

Strengthening the Ghana National Ambulance Service

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During the 2010-2011 year, the Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville continued our relationship with the Ghana National Ambulance Service in working to improve access to and the quality of emergency care for the country's citizens. Dr. Ahmed Zakariah, the Director of the Ghana National Ambulance Service, spent 2 months in residence during late 2010 and we presented his experience in the poster presentation "EMS and Emergency Medicine Observation to Improve the Ghana Ambulance Service" at both the December 2010 Duval County Medical Society Poster and Abstract Session and the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville Advances in Education Poster Session during the April 2011 Medical Education Week.



At the request of the Ministry of Health/Ghana National Ambulance Service, I had the pleasure of travelling to Accra to tour the dispatch center and several ambulance stations as well as providing resuscita-

tion training for approximately 50 Emergency Medical Technicians in the Greater Accra Region. In the coming year, we plan to work to improve dispatch and treatment protocols. Emergency Medicine is in its infancy in Ghana; however, the recently formed African Federation for Emergency Medicine has chosen Ghana to host the first African Congress on Emergency Medicine in Accra in October 2012. I will join Dr. Zakariah as a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the congress.

Further, I continue to work with the twinning program linking Addis Ababa University and the Black Lion Specialty Hospital with the University of Wisconsin, People to People, Inc., and the American International Health Alliance to develop the first Emergency Medicine residency and Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship training programs in Ethiopia.

In addition to ongoing physician training, Emergency Nursing and Emergency Medical Technician expertise is being developed through this collaboration. Together, the working group plans to assist in the establishment of the first Ethiopian Emergency Medicine Society in the near future. The working group is also collecting data for quality improvement programs and other clinical research.

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