

## DR. ALHASSAN ISSAHAKU



My name is Alhassan Issahaku. I graduated from the University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale in the northern region of Ghana, in November 2023. I was a beneficiary of Educational Pathways International (EPI) Scholarship Program, which brought a lot of positive impact in my life in so many ways, including those as below;

Firstly, the scholarship program helped shape my academic performance. The main obstacle that hindered my studies was financial constraints, which made me do menial jobs to support myself while in school. After I was given the opportunity to become EPI scholar, the burden of having to fend for myself via petty jobs was lifted from me and I immediately began seeing improvement academically during my examinations and clinical

rotations. It helped move me from good to excellent grades scored across the various medical examinations.

Moreover, a lot of seminars were held by EPI, taking us, the beneficiaries, through topics that will help the students both in school and in the corporate world. These soft skills were comprehensively presented and understood by all scholars. One of the soft skills that has helped me greatly is public speaking. The Program Director of EPI made each beneficiary practice on Public Speaking during one of our seminars after she has taken us through this topic. I practiced and it helped me overcome stage fright and I can now speak to any group of people with confidence.

For this life changing opportunity from which I benefited, it is incumbent on me to give back to my community and Ghana at large, the equivalence of what EPI gave me in multiple folds.

Added to the above, I initially wanted to specialize in pulmonology during my preclinical years. However, when I reached clinical year at Tamale Teaching Hospital, I witnessed people who could be saved via surgery, dying from cases such as chronic liver disease then I developed special interest in transplant surgery. That is the area of specialty I wish to go into as part of my long time goals. With this, so many untimely deaths could be prevented in Ghana via organ transplantation.

More so, I would like to give back to my community by organizing regular health talks, health screening programs and treatment for the community. As much as I wish to contribute financially towards EPI program in the future, I would also like to help at least the brilliant but needy students in my community to acquire formal education to higher levels successfully.

In conclusion, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Educational Pathways International for making it possible for me to complete my medical education successfully. I

cannot forget to extend my gratitude also to the board of directors and all team members who run smoothly this wonderful scholarship program.

Thank you.