

Ohio State Medicine .
alumni

summer 2015



Global Health Edition

OSU GLOBAL HEALTH OFFICE
MAKES IT POSSIBLE p. 3



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

COLUMBUS FREE CLINIC:
GOOD FOR COMMUNITY &
MEDICAL STUDENTS p. 12

Speaking Up and Speaking Out: International Conversations Include College of Medicine Alumna



J. Nwando Olayiwola
Class of '01

“Over the years, I’ve become increasingly invested in strengthening the primary care delivery system for more vulnerable populations in the United States, including religious, sexual, racial/ethnic, cultural, and other minorities,” says J. Nwando Olayiwola (nee Onyejekwe), MD ’01, MPH, CPE, FAAFP.

When she was nominated for the German Marshall Fund’s Marshall Memorial Fellowship, Dr. Olayiwola, who is the associate director of the Center for Excellence in Primary Care, and assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), was delighted.

She knew that – by participating in multi-professional, multi-sector conversations on a global basis – she

could explore how primary care is successfully delivered in international settings. And, she could better understand the challenges that exist, with the goal of learning about procedures, policies and infrastructures that might be replicated as effective solutions to health care disparities in the United States.

“With so much migration in European countries, I wanted to learn how the healthcare and social services needs of new immigrants and first-generation families are adequately met,” explains Dr. Olayiwola. “In addition, because first- and second-generation immigrants are often marginalized, an exploration of public policy issues to achieve health equity was of interest to me.”

After completing orientation in Washington DC, dialogue and a visit to significant international institutions such as the European Union, the European Commission, NATO and others in Brussels, Belgium, Dr. Olayiwola and her 14 American co-fellows set off to visit

four other countries over a four-week period. Hosted by GMF city coordinators in Copenhagen, Denmark; Bilbao, Spain; Sarajevo, Bosnia; and Paris, France, Dr. Olayiwola had meetings, briefings and individual appointments with a mix of political and ministerial officials, non-governmental organizations, as well as senior-level officials of education, health, labor and other sectors.

“One of the common threads in how these countries provide for their underserved populations – whether it be indigenous Basque communities in Spain, refugees in Bosnia, or Senegalese immigrants in France – is that health care is seen as a fundamental right for all. While each nation had its own set of challenges in realizing this core philosophy, I learned so much about the implications of ‘Health in all Policies’ and inter-sectorial cohesion. For example, transportation policy has very discrete relationships to health policy, but it’s not a connection we naturally make. Therefore we must collaborate and recognize how interconnected we all are,” she says.

The German Marshall Fund (GMF) was founded in 1972 by Germany as a memorial to Marshall Plan assistance. The Marshall Memorial Fellowship has introduced a generation of European leaders to the United States and was expanded in 1999 to send emerging U.S. leaders to Europe. Each year, 75 U.S. Fellowships are awarded to the best and brightest from all sectors, including business, government and civil society (www.gmfus.org).



Dr. Olayiwola (third from left) joins other Marshall Memorial Fellows, using their usual mode of transportation in Copenhagen.