**ISIS Fellow—Dr. Abebe Bekele**

The Department of Surgery welcomed a special visitor earlier last month, Dr. Abebe Bekele, MD. Dr. Abebe, serves as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Addis Ababa University School of Medicine (AAU) (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). This past June, he became the first Visiting Fellow for the Department of Surgery’s Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies (ISIS).

As ISIS’ inaugural Visiting Fellow, Dr. Abebe spent three weeks in Seattle meeting with various members of the Department of Surgery, UW School of Medicine Leadership, and UW Medicine faculty. The bulk of Dr. Abebe’s time was spent in ISIS’ simulation facility at UWMC where he observed trainings, administrative operations, and the development of new educational programs.

Expressing a strong desire to develop educational materials during his visit, Dr. Abebe worked closely with ISIS educational experts, Dr. Sara Kim and Ms. Megan Sherman, to review and innovate methods of training for Ethiopian surgical residents. Dr. Abebe developed a prolific amount of training material during his visit, eventually leaving Seattle with five new curricula to be implemented in residency training at AAU.

Dr. Abebe additionally presented on the topic of “Surgical Training in Ethiopia – Past and Future” during the Department of Surgery’s Grand Rounds, where he described the ongoing partnership between the University of Washington and Addis Ababa University in the areas of laparoscopic surgical training, and now simulation education.

A huge thank you to those who spent time with Dr. Abebe during his visit! Led by the efforts of Dr. Brant Oelschlager, Dr. Andrew Wright, Ms. Colleen Iwano, and Ms. Erin Haslam – the visit was an enormous success!