

6th YEAR REPORT

Medical school so far has been a great experience, one that I think every one should have in a life time. The stress, the excitement and the result producing moments has all been worth it. Starting 6th year, we had to go for 4 weeks electives (exchange medical clerkship) at a facility preferably outside Ghana. Silas and I as has always been, got lucky to be given the opportunity to practice at Regionhospitalet, Denmark. For the purpose of sight seeing the duration of the trip was extended to 6 weeks. Thanks to Aunty Sonjelle for graciously sponsoring the trip. The entire trip is an experience I will never forget in my life, especially being the first time, I travelled abroad. From the warm reception and accommodation that was given by the Skovgaard family, the patience and eye-opening skills and knowledge I was exposed to at the obstetrics and gynaecology department of Regionhospitalet to the beautiful and exciting sites we visited in Switzerland, I loved every bit of it. Just to mention a few, some of the skills I was exposed to at the hospital were, obstetrics ultrasound scanning, assisting in major/minor operations, observing out patient review in gynaecology, urogynaecology, obstetrics ,antenatal care, fertility clinic, labour ward, orthopaedics participating in seminar for in-house medical students and also with other international students at Arrhus University. My best experience was when I was given the opportunity to assist a baby delivery, a big difference from how I was trained in Ghana and I will never forget the smile of the mother after the delivery, it was such a life fulfilling moment. I also acquired some knowledge in agri-business from the Skovgaard farms, something I would love to venture in as a part time after school.

Coming back to school, I knew it will be stressful but did not expect it to be this stressful. There were huge expectations from everyone including our lecturers and friends considering the fact that Silas and I were one of the few students who had their electives outside the country. It's expected to have an influence on your lifestyle, knowledge and skills, which obviously did, so it brought about some sort of pressure. Secondly, we were assigned to specific supervisors to start work on our thesis, some of these supervisors are sometimes hard on the students. It was one of my fears. Lucky for me I had a professor who was once a member of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) of the Global Fund to fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria, Professor Evelyn Korkor Ansah, an expert in malaria research. This influenced my research topic: Malaria Diagnostic Landscape in the formal private health sector in the Ho Municipality, basically am looking at the adherence of formal private health sectors such as the private clinics and pharmacies to the WHO's diagnostic guidelines in malaria management. Aside her strictness, which I was not surprise after realising she's the chairperson of the research ethics review committee, she's been very supportive, she helped me appreciate how to write proposal and public health research in general. I think I made of the best research proposals. She assured of publishing it after am done with it all.

Whiles the research is on-going we've also been running a marathon of clinical clerkship; senior clerkship in medicine and surgery. 10 weeks in each. I started with surgery and am currently doing my medicine rotation. In senior clerkship we are trained as sub-interns, soon to-be doctors, where the focus is more on skills and knowledge in patient management. We are assigned to specific cases to clerk, manage and do follow up under strict supervision, this includes night shifts. Its sometimes very stressful, as it involves meeting different supervisors in a day, all with high expectations from the students. I make sure am always present for each session including bedside teachings, tutorials and ward work. Since this is my final year and

ultimate time for accountability, I have limited my involvement in extracurricular activities so that I make time for my academics. I passed my end of surgery rotation exams with 73%, which is a B. End of internal medicine rotation will be in 3 weeks' time. After which we will have 10 weeks of community medicine and finally write the end of 6th year exams. Unfortunately, my smart phone got spoilt since I arrived back to Ghana and any attempt to fix it has proved futile, and so its making studies and practice very challenging.

Comparably, our welfare has been well taken care of especially in our final year, and am always grateful to you my sponsors, to United project and to the ever-caring staff and family of Hardthaven Childrens home. Its been a blessing meeting you all. You are the reason I study hard even when I don't feel like it, the reason why Ghana is about to meet a great specialist like me. Akpe kakaaka.



