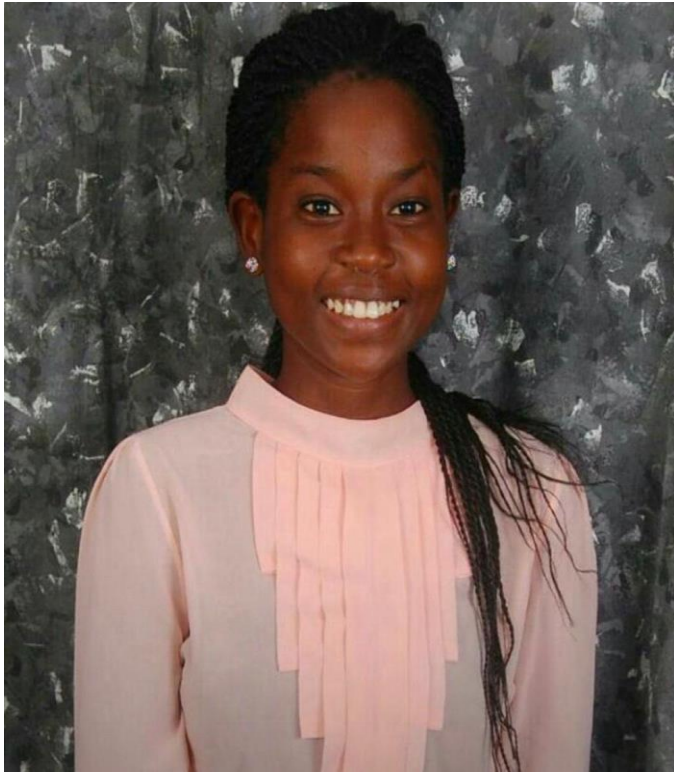


JOANA KORYO KWAO



My name is Joanna Koryo Kwao, and I pursued Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. Before I started my four-year programme, I knew I had to excel academically throughout the entire course of my study. A large part of this motivation was from Educational Pathways International (EPI). I had a strong desire to make the people who invested so much into my education proud. I have EPI to thank for the constant drive to work hard and be outstanding in my field of study. The lessons I received from our Program Director at our monthly meetings has greatly shaped my perspective on life and my career. These have enabled

me to be an all-round person, and I am deeply grateful for that.

Making a career choice required a lot of introspection and consideration of my personal interests and capabilities. A blend of my love for chemical science, the aspiration for an opportunity to explore and create—and my eagerness to help improve lives while pursuing the first two—helped shape my decision to go into pharmaceutical research and development. Although I hardly knew what it involved at that time, I was highly intrigued by the idea of “making drugs.” I chose to study Pharmacy— an applied science that involves the study of medicines right from discovery and development to compounding and dispensing — as the first step in reaching this goal.

My ultimate career goal is to work in the field of drug discovery and development and possibly academia. My undergraduate programme has given me the opportunity to explore relevant fields in this area, and I am considering further studies in Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology or Molecular Biology to help me reach that target. I also intend to enhance my creative writing and public speaking skills (what I learnt from our EPI meetings/workshops) to enable me to share my faith and knowledge, as well as to offer help and healing to others through art - mainly books, films and seminars.

I believe every person has a beautiful story to tell and a giant potential to impact lives. One thing I’ve realized is that most people in our part of the world rarely have the opportunity to tell their stories. I owe a lot the knowledge I’ve acquired to novels and non-fiction and on

occasion, movies that have been based on these books. One project I have in mind is to create an avenue that actively searches for creative young Ghanaians (specifically teenagers) who may be underprivileged. The aim of the outreach will be to help them explore and develop their talents to create stories (both fictional and non-fictional), artwork, music and movies. This will also include how to work more marketable and visible and eventually grant them the opportunity to be self-sufficient.

Words can hardly express my gratitude to EPI. I will always remember and be grateful for the critical role they played in this chapter of my life.