**2019 Medical Mission Report, Uzoamaka Atuegwu, PharmD
1. Assignment:** *What was your primary role in the 2019 medical mission to Ada Ghana?*

* Pharmacist and group leader

 What things did you find easy in performing your tasks?

* Being part of a team made it easy to complete the tasks assigned
* Being organized and well informed prior to the start of the mission trip

What were your challenges?

* I didn’t have any significant challenge other than being tired but that was expected.

**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?*

* Yes, I think adequate preparations were made for the medical mission trip. Yes, I felt that we were well prepared with the multiple, very detailed emails. It was a very organized process and I felt well informed.
* However, I felt that some of the drugs weren’t included as part of the pharmacy formulary OR weren’t available in sufficient quantities (e.g. majority of patients were on nifedipine and we ran out of this very quickly), whereas we had too many drugs that weren’t used as much (e.g. anti-malaria drugs surprisingly wasn’t dispensed much and some days not at all) . In the future, if possible and time permitting, it might be beneficial to speak with the pharmacist(s) at the hospital to get a better sense of the right medications to bring with us to better serve the community.

**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…)

* The location was fine but I grew up in Nigeria so I have a different perspective than others might have. I liked the hotel staff and felt that they were nice, helpful and welcoming. Also, liked the sense of security. I disliked that the bathroom had no air or vents and felt so humid and sweaty right after taking a shower.

**4. Safety:**

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

* I think adequate preparations were made for our safety. I never felt unsafe through out the entire trip.

**5. Outing:**

*On this trip, we allowed ourselves extra day and a half for sightseeing. The longer we stayed, the more expenses incurred. 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 feel that it’s great to complete the mission and also have time to explore the country given that some might not come back again the future. Also, was great having some time to relax before heading back home. However, if that adds a significant amount to the expenses, then it should be optional and those who want to participate can pay the extra, to make it fair.

**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?

* Everyone worked well as a team. I was glad to have such a huge team of pharmacists and we worked very well with each other with Ohita as the team leader. It was great implementing the double check of each other’s work.

**7. Expectations & Experience:**

*What expectations did you have joining Team Africa medical mission and were those expectations met.*

* I expected to serve others and reset my mindset as an individual and walk away realizing how blessed I am and contribute even a small bit to making a difference in one person’s life. My expectations were 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?*

* It made me more appreciative of life despite its challenges. I walked away forming friendships and realizing that I can contribute to changing the world, one step at a time.
* Most memorable experience was when we were driving into the hospital on the “first” full day and we all started clapping and encouraging each other. It was a beautiful unifying moment regardless of color, race, sex, ethnicity, profession, income level… In that moment we were all one team coming to serve others.
* It was challenging working in the very hot humid weather, sweating all day but that’s part of what I signed up for and expected. I was a bit disappointed that other members of the team didn’t volunteer to help pharmacy at the end of the day. We all got there at the same time and every other team finished before us. With the exception of two people, no one else really asked us if we needed help wrapping up. It would have been encouraging to just ask, given that we finished 1.5 – 2 hours after registration closed.

**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?*

* It would be nice to keep the fee the same as $2000 but I am not prevy to the logistics involved in planning the trip. If it’s possible to cut out “non-significant” portions and keep the rate the same, that would be preferred. If there’s no way to do that, then increasing the fee is the only choice.

**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 Evon did an amazing job. I am an organized person and I really appreciated how organized and coordinated she was regarding the planning of the trip, when we got there until the very end. She was truly a “mother” on the trip and always available with a smile and receptive to questions. I loved the board with the activities right by the reception, that was great idea!
* I wish we can have the de-briefings earlier on future trips. Some nights we didn’t finish till >10 pm (also had pharmacy de-briefings) and it was very tiring. It would have been nice to de-brief right after coming back OR while eating dinner given how tired we all were.
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?

* Ohita was an amazing team leader. No matter how stressed out, sweaty, swamped we were; she was always available for questions.
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?*

* N/A – since I was a safety leader.
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?*
* I think I did really well. I didn’t have to adjust as much given that I grew up in Nigeria plus have been on a medical mission in Nigeria as well. I worked great with the team and everyone else. I did a good job supporting my roommate (LeAnn) with double checking the pediatric scripts and helping out given that she did majority of it and was a lot sometimes. I could work on complaining that I was tired. Others were tired as well, but I could work on not voicing it as much so it’s not discouraging for others and me.

**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, I will be willing to assist Team Africa in raising funds

**9. Final Thoughts:**

*What else is on your mind?*

I just want to say thank you for including me on this special trip to the beautiful country of Ghana. I believe that God led me to this group at the right time in my life. I hope I changed a life and made a mother or child smile at home.