Workneh joins the Gostar Fountion Board and will further expand local strategic support.

Impressions of the Bike Challenge 24



The GO STAR Bike Challenge is a key element in raising funds. Each participant raised at least 20,000 francs from friends and acquaintances. This year we had a record number of 36 riders. The tour went through the southwest of Ethiopia, through spectacular landscapes and to fascinating indigenous tribes. The whole entourage included 4 buses, 4 trucks and 4 jeeps with a special unit of the Ethiopian army – all in all over 70 people. We were often traveling in areas without any infrastructure, which is why we slept

in tents and our field kitchen fed us. We had temperatures of 3 degrees at night in Entoto at 3000 meters and 46 degrees in the lowlands on the border with Kenya. After a few hardships – little sleep, unfamiliar food and high temperatures - we reached Jimma after 1300 kilometers, where the "Bicycle Club Jimma" accompanied us on the last few kilometers and the entire university and hospital management greeted us on the road. A truly moving moment.