

Dear Friends,

The New York University Grossman School of Medicine (NYUGSOM), the University for Development Studies School of Medicine (UDS-SoM), and Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH) have come together as AMPATH Ghana in our shared vision of how an equitable and mutually beneficial partnership can lead to lasting global health impact. Since 2020, our partnership has taken meaningful steps towards building a more resilient healthcare system in northern Ghana by improving healthcare delivery, strengthening health professional educational programs, and conducting impactful research in population health. We aspire to generate lessons that can be applied throughout the world.

Some highlights of our work this year include:

CARE:

- opening of a new Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit at TTH to provide comprehensive care for high-risk pregnancies;
- development and integration of a chronic disease management model that includes programs for cervical cancer screening, hypertension, diabetes, and mental health;
- planning for the construction of the Infectious Disease Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at TTH.

EDUCATION:

- hosting four medical students from UDS-SoM for a 6-week clinical elective rotation at NYUGSOM;
- welcoming ten clinical faculty from UDS-SoM and TTH for an intensive course at the New York Simulation Center;
- launching the Tamale Education and Innovation Center for Health Professionals (TEACH), which will be the hub of innovative health professions education in northern Ghana.

RESEARCH:

- several research projects were successfully funded in the areas of infectious diseases, chronic disease epidemiology, and climate change/environmental health;
- AMPATH Ghana Team Leaders are working to increase implementation science research capacity related to women's health and mental health as part of the NIH-funded ACHIEVE Research Training Program.

We are all deeply grateful to the talent, passion, dedication, and tireless work of our teams in the U.S. and Ghana in creating these achievements--and to our partners who are supporting us throughout all of these efforts. We invite you to look inside to learn more and are eager to hear your thoughts, feedback and suggestions on how we can continue working together in the year ahead. Our aspiration for a healthier world becomes reality as we join hands on this journey.

We are grateful that you are part of the AMPATH family, and we wish you health and happiness in the year ahead.


Ti Pagya,



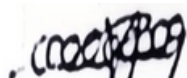
Dr. Rajesh Vedanthan



Professor Stephen Tabiri



Dr. Adam Atiku





2023 YEAR END REPORT

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY
IN NORTHERN GHANA



AMPATH Ghana Faculty





INTRODUCTION

In 2023, AMPATH (Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare) Ghana made great strides towards creating a stronger, sustainable health care system for the people of northern Ghana. This unique global health partnership amongst the University for Development Studies School of Medicine (UDS-SoM) and Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH), in Tamale, Ghana, and the AMPATH Consortium led by NYU Grossman School of Medicine (NYUGSOM) is not only changing healthcare in northern Ghana—but around the world.

By leveraging all of our partners' strengths, resources, and expertise, we increased patient access to higher quality health care, expanded the training of health professionals, and launched critical investigations to improve population health. U.S. and Ghanaian doctors, residents, researchers, students, and nurses served, trained, and studied alongside one another while responding to the needs of the population of northern Ghana.

CARE

Strengthening chronic disease management

Working closely with the Ministry of Health, AMPATH Ghana is addressing hypertension, diabetes, mental health, and cervical cancer. This year, we:

- Initiated a weekly diabetes and hypertension clinic at TTH led for the first time by medical doctors, increasing patients' direct access to specialist care.
- Developed protocols and guidelines regarding diabetes and hypertension for local health facilities and hospitals.
- Expanded outpatient services of the TTH Polyclinic for adolescent and adult primary care.



Dr. Odalys Rivera, Physician

“Our clinic at Tamale Teaching Hospital focuses on comprehensive care for patients with diabetes. Our team of physicians, medical officers, nurses, and dietitians collaborate to provide tailored solutions to patients. We have encountered challenges, but I want to emphasize our work's impact on patients' lives. It is a rewarding journey, and we will continue this way since we strive for excellence.”

Constructing an infectious diseases molecular diagnostics laboratory

The laboratory will expand the capacity for diagnosis, surveillance, research, and teaching in northern Ghana related to COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. It also will support cancer research and post-graduate training in Laboratory Sciences at UDS. This year, we:

- Initiated a partnership with the University of Ghana and Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research to train TTH laboratory staff.
- Began planning for the construction of the lab, including architectural plans, site layout, and operational details.

CARE



Rafiatu Abdul-Wahab, Patient

“What I can say about this unit, in my own experience I really enjoy this unit a lot. Dr. Anita (from the TTH OB/GYN Dept) made me calm in a sense that it didn't seem like a problem and I was happy. [Because of this diagnosis] they directed me to see a lot of people that really helped my baby gain a lot of weight and I'm grateful for that. The next time I came [to the MFM unit] I was very happy with Dr. Sasha too. I was so so so happy – the estimated weight she gave [of the baby] really, she did not miss, I was so happy. Job well done.”

Expanding access to women's healthcare services

AMPATH Ghana is ensuring that all women who desire or experience pregnancy receive the best possible care and outcomes. In 2023, we:

- Launched a new Maternal and Fetal Medicine Unit to monitor high-risk pregnant patients daily.
- Scaled up cervical cancer screenings for women and strengthened referral systems throughout northern Ghana.
- Established an ultrasound clinic, improving access to reproductive health services to hundreds of women.

EDUCATION

Strengthening medical education

By training more doctors and health professionals, AMPATH Ghana is helping to increase access to health care. This year, we:

- Received a grant to build the Tamale Education and InnovAtion Center for Health Professionals (TEACH), which will provide hands-on clinical skills training for health professionals throughout the northern region.
- Strengthened ultrasound training through the creation of a pilot training program for 25 doctors and 37 midwives.
- Trained over 23 medical officers, mid-level providers, and nurses from nearby health centers, district and regional hospitals on hypertension, diabetes, and mental health.
- Established a new Pediatric Residency program at TTH.
- Developed a training in Advanced Cardiac Life Support involving 40 healthcare professionals.
- Began to establish a Project ECHO program in northern Ghana. Project ECHO is a tele-mentorship model that connects experts at academic centers or referral hospitals serving as the “hub site” to healthcare workers at “spoke sites” in remote areas.



AMPATH Ghana Faculty leaders outside of UDS-SoM

EDUCATION

Promoting faculty and student exchanges

Medical education is key to gaining the knowledge and skills that make for better clinicians. As part of AMPATH Ghana:

- Faculty from NYUGSOM and AMPATH Consortium provided in-person trainings in Tamale to doctors, nurses, physician specialists and other healthcare professionals in neurosurgery, nursing, pediatrics, surgery, psychiatry, pediatrics, and midwifery.
- Four UDS-SoM students traveled to NYUGSOM and completed 6-week rotations in internal medicine, psychiatry, neurosurgery and general surgery.
- Ten UDS-SoM and TTH medical and nursing faculty visited NYUGSOM and participated in an intensive course in how to use simulation education to train students and staff.



Emmanuel Sabi Damoah, Medical Student

“It has been a breathtaking experience since the beginning of my rotations here at NYU.

My intention and joy of becoming a surgeon has been super heightened after my first experience of the incredible and astonishing nature of robotic surgery here at NYU.”

RESEARCH

AMPATH Ghana aspires to conduct rigorous, relevant, and responsive research to address pressing health challenges, strengthen health systems, and improve population health outcomes. In 2023:

- As part of the NIH-funded ACHIEVE Training Program, two AMPATH Ghana Team Leaders are increasing implementation science research capacity to advance women's health and mental health.
- Data collection for the Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Environmental Health Survey was completed, which will inform program priorities in hypertension, diabetes, mental health, and cervical cancer screening.
- Faculty presented three abstracts at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference in the areas of Non-communicable Diseases, Topics in Global Health, and Climate Change and Global Health.
- "Perceptions of the health and social risks of extreme heat in northern Ghana" findings were presented at the Global Disaster Preparedness Center.
- "Marketing of skin lightening creams in Ghana: A triple threat to adolescent health" pilot project was awarded by NYUGSOM



Dr. Caesar A. Ansing, Obstetrics/Gynecology Faculty

"Being able to co-lead the development and implementation of the first ultrasound training program for our junior doctors and midwives with AMPATH Ghana has been an excellent accomplishment this year. Our approach and process were presented at the American Public Health Association annual conference. I was able to present my first research poster and attend my first international scientific conference... many lauded our achievement and recommended that the ultrasound training should be expanded gradually to other hospitals around our catchment area."

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

We look forward to another exciting year in 2024 as we work to achieve our vision of greater health equity in northern Ghana and worldwide. Our initiatives include:

Increased patients' access to care

By partnering with additional hospitals and clinics in northern Ghana, we will reach more patients with quality health services.

Paired faculty exchanges

Through a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Accra, faculty from NYU will be paired with faculty counterparts from UDS to strengthen relationship-building and complete joint projects that advance the tripartite mission of AMPATH Ghana: care, training, and research.

Tamale Education and InnovAtion Center for Health Professionals (TEACH)

Construction on the TEACH building will begin during the upcoming year. Several pilot projects will be implemented to support innovative educational initiatives. As the only program of its kind in northern Ghana, TEACH is expected to serve five million people and play a critical role in addressing the health and ongoing development of the entire region.

Training opportunities for faculty and medical students

NYUGSOM and AMPATH Consortium residents and fellows in neurosurgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery and Obstetrics/Gynecology will travel to Tamale to partake in global health clinical electives. Likewise, additional UDS-SoM students will travel to New York and participate in clinical elective rotations.

Research proposals and research training

We will disseminate findings from ongoing research projects and initiate new proposals to support priority research areas such as chronic disease management, sickle cell disease, infectious disease, and climate change. We will continue to pursue opportunities for research training and capacity building.

TI PAGYA

There is an African proverb, “If you want to travel fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together.” AMPATH Ghana is deeply grateful to have supportive partners who enable us to have such ambitious plans for the coming year. We will continue to improve the health and well-being of people living in northern Ghana and share our experience, insights, and lessons to help inform the global health community about successful strategies and innovations. Our hope is to create a healthier world for all.

To learn more about our work, please visit:

nyulmc.org/ampathghana

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