

Student Spotlight- Felix Ansah, MD



- 1. Tell us about yourself:** I was born in Kumasi, Ghana. I completed my medical education at Lugansk State Medical University in the Ukraine. I speak English, Russian and Twi. I know a little bit of Ukrainian and can speak two more local dialects from Ghana (Brong and Fante). I moved to the United States in 2012, where I have been working with pharmaceutical companies and preparing myself for my medical license in the United States. In 2014, I enrolled for the United States Navy basic training and I realized later that year that there are many lives out there to save. For example, being a medical doctor does not have to restrict me to only care for patients who come to the hospital. In fact, I wanted to be involved with the patients who did not or could not visit hospitals or clinics due to their socio-economic background, the availability of clinics, the awareness of medical intervention or their beliefs in the health care system that prevents them from receiving medical intervention. Public health allows me to apply my medical knowledge and educate the world's populations that have been left behind.

- 2. What do you like about public health?** The ability to educate the public and the world about a disease, an outbreak or an emergency and the measures we can all take to save one another. The world is a bigger place, but we kind of depend on one another to be healthy.
- 3. Why are you interested in the field of emergency preparedness and response?** In everyday life there are risks and emergencies and accidents happen. The awareness of the environment, been prepared and ready to reduce casualties, damages and the public health impact during emergencies is what motivates me. I want to help save the innocent and the weak.
- 4. Can you describe a project or experience that helped you in making a decision to pursue a career in this particular field?** One Health Program. I am more interested in working for international organization like UN, WHO, UNICEF or any related field.
- 5. Who do you consider to be vulnerable populations and why?** Residents of the Urban Slum and remote areas in developing countries
- 6. What is a current emergency or disaster that you believe is critical to address?** Covid-19
- 7. How do you handle stress and pressure?** I am barely stressed, but if I am, I try to find the root cause of the stress and pressure in order to prevent their occurrence in the future.
- 8. If you could cure a disease which would it be and why?** Incurable blindness. Life is beautiful and I wish everyone had the chance to see how the sun rises and sets even if it's only for a day.
- 9. Who is your favorite public health figure and why?** David Satcher, due to the work he's done on Social Determinants of Health especially with vulnerable populations.
- 10. What is next for you after you complete your MPH degree?** I would like to pursue a PhD.