

DR. CYRIL XEDIDOR



My name is Cyril Oswin Yao Xedidor, a fresh graduate from the University of Ghana Medical School, Accra - Ghana, and a beneficiary of the Educational Pathways International (EPI) Scholarship, from my first year of study right till the end.

Looking back on my educational path, I marvel at how my childhood dream of becoming a Medical Doctor which once seemed unachievable because of dire family financial circumstances, was brought back within reach and now delivered safely into my hands through the timely and critical intervention of Educational Pathways International (EPI) scholarship.

This dream of becoming a Medical Doctor was birthed and shaped by a number of childhood experiences in a small village in the Volta Region of Ghana. From being one of those children my local people would call “sickly” because of how often I would fall sick in early childhood to seeing other people in my community struggle to access healthcare from the closest primary care health facility, which was 5 kilometres across an unmotorable road, an empathy was triggered which would later grow into an ambition. Till now, a recall of the troubles my family and other community folks, especially pregnant women and children went through in getting treatment for locally endemic ailments further reaffirms my resolve to be part of the solution to the healthcare needs of people in rural communities in Ghana.

My educational path was relatively smooth until high school when financial difficulties became a real hurdle for my family, and by the time I was ready to start university, my hopes of finishing Medical school were merely flickering flames in the wind because of foreseeable financial challenges.

The Educational Pathways International (EPI) scholarship therefore came through for me at a vital moment, after my family, with the help of our local church, had pulled together every available resource to pay my university admission fees.

Ever since I got on to the EPI scholarship, I experienced ease and freedom of mind to focus on my studies, knowing that my fees will be settled, my residential fees will be paid, and I will have enough to feed on and buy the recommended textbooks and learning materials. This greatly helped me to direct my energy into studying rather than worrying excessively over unpaid fees. Aside the financial burden that EPI lifted, I am particularly grateful for the

wonderful family of beneficiaries of the scholarship that I have joined, who are also high-flyers in their respective fields. They have continually inspired me to higher academic achievements and career goals.

I am also deeply thankful for the periodic personal development skills training and capacity building sessions that were organized for the beneficiaries of the scholarship in University of Ghana. These meetings equipped me with vital knowledge, skills and a competitive edge for the corporate world and life in general.

Through the mandatory long vacation internships, I engaged in as an EPI Scholarship beneficiary, I have learnt the spirit of volunteering and I now look forward to opportunities to freely give back to society.

These six years' journey through Medical School, though not without challenges, have been possible only through the help of Educational Pathways International, and I am deeply grateful for that. Having ended my undergraduate Medical training, I have a growing interest in Ophthalmology and Psychiatry and I sincerely hope to pursue one of these as specialties someday.

The bottom-line, for me, is that whichever area of Medical practice I eventually branch into, I have decided to be a diligent and responsible Medical Doctor who would help out my country and her people, especially in the rural areas.

Thank you, Educational Pathways International.