Chike Achudume

EAP 508

**MULTIDISCIPLNARY COLLOQUIUM PROJECT**

**CURIOSITY PAPER ON GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**

I am INTO-MASON program and my major is Global and community health master’s program.

I have been passionate about health issues from the community level up to the global arena, from my undergraduate qualification as a doctor of Optometry and now taking up this Master’s program in Global and community Health. How irreversible blindness like Glaucoma can be prevented with early detection, communicable diseases spread from the creeks in a small community to poise global threat.

Global and community health program transcends health policy making, health systems, community health and epidemiology from the community to a global arena. (C.Hsiao, 2003) Getting this degree will broaden my scope and knowledge to be able to conduct research within the global health arena to be able to draft health policies especially in my country Nigeria.

It’s shocking how the world woke up in 2014 to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak where Sierra-Loane was the epicenter of the disease causing a wide spread to neighboring Guinea and Liberia and about to cause a worldwide spread if not for the timely intervention of Global Health experts and other health institutions. Going through past activities and seminar from my departmental website, Global health students organized a flash seminar to teach George Mason University community about the disease from 6th to 10th November, 2014. It was a great public health educational event which featured Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, epidemiologist and researcher who answered student questions. This act of creating awareness and public education on disease is very imminent to Global health. Global health experts have a key role in situations such as the EVD case in West Africa to determine the best approach to curb such outbreaks.

If given the opportunity, one scholar I would like to work with in my field will be Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen. I admire her scholarly research efforts and due to the fact that she has done field research in Sierra-Loane. I can explore from her expertise and thus when I return back home we can conduct research together in West Africa and beyond to serve humanity better.

Since 2009 when the first Bomb blast went off in Abuja the capital of Nigeria, There has been series of more blast and terrorist activities in my country. This bombing and killings is mainly in the Northeast region and has caused a lot of internally displaced people in this region and over the borders of Niger, chad and Cameroon. This internally displaced and refugees in their beloved country has a lot of health issues and the Government is not doing enough substantially to improve the health condition of this people. For these reasons, I have carefully made my plan of study to include elective courses in Environmental health, Global health issues related to violence and Refugee.

After successful graduation from my masters in Global and Community Health program, I hope to establish my career back in my country Nigeria. I hope to get a government employment in the Ministry of Health, and precisely Department of public health and can contribute my skills and knowledge in drafting health policies that can help restore the systemic health problem in Nigeria and other West Africa countries. I hope to conduct independent researches in Africa with my personal funding and hopefully get support from Non-Governmental Organization. The health care system in my country needs a total overhauling and can only be possible by having expertise in all aspect of the health system.

Global health is research based and full of new trends, new disease cases and article reports are been updated on a monthly to yearly bases. Trends like communicable and non-communicable diseases, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Malaria, Ebola virus disease (EVD) and so many others. Global organizations like the World Health Organization, United Nations children’s fund (UNICEF) have been on the frontline in finding ways for the world to be a better and healthier place to live in. With Ebola virus disease given so much priority attention in 2014, there was more death from malaria last year than the EVD. Although the EVD is more likely to spread since it’s a communicable disease, malaria is most compelling to me because malaria caused more death in 2013 than the EVD and 90% of all malaria death occurred in Africa. (WHO, Flat sheet on the world malaria report, 2014)

I’d like to learn and research about malaria because it’s one the leading causes of death in Africa and all intervention and effort to curb this menace has not been effective as expected.

The World Health Organization did set up The Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) in 2011 to provide independent strategic advice on developing policy recommendations on malaria control and elimination. (WHO, Malaria policy advisory committee, 2011). Malaria is a Global issue and calls for continue research in finding lasting solution to it like developing a vaccine against the parasite because of its growing resistance to anti-malaria drugs. Global and community health program has a key role to play in malaria control from prevention to research on the prevalence of the disease.

# References

C.Hsiao, W. (2003). *What is health care system? Why should we care?* Retrieved from http://lingli.ccer.edu.cn/ahe2012/%5CWeek3%5CHsaio2003.pdf

WHO. (2011). *Malaria policy advisory committee*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/malaria/mpac/en/ MPAC

WHO. (2014). *Flat sheet on the world malaria report*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/malaria/media/world\_malaria\_report\_2014/en/