

## Conference Follow-Up Letter

February 21, 2014

Dear colleagues,

Many thanks for participating in the 1000+ OBGYN meeting held in Accra, Ghana on Feb 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons Campus. Your great presentations, networking, group “worksheet” work, and especially your presence and engagement created a 3.5 day meeting that we will never forget. Special thanks to Elevate for the productive hypertensive disease course and curriculum development session on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

This gathering generated tremendous enthusiasm for creating capacity in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Sub-Saharan Africa among the major universities, governmental representatives, educational initiatives, specialty organizations, and professional societies.

From our perspective the major elements of departmental development that emerged from this meeting are:

1. Authentic Partnership including gender and age consideration
2. Infrastructure
3. Curriculum Development
4. Faculty Development in both academic and clinical roles
5. Community and Midwifery outreach, district hospital development and involvement, deployment and working closely with Ministries of Health, Education and Finance and any other relevant ministries
6. Research to improve clinical outcomes in country
7. Monitoring and Evaluation for community/population/public health outcomes
8. Quality Improvement
9. Certification
10. Involvement with Professional societies
11. Need for Funding and Support

From the meeting, it is clear that a global consortium of academic OBGYN departments is now in the formation process. It should therefore be possible to continue to seek funding to further consolidate and grow the group. We will use the plenary materials, discussions, and submitted plans to extract the major themes from each of the major elements and provide this information in an easy-to-access online forum. We are confident that we will all meet again in a similar forum soon.

A council of professional societies and specialty organizations to provide curricular and training support is also forming to support capacity building. Our African colleagues should also consider ways to engage African OBGYNs in this effort.

Thank you again for your inspiring work! We all inspired each other and created momentum towards eliminating the critical gap in Obstetrics and Gynecology in many Sub-Saharan African countries.

With our consolidated efforts, we will help reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, and correct the gross inequities that will persist unless we act.

Let's get to work!

*Frank J. Oluon* *Kwabena*

Frank and Kwabena