



Search...

Connect with Fogarty



Home About Fogarty Funding Opportunities Grants Management Global Health Resources Fogarty Programs News

Home > News > Global Health Matters > Global Health Matters Mar/Apr 2015 > Profile: Fogarty fellow Dr Rockefeller A Oteng studies trauma, injury in Ghana [Print](#)

- ▶ News Stories
- ▶ Global Health Matters Newsletter
- ▶ Funding News
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Webcasts
- ▶ Fact Sheets
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Making a Difference
- ▶ Viewpoints
- ▶ Manage Subscriptions

## Profile: Fogarty Fellow Dr Rockefeller Oteng studies trauma, injury in Ghana

March / April 2015 | Volume 14, Issue 2

▶ [Full March / April 2015 Global Health Matters newsletter \[PDF <1M\]](#)

By Cathy Kristiansen

Research wasn't part of his original career plan, but Dr. Rockefeller Oteng found he was lacking the skills to adequately measure the outcomes of his work. Part of a team in Ghana to train physicians and establish the country's first emergency medicine department, he discovered it was difficult to determine if they had actually improved patient outcomes over the first two years of the program.

Oteng was on assignment from the University of Michigan to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), where the paper medical record system was incomplete and patients received multiple identification numbers as they moved through the different hospital departments. Part of capacity building is being able to document there's a problem and that the solution you are proposing will help, he said. "As I grew as a clinician and as a global health worker, I realized I needed more of an understanding of clinical research and its effect and possible uses in my work."

After some thought, Oteng applied to Fogarty's [Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars](#) to venture into this new field. "For me, the Fogarty fellowship was that next step of learning how to do research, how to describe my thinking and how my discoveries could be translated to others."

Fogarty collaborates with many NIH Institutes, Centers and offices to provide one-year, mentored clinical research experiences overseas for postdoctoral Fellows and pre-doctoral Scholars, helping to foster the next generation of clinical investigators and to build global health partnerships between U.S. and other researchers and institutions. The [National Institute of General Medical Sciences \(NIGMS\)](#) supported Oteng's fellowship.

Oteng said without the fellowship, it would have been difficult to carve out time from his clinical and teaching work. But he flourished under the direction of two experienced mentors, Dr. Cheryl Moyer from his home institution and Dr. Charlie Mock from the University of Washington. His learning was well-structured, he recalled. For instance, Moyer assigned chapters from a research methods book and followed up with regular calls. "I would explain my interpretation and we would talk about how to apply those concepts to what I was doing," he said. "It was 'read and apply,' which for me is a super effective way to learn new material and absorb it and make it a part of my daily activities."

For his fellowship research project, Oteng tackled his question of how patient outcomes had changed because of the new emergency care department. He managed to locate and analyze records on 50 trauma patients and produced two recommendations: include more sepsis training in the curriculum, because it was a common diagnosis, and give patients only one identification number for all departments, so they are more easily tracked.

Frustrated by the paucity of data at the hospital, he obtained a supplemental grant to establish an emergency medicine research office in Ghana. That enabled him to create an electronic database, which now provides a searchable collection of patient information to better document treatment outcomes, spot trends and identify teaching topic priorities. Oteng recently submitted an NIH grant application to expand research training in the country. "The fellowship has paid multiple dividends," he observed.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Rockefeller Oteng

Dr. Rockefeller Oteng studied how patient outcomes had changed because of the new emergency care department at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana.

### Fogarty Fellow: Rockefeller A. Oteng, M.D.

- ▶ **Fogarty Fellow:**  
2013 - 2014
- ▶ **Fellowship at:**  
Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Ghana
- ▶ **U.S. organization:**  
University of Michigan
- ▶ **Research project:**  
Road traffic injuries and trauma outcomes
- ▶ Learn more about the [Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars](#)



Photo courtesy of Dr. Rockefeller Oteng

With the Fogarty fellowship Dr. Oteng was able to carve out time from his clinical and teaching work to focus on research.

said. "You're trained to be ready for anything, so that anytime, anyplace you can have a positive effect on what is happening."

### More Information

- Learn more about the [Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars](#).
- View more [profiles of Fogarty Fellows and Scholars](#).
- Access a collection of [trauma and injury information and resources](#) from Fogarty.

To view Adobe PDF files, [download current, free accessible plug-ins from Adobe's website](#).

Preventable deaths from injury, trauma or treatable infections are a heavy health burden throughout sub-Saharan Africa. It is Oteng's hope that the expertise developed in Ghana will be shared throughout the region. Some of the support comes from the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI), which is co-administered by Fogarty. A dozen African countries make up the MEPI network, which is designed to share expertise. "We're trying to build something that is respectful and sustainable," Oteng said. "It's difficult but it will create leaders who can go on to do incredible things, not only in their country, but for their neighbors."

Oteng was born in Ghana, but moved to the Washington, D.C. area when he was nine years old. Although he initially leaned toward journalism, he decided he could make more of a difference in people's lives as a doctor. "Emergency medicine became my definition of what a doctor is," he

#### About Fogarty

Mission and Vision  
 Role in Global Health  
 Strategic Plan  
 Director  
 Advisory Board  
 Organization and Staff

- Training and Research
- Science Policy, Planning and Evaluation
- Int'l Relations
- Epidemiology and Population
- Center for Global Health Studies

Budget  
 History  
 Funding Strategy  
 Employment  
 Passports and Visas  
 International Services

#### Funding Opportunities

Fogarty Funding Opportunities  
 Funding News  
 Trans-NIH Programs and Collaborations  
 Other NIH Funding Opportunities  
 Non-NIH Funding Opportunities  
 Travel Support Opportunities

#### Grants Management

Apply for a Grant  
 Foreign Grant Information  
 Manage an Existing Grant  
 Progress Reports  
 Partnership and Collaborations  
 Current Grants

#### Research Topics

All Research Topics  
 Bioethics  
 Chronic Diseases

- Cancer
- Diabetes

Climate Change  
 Deafness and communication disorders  
 Eye Disease  
 Implementation Science  
 Indoor Air Pollution  
 Infectious Diseases

- Ebola
- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Zika

Maternal and Child Health  
 Mobile Health  
 Neurological and Mental Disorders and Diseases  
 Oral and Dental Health  
 Preparedness  
 Trauma and Injury  
 Tobacco Control

#### Global Health Resources

Global Health at NIH  
 Global Health Careers  
 E-learning Resources  
 US Government Agencies  
 Foreign Governments  
 Nongovernmental Organizations  
 NIH Grants and Grantees  
 NIH Resources in Asian Languages  
 NIH Resources in Spanish / en Español

#### World Regions

East Asia and Pacific  
 Europe and EU  
 Middle East and North Africa  
 Russia, Eurasia and Arctic  
 South Asia  
 Sub-Saharan Africa  
 Western Hemisphere

#### Fogarty Programs

All Programs  
 African Association for Health Professions  
 Biodiversity (ICBG)  
 Bioethics  
 Bioinformatics  
 Brain Disorders  
 Chronic Diseases Research  
 Chronic Diseases Research Training  
 eCapacity  
 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID)  
 Emerging Epidemic Virus Research Training (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)  
 Emerging Global Leader  
 Fulbright-Fogarty Fellows and Scholars  
 GEOHealth  
 Global Health Fellows and Scholars  
 Global Infectious Diseases (GID)

Health-Professional Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI)  
 HIV/AIDS

- HIV Research Training
- AITRP
- Stigma HIV/AIDS

International Research Collaboration (FIRCA)  
 International Research Scientist Development (IRSDA)  
 Japanese Research Fellowships (JSPS)  
 Korean Biomedical Scientist Fellowship  
 Korean Visiting Scientists  
 Medical Education Partnerships (MEPI)  
 MEPI Junior Faculty  
 Mobile Health (mHealth)  
 New Foreign Investigators (GRIP)  
 Tobacco  
 Trauma and Injury

#### News

News Stories  
*Global Health Matters* Newsletter  
 Events  
 Webcasts  
 Fact Sheets  
 Publications  
 NIH International Representatives Committee  
 Making a Difference  
 Manage Subscriptions

*National Institutes of Health  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2220  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2220 USA*

National Institutes of Health - NIH...Turning Discovery into Health ®

[Email Alerts](#) | [Fogarty on Facebook](#) | [Fogarty on Twitter](#) | [Passports / Visas](#) | [Stone House](#) | [Donations](#) |

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Site Map](#) |