

Dr. Wongel Shale, an Ethiopian general surgeon, earned her medical degree and certificate in general surgery from Jimma University and currently works at Jimma University Medical Centre. Dr. Shale is an active member of the Ethiopian Surgical Society (SSE), Women in Surgery Africa (WISA), and Ethiopian Medical Association (EMA). She is also a certified fellow of the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

Dr. Shale advocates for improved and equitable surgical care across her country. She was the first female surgeon to have worked in the Afar region of Ethiopia, an underserved area of the country with a population in crisis, seasonal tribal conflict, and natural disasters (flood), where she made significant contributions to improving health and health equity for all who are affected by surgical conditions or have a need for surgical care. She co-established and coordinated the disaster preparedness, and response team at Mohammed Akile Memorial general hospital, in Afar region. She also served as the Operation room and surgical service director there. During the devastating pandemic, she represented the surgical wing of Jimma University Medical Center by being the COVID- 19 focal person for the department of surgery. In her current role, Dr. Shale Works as a consultant general surgeon, and the undergraduate surgical education coordinator at Jimma University teaching hospital. Research is an important aspect of her professional interest. She has published a couple of her works in peer reviewed journals and she is now working on projects with tremendous potential.