Recipient of Dr. Chirag Shah International Resident Award

Congratulations to:

2019 - 2020

Postgraduate Medical Education is pleased to announce the Dr. Chirag Shah International Resident award recipient for 2019-2020. The $2,000 award was established in 2012 by Dr. Shah to assist international medical graduates who are adjusting to life in Canada and to inspire them to give back to their community and contribute to making Canada a better place.

PGME is proud to announce that Dr. Oluseyi Akinola, a PGY2 in Family Medicine is the 2019 recipient of the Dr. Chirag Shah International Resident Award. The $2,000 award was established in 2012 by Dr. Shah to assist international medical graduates who are adjusting to life in Canada and to inspire them to give back to their community and contribute to making Canada a better place.

Dr. Akinola was born in Western Nigeria and after completing her medical training in the Netherlands she volunteered in northern Nigeria where “the population is predominantly Moslem and the Boko Haram Crisis has resulted in internally displaced camps for citizens caught in a religious and political war. The ones who bore the most burden of suffering were the children and women. Many of them victims of rape and various forms of abuse, both physical and mental. It was a personal challenge for me every time I encountered a new patient there, trying to treat their physical ailment, at the same time wanting to unravel the mystery behind eyes pooled with pain.” This experience led Dr. Akinola to develop her own Non-Governmental Organization “Building this Generation”.

Dr. Akinola returned to practice in Lagos and was able to raise enough money to annually return to the camps to offer her services. “I succeeded in shipping books to makeshift libraries so that the children could dream outside their current reality and started some skills acquisition for the women including sewing, making neck beads as well as baking, all of which were aimed at mental health therapies. In these circles, they forgot their pain and chatted about the future, sometimes mentioning some of the trauma they endured.”

Today, Dr. Akinola continues her work with the underserved and her NGO “Building this Generation” has remained a priority for her. She is using the $2,000 award to “identify and improve some health indices in the Internal Displaced Camps of northern Nigeria, a direct result of the Boko Haram crisis as well as promoting better mental health, both in Nigeria and Calgary, while working with refugee kids as well as victims of addiction, thus promoting health equity and bridging that gap.”
Past Award Recipients:

2018-2019 - Dr. Navdeep Dehar (Internal Medicine)
2017-2018 - Dr. Sidra Javed (Internal Medicine)
2016-2017 - Dr. Maria Espinoza (Pediatrics)
2015-2016 - Dr Hassan Azhari (Internal Medicine) and Dr Syeda Ruqaiya Abbas (Pediatrics)
2014-2015 - Dr Archana Vijay (Internal Medicine) and Dr Liena Zhao (Anatomical Pathology)
2013-2014 - Dr Sumathili Raja (Family Medicine) and Dr Wenqian Chen (Anatomical Pathology)
2012-2013 - Dr Ayesha Nasir Rahim (Family Medicine)