

Dermatology report 2020 (Dr Ben Naafs)

The past year 2020 was a strange year for all of us, also for Global Dermatology. The year started well with the CME in Moshi, Tanzania, where Dr Naafs gave a lecture: "When is leprosy really leprosy?" Shortly after the lecture, the Immigration Service of Tanzania no longer allowed Prof Todd from South Africa and Dr Naafs to teach at KCMC / RDTC without a work permit. In 2019 they also had problems to be allowed to teach, but immigration made an exception for them at the time. Unfortunately, not this year. In the meantime, the government had closed all specialist courses at the KCMC due to a lack of mainly preclinical teachers. Fortunately, a new Dean was appointed to the university to solve the problems. The solution for the dermatology department was to hire Prof Todd (retired in South Africa) and Dr Naafs as professors employed by the university. Both managed to teach for two weeks before having to leave Tanzania to arrange professorship. This had to be arranged while they were both out of the country. It was a lot of red tape, but both were officially appointed in June. Dr Naafs received this professorship after 25 years of working for three months a year at KCMC / RDTC. At his request, it was agreed that Dr Naafs would work pro bono as always, as it would give him the freedom to organize his teaching in Moshi around appointments elsewhere. KCMC / RDTC will from now on pay for its travel expenses. When everything was arranged with Prof Todd and Dr Naafs, the government reopened the specialist training courses at the KCMC. Twelve doctors had already registered for the dermatology course (M.Med.Dermavenereology). The training started in October. One of the participants (dr Nelson Masha) who has been working at the RDTC for some years is sponsored by the NVDV, the Dutch dermatologist association, through dr Naafs and Global Dermatology.

In January 2020 prof. Todd and Dr Naafs were appointed honorary members of the new Tanzanian Dermatovenereology Association.

Unfortunately, Dr Naafs was unable to travel to either Brazil or Ethiopia due to Covid-19. There and above in Ethiopia the political situation was unstable and became disastrous with hospitals destroyed and looted, rape and murder. This, of course, has brought the Leishmaniasis research in Tigray to a halt. From June 2020, Dr Naafs started to work for KCMC / RDTC from home. In addition, he has helped through internet doctors working in the tropics with dermatological diagnoses and therapy of one or two patients a day. Thanks to a generous donation from a Dutch compression stockings supplier and Aviation without Borders, he was able to send compression stockings and medicines to Moshi.

In October he gave a lecture about the differences between the coloured and the white skin to municipal health workers in Twente and Salland and in December for Amsterdam South-East.

Because of Covid-19, most of Dr. Naafs' leprosy research has been suspended. However, he has done review work for international magazines. He is also co-author of papers and chapters and has co-edited a book:

- Naafs B, Alemu Belachew W: Comments to the letter to the editor of Dr Sweta Subhadarshani.
J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol. 2020 Feb;34(2):e73-e74. doi: 10.1111/jdv.15947
doi: 10.1111/jdv.15947. Epub 2019 Sep 10
- Naafs B, Hay R, Morrone A: Medical, Social, and Civic Needs of Displaced Persons
Chapter 2 in:
Skin Disorders in Migrants (Aldo Morrone, Roderick Hay, Bernard Naafs Editors)
Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020, 5-7

- Naafs B, Dassoni F, Morrone A: Bacterial Dermatitis Chapter 4 in: Skin Disorders in Migrants (Aldo Morrone, Roderick Hay, Bernard Naafs Editors) Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020, 13-23
- Naafs B: Non-Venereal Treponematoses Chapter 5 in: Skin Disorders in Migrants (Aldo Morrone, Roderick Hay, Bernard Naafs (Editors) Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020, 25-29
- Naafs B, Hay R, Morrone A: Rare Diseases Including NTDs and Their Management. Chapter 19 in: Skin Disorders in Migrants (Aldo Morrone, Roderick Hay, Bernard Naafs (Editors) Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020,139-162
- Naafs B: Why can't we control Morbus Hansen? Info Hansen GB 2020 <https://en.infohansen.org/blog/morbus-hansen>
- Dassoni F, Workalemahu Alemu, Morrone A, Naafs B: Autoimmune skin diseases in Sub Sahara Africa: Experience in Ethiopia and South Sudan and review of the prevalence. Community Skin Health 2020;61(2):17-24
- Naafs B. Leprosy and Parasitic Coinfections. Int J Med Parasitol Epidemiol Sci 2020;1(3):49-51

Dr Naafs has also written a couple of chapters in: "Skin diseases in travellers". This book is currently being printed as is a chapter in an Indian leprosy book.