Obstetric Capacity Strengthening in Ghana Results in Wide Geographic Distribution and Retention of Certified Obstetrician-Gynecologists: A Quantitative Analysis

Melani Kekulawala[1], Ali Samba[2], Yael Braunschweig[1], Jacob Plange-Rhule[3], Cornelius Turpin[4], Timothy Johnson [5], and Frank Anderson[6]

[1]University of Michigan School of Public Health
[2]Korle Bu Teaching Hospital
[3]Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons
[4]Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital
[5]University of Michigan Michigan Medicine
[6]University of Michigan

September 25, 2021

Abstract

Objectives: Our primary objective to determine the cumulative retention of Ob/Gyns since the inception of the program, to determine the demographic and practice characteristics of all Ob/Gyns who have been trained by the Ghana postgraduate Ob/Gyn programs, and to compare the geographic distribution of Ob/Gyns throughout Ghana between 2010 when a prior study was conducted and the current practice locations of all graduates in 2017. Design: Cross-sectional, Quantitative Investigation Setting: Fieldwork for this study was conducted in Ghana between June 21, 2017, and August 20, 2017. Methods: A roster of certified Ob/Gyns, year certified, and email contact information was obtained from the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, a roster of practice locations was obtained from Ghana Medical Board. Main Outcome Measures: retention of Ob/Gyns, geographic distribution of providers, fand comparisons between 2010 and 2017 Results: Significant geographic spread and increase in in-country medical programs have occurred over the seven-year period. In recent years, the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons surpassed that of the West African College of Surgeons. Conclusion: Establishing an Ob/gyn training program with national certification provides a cadre of certified Ob/Gyns that can be trained and retained in low-income settings. Moreover, this allows for long term commitment in multiple relevant sectors that may serve to establish a comprehensive obstetric and gynecology capacity beyond urban centers.

Obstetric Capacity Strengthening in Ghana Results in Wide Geographic Distribution and Retention of Certified Obstetrician-Gynecologists: A Quantitative Analysis

Melani Kekulawala[1,2], Ali Samba[3], Yael Braunschweig[1,4], Jacob Plange-Rhule[5], Cornelius Turpin[6], Timothy R.B. Johnson[7], Frank W.J. Anderson*[1,7]

[1]University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education

[2]University of Toledo, College of Medicine and Life Sciences

[3]Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Ghana

[4]Department of Family Medicine, Stanford University

[5]Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons

1

[6]Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

[7]Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan

*Corresponding Author:

Frank W.J. Anderson

University of Michigan, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Address: 1540 E Hospital Drive, Ann Arbor, MI

Email: fwja@umich.edu

Phone: (734) 904-1852

Running Title: Obstetric Capacity Strengthening in Ghana

Hosted file

`Main Body.docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/436918/articles/538918-obstetric-capacity-strengthening-in-ghana-results-in-wide-geographic-distribution-and-retention-of-certified-obstetrician-gynecologists-a-quantitative-analysis

Hosted file

`Table.docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/436918/articles/538918-obstetric-capacity-strengthening-in-ghana-results-in-wide-geographic-distribution-and-retention-of-certified-obstetrician-gynecologists-a-quantitative-analysis

Hosted file

`Figure 1.docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/436918/articles/538918-obstetric-capacity-strengthening-in-ghana-results-in-wide-geographic-distribution-and-retention-of-certified-obstetrician-gynecologists-a-quantitative-analysis

Hosted file

`Figure 2_landscape .docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/436918/articles/538918-obstetric-capacity-strengthening-in-ghana-results-in-wide-geographic-distribution-and-retention-of-certified-obstetrician-gynecologists-a-quantitative-analysis