**2019 Medical Mission Report, Zheru Li, MD**

Now that you have rested, and hopefully feeling back to normal, please take a moment to write a report about your experience with Team Africa medical mission 2019 to Ada District Ghana. You may keep the report as formal or as informal as you want but make a concerted effort to answer the following questions in your report:

**1.Assignment:**What was your primary role in the 2019 medical mission to Ada Ghana?

Medical provider - family medicine resident worked with Evelyn.

What things did you find easy in performing your tasks?

I’m grateful for having a nice office to see patients. The equipment and supplies we brought were very helpful in performing my tasks.

Having onsite nurses as interpreters was a true blessing as well.

What were your challenges?

Many patients we encountered need way more services than we could offer. Trained in primary care setting I always have a sense of ownership when I encounter patients. However knowing what they need but couldn’t offer those services made me feel hopeless.

**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?
Evon did a such amazing job organizing the trip. The preparation was superb! However personally I wasn’t prepared which was my own reponsibilkty. I thought it was going to be like a regular work. I wish I could prepare my heart more prior to the trip.

**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 really like this location. The hospital is really nice given it’s location. The campus and the landscape are beautiful. It definitely need more equipment, but overall it’s a very nice hospital. People are super friendly and warm. I felt safe even walking on the street and in the market. Staffs there are very helpful.

The hotel we stayed is very comfortable. I even felt a little guilty living in a such nice place during a medical mission trip.

**4. Safety:**

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

Adequate preparation was made for our 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?

The extra stay helped me to understand the culture and helped me to bound with my teammates. It’s a great addition in my opinion! I prefer the extra stay for sure.

**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?

Amazing! I really enjoyed meeting and knowing this group of people. It’s great to have a multidisciplinary team from social worker, RN, pharmacy, providers, optometrists, PT, dental hygienist.

I’m looking forward working with them again in next mission trip!

**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?

As I mentioned earlier I didn’t set any expectations when I joined the team. I wanted to experience whatever comes to me. So, I did.

I turned off the internet and had very minimum contact with my family. I dived deep and soaked up with this amazing experience. Many struggles along the way, but I was able to embrace the challenges with the help from inspirational teammates.

The most memorable experience was seeing large crowds praising God so joyfully when they have such little resources. Their faiths are strong and their lives are full. To me this experience was like spiritual retreat, so I’m grateful for the trip.

This medical outreach taught me to be humble. We have so many resources in the US. We should not take things for granted. I’m packing my daughter’s lunch every day so she won’t waste her food at school. As a medical provider I learned how to let go with my ego. When I truly have nothing to offer it’s okay to hold another person’s hands.

**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’m okay with increasing the fee. It would be nice to have scholarship available to help those cannot afford.

**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?

Evon is amazing! The amount of work and energy she put in was unmeasurable! Sorry that she had to deal with foggy brained resident(s) who can hardly remember the next day schedule. I thought she was well organized and communicated well with the team.

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)*

Dr. Evelyn Chiakpo is very knowledgeable in African medicine. I was blessed to share an office with her. She’s easy to talk to and is always ready to teach. It’s easy to learn her passion about medicine once she gives you a high five!

Dr. Cindy Talbot is tender and caring. I truly appreciate the conversations we had about my struggles. She’s out back and is always ready to listen in a most graceful way.

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

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? Good job, Peter for keeping us safe and together.

* 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? I think I did okay this trip. Wish I could bring more supplies with me. Need to work on my joint injection skill.

**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?

As much as I want to see other parts of the Africa, it makes more sense to develop an ongoing relationship with one group or one hospital. Ghana has stable political environment and universal health insurance. It will improve locals health if we can collaborate with East Ada Hospital to provide staff training, equipment updates, and financial support. I would love to go back to see those familiar faces!