**2019 Medical Mission Report, Ohita Asein, PharmD
1. Assignment:**What was your primary role in the 2019 medical mission to Ada Ghana?
What things did you find easy in performing your tasks?
What were your challenges?

*I was the Pharmacy team leader on this trip. My responsibilities in the Pharmacy included trying to make sure the pharmacy team understood their roles and that workflow in the pharmacy was efficient. I felt that the protocol made it easier for the pharmacists to know what medications and dose to choose for certain common medical conditions we encountered. One of the challenges on this trip was the heavy reliance on the volunteer interpreters to counsel patients. In the first few days, we did not have reliable interpreters or enough interpreters which slowed workflow because we often had to wait until we had an interpreter available to counsel a patient. Also, because we hard to use an interpreter, we had to assume that the interpreter correctly translated the information.*

**2. Preparation:**Do you think adequate preparation was made for medical mission 2019? By the time of the trip, did you feel you were well prepared? If no, what other plans would you have liked to see?

*Preparation for this trip was good. Since this was not my first trip, I already knew what to expect. Email communication of info prior was great.*

**3. Location:**What was your impression of the mission location for 2019? What did you like and dislike the most? (The hospital, the people, the hotel we stayed…)

*I was impressed with the hospital on this trip. The volunteer pharmacy interpreters we had the last few days were excellent and hardworking and made workflow better. I was satisfied with the hotel.*

**4. Safety:**

Did you think too much, too little, or adequate preparation was made for your safety.

*I felt safe and was never concerned about my safety*.

**5. Outing:**

On this trip, we allowed ourselves extra day and a half for sightseeing. More expenses In the fare also incurred the longer we stay. For you, did the extra stay add to your fulfillment in the journey or would you prefer completing the mission and leaving the next day?

*I would have preferred the option to leave the next day after completing the mission. Since this was not my first trip, I would rather have gone home earlier but I know since it was a large group with 2 buses used for transportation, the logistics may be difficult.*

**6. The Team:**

One of the keys to successful medical missions is seeing oneself as a team member (versus individual). How well do you think we achieved this goal?

*I felt everyone worked very well together.*

**7. Expectations & Experience:**

What expectations did you have joining Team Africa medical mission and were those expectations met.
How did this medical outreach change you as a person and as a healthcare provider? What is your most memorable experience? What were your challenges or disappointments?

*I believe we were blessed with different talents and gifts not just for our personal gain but to use to serve others. Being a part of Team Africa allows me to use my knowledge and skills as a Pharmacist to serve and make a difference one life at a time in a part of the world where access to health care services is often limited due to not having the money to pay for it. The gratitude I saw on the faces of so many of the people we encountered was unforgettable. This is my fourth mission trip with team Africa and it is always difficult when we encounter children with conditions we just do not have with us the resources to help treat their condition but if their family had the money, it would not be an issue for them to get the care they need at a specialty hospital there in Ghana.*

**8. Finances:**

As you may be aware, the flat fee of $2000 was significantly offset to lessen the burden on the volunteers. Will you object to increasing the fee to $2250 in the future or should the fee be kept the same?

*I have no issue with the increase since it is need to offset cost of mission trip.*

**7. Performance Evaluation:**

1. How would you evaluate the team leader? (Evon Anukam)

What did she do very well? What does she need to work on? How well did she communicate all relevant information for a successful mission trip?

*I think the team Leader Dr. Anukam did an excellent job communicating info prior to the trip and preparing everyone for the work mentally when we arrived. The communication board this year was a great idea and I think it should continue for future trips. Because we had to go to another hotel for dinner or dinner was not ready on time when we ate at our hotel, the team meeting to debrief were sometimes late and lengthy and everyone was tired after a long day. My suggestion is for keeping the team meeting brief and more for discussing that day’s events and changes to next day schedule and then use the clinical group leaders to disseminate any other info.*

1. How would you evaluate your clinical group leader?

*(Medical: Dr Evelyn Chiakpo (lead) & Dr Cindy Talbot; Nursing: Angel Sams (lead) & Nwanneka Mbelu; Pharmacy: Ohita Asein (lead) & Allahna Davis)*

What did they do very well, individually and collectively? What do they need to work on?

*All the clinical group leaders were excellent.*

1. How would you evaluate the safety leaders?

*(Group 1: Gechi; Group 2: Peter; Group 3: Uzoamaka; Group 4: Natalie; Group 5: Ashley N; Group 6: Ashley V)*
What did they do very well? What do they need to work on?

*The safety group leaders initially did not understand their role but when they knew what their responsibility was, they did great. I would suggest for future trip having them find out who is on their team once we arrive at the hotel on the first day.*

1. How would you evaluate yourself? What did you do very well? What do you need to work on? How well did you contribute to the cohesiveness of the team?

*The was my first time as a clinical group leader, and I think I did a good job organizing the pharmacy team. I think for future trips, finding out the work experiences/area of expertise of the pharmacists on mission day one would be beneficial. We had ID and pediatric pharmacist on this trip and when I found out this was her area of expertise on day 2, we were able to have her handle most of the complicated ID and pediatric medication dosing which made work flow more efficient.*

**8. New direction:**

As an organization, Team Africa wants to change directions by looking for ways to engage in more sustainable health projects in developing countries. This will require concerted fundraising efforts and grant applications. Will you commit to assisting Team Africa in raising funds to continue to impact lives.

*Yes*

**9. Final Thoughts:**

What else is on your mind?

I think we had another great team of people this year.