



# ENSIGN

Academic  
NEWSLETTER  
Vol 1 Mar 2018

## Kenneth R. Young Memorial Scholarship Application!

The Young family has made a generous donation to support three Ensign MPH students.

The award is in memory of a father and grandfather who never had the opportunity to attend a university. The Young Family will be extending three scholarships of GH¢2,250 each to selected students of the Ensign College of Public Health.

Application forms have been distributed and are available upon request through Rita Gyamera.

Students in both cohorts are eligible. Applications should be submitted to [info@ensign.edu.gh](mailto:info@ensign.edu.gh) by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.



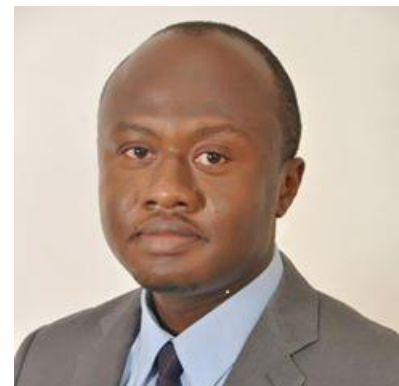
Professor Alder addresses questions from students and staff in a February Town Hall meeting.

## Dr. Edward Sutherland Joins Ensign Faculty

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Edward Kofi Sutherland, MD, MPH has joined the full time faculty at Ensign. He is a medical practitioner and a full time lecturer at the College. He graduated from a top medical university in the Russian Federation (I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University) on a full scholarship award and earned a degree in general medical practice. Dr. Sutherland has healthcare experience in Ghana and Russia and exposure to health systems in the U.K. and U.S.A. He earned his MPH in the maiden class of Ensign students. Dr. Sutherland's primary focus is on the study of the epidemiological transition trend from acute infectious diseases to chronic diseases such cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and HIV/AIDS in populations; particularly in developing countries. He is also interested in factors influencing global and community health trends; the critique and understanding of health systems as well as the engineering of sustainable strategic partnerships between governments and non-governmental organizations towards the achievement of health equity.

He is passionate about evolving health technologies both diagnostic and curative and is bridging the gaps of innovative medical scientific technologies and scientific knowledge between privileged populations and underserved populations.

He serves as the Medical Director at Ensign and oversees activities of the University of Utah Center for Global Surgeries in Ghana and West Africa. Dr. Sutherland is also Clinical Advisor for the "Health 2 Go" project in the Lower Manya Krobo Municipality in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Please join us in giving him a give him a warm welcome.





## E-GRASAG

### Appeal for donations for outreach groups

Since the inception of Ensign College of Public Health, the school has been engaging various communities within its catchment areas, assisting them with health products and information to help reduce the disease burden on the communities involved and the nation as a whole.

Students of Ensign College of Public Health have recognized the need to follow the footsteps of the school authorities by engaging the citizenry in making Ghanaians healthier and stronger.

It is on this note that the Graduate Students Association of Ghana (GRASAG), Ensign College of Public Health Chapter humbly appeal to all well meaning people (home and abroad) to donate towards this worthy cause.

Your donations can be in terms of cash or drugs (hypertensive or diabetic drugs for all ages). All donations are expected to reach the recipients by first week in July, 2018.

Send your donations to ENSIGN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, KPONG, ATTN E-GRASAG or call 0243332722.

Some hard to reach communities in the Eastern Region will benefit from your donations.

God richly bless you as you decide to donate.

E-GRASAG seized the opportunity to thank all those who have donated clothes or drugs. Special thanks goes to Mr. Richard Odor, C.E.O. of TOP UP PHARMACY LTD TEMA for his kind donations. God bless you. To my colleagues who have donated one item or the other, I say more grease to your elbows. Together we will get there.

Charles Mereku  
(E-GRASAG PRESIDENT)

## Why my interest in health and nutrition

Ten years ago, a young lady of 39 years used to complain of malaria to her younger brother every now and then. One day, her younger brother decided to take her to the hospital for proper diagnosis and possible treatment. In deed, the lady was diagnosed of having gout and was given medications to come back for a review in two week.

Three days after, the lady informed her brother that their mother in the village wanted to see her. When the lady got to the village, their mother informed her that the condition was spiritual and not medical.

Eventually, the young lady died of kidney failure and liver malfunctioning after spending several weeks at a prayer camp.

This lady I talked about was my elder sister and her mother is my mother. I believe, there may be other parents who may also take simple medical conditions for spiritual problems.

I also believe that man must not have everything before extending a helping hand to a brother. Hence my resolve to advocate for support for the needy.

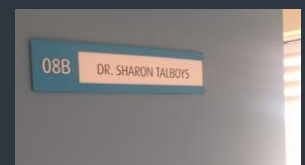
~ Charles Mereku

Ensign  
Graduate  
Student  
Association of  
Ghana  
E-GRASAG

Stay tuned for information on elections for the 2018-2019 officers!

Noticed the new signs on campus?

We are grateful to Mr. Amakye and team for adding signage all around campus. There is now no excuse to not find your lecturer's office!



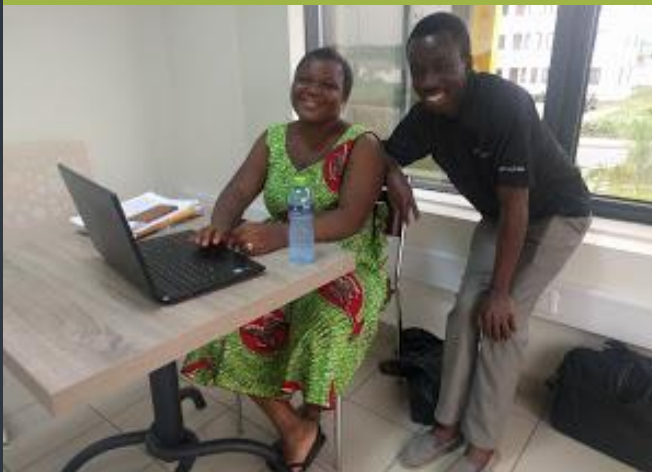
## Academic Board Meeting Held March 7, 2018

Chaired by our President, Professor Stephen Alder, attendees included all academic staff, Ensign's KNUST affiliate representative, and the Ensign GRASAC rep. The meeting covered academics, the University of Utah Extended Program, new faculty and faculty turnover, Board of Governor approvals, and approval of external examiners. The student rep raised a few issues leading to this discussion:

Access to Turn-it-in: Turn-it-in is a software to detect plagiarism. It is not available at this time to students. Students are encouraged to use good academic practice in order to avoid plagiarism.

Student concerns about the course/faculty evaluations: The college is taking steps to assure anonymity to evaluations and they are not mandatory. However, students should know that evaluations are important for improving teaching and learning at Ensign.

Student inquiries about faculty qualifications: The KNUST rep and Prof. Alder clarified that a PhD is not a requirement for tertiary institution. A terminal degree such as a PhD or MD or JD or Dr.PH are all acceptable.



Pearl Dzebu and Kofi Bondah, second year MPH students coordinate Breast Cancer awareness volunteer event

### Thesis Research Scholarship

The deadline for applications has closed and the scholarship committee has completed their review on Tuesday March 20th. Notice of awards will be made shortly.



ECOPH students and faculty at Breast Cancer Awareness float in Kpong. October 2017

### Send us your photos!

Please send photos of your field experiences so we can capture for use in commencement and other campus materials. **We love to see our students in action!**

## Thesis Corner

Second year students will return for progress reporting and data analysis workshop:

Saturday 24 March, 2018

### THESIS TIMELINE

**Notice of Intent to submit thesis**

Due Now

**Progress reports & Analysis**

24 March

**Final Submission to School**

26 April

**Theses sent for external review**

30 April

**Thesis returned with comments**

11 May

**Thesis Defense**

22 May

**Thesis Ratification by KNUST**

Mid June

**Posters for display at graduation**

Mid June



Dr. Manortey teaches biostatistics. March, 2018

## Administrative Updates

**Substantive Head and Academic Registrar:** Ensign now has a substantive Head, Prof. Stephen C Alder and a substantive Academic Registrar, Mr. Patrick Kuma. These appointments were ratified by the Board of Governors in December 2017.

**Accreditation:** The Ensign College of Public Health is currently in an on-going review status for re-accreditation by the National Accreditation Board (NAB). Concerns were expressed by students last semester about Ensign's "expired" status on the NAB website. The NAB has changed that status to "on-going" in an acknowledgement that our institution has submitted our reaccreditation application as is in review. The NAB has experienced a back log of applications and is working to catch up on this matter. We had a fruitful site visit on campus in January by the NAB and we are hopeful they will soon be able to make a positive determination.

**Student Handbook:** The student Handbook was recently updated by the administration and ratified by the Board of Governors. Please find attached and on the ECOPH Website.

**ECOPH Statutes:** The statutes for our organization were recently updated by the administration and ratified by the Board of Governors. Please find attached and on the ECOPH Website.

**Updated Academic Calendar:** The academic calendar, particularly the second semester (Jan – July 2018) has been updated and is included in the Student Handbook. Most notably – a clarification of an Easter break from classes the week of March 26 – 31 and shifting of thesis dates by two weeks. These are due to the college on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the new defense date is March 22, 2018.

**Univeristy of Utah Extended Program:** All documentation has been submitted to the NAB and we are hopeful for a decision in the near future. Our hope is to be able to announce and recruit for a new MPH degree program that culminates with a University of Utah diploma. Please stay tuned.

Ensign student to present mental health research in Utah

Please congratulate Eric Wormenor (first year MPH) on his abstract being chosen for a podium presentation at the Utah Public Health Association on April 12<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City.

[www.upha.org/conference](http://www.upha.org/conference)





Dr. Talboys, Editor

Head of Academic Program

## Contribute to the Newsletter!

It is my pleasure to bring this inaugural newsletter to celebrate all the great academic work at Ensign. We would like to highlight student and alumni work and celebrate successes! I invite others to contribute.

I will entertain offers for guest editors so I can be Editor in Brief, not Editor in Chief!

Send us your stories and photos to

[infor@ensign.edu.gh](mailto:infor@ensign.edu.gh)

attn: NEWSLETTER

Share your:

- Jobs/Promotions
- Honors/Awards
- Publications
- Weddings
- Births
- And other big events!

## Upcoming Events

### Health 2 Go – Community-Based Agent Training April 16-21

Thirty new recruits from Kumasi area will be trained to become community based agents. These lay health workers are essential for preventable childhood illnesses like malaria, malnutrition, diarrhea, and infections.

### Academic Board Meeting – May 23, 2018

This will be the final academic board meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year and will include ratification of these.

### Ensign College of Public Health Commencement – Saturday July 14, 2018

Invite your families and friends for this joyous event.

### Save the Date! Extreme Affordability (XF) Impacting Health through Collaboration and Innovation – July 8-10

Ensign will host this exciting global health conference which should attract an international audience from across the region and the U.S. Pricing and discounts for Ensign students is forthcoming.

## Extreme Affordability: West Africa



The University of Utah, with the Ensign College of Public Health (ECOPH), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and IntraHealth International, is sponsoring the 2018 Extreme Affordability Global: West Africa Conference- *Impacting Health through Collaboration and Innovation*

<http://uofuhealth.utah.edu/globalhealth/extreme-affordability-2018/>