

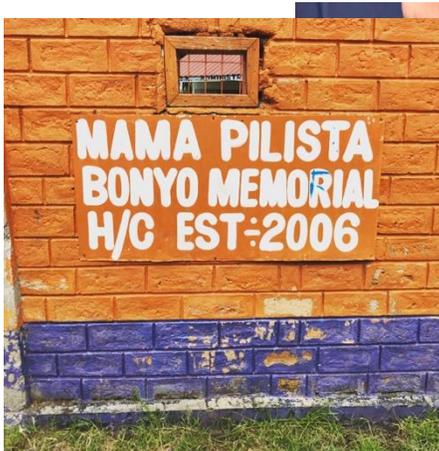
Kenya
2019



It's hard to put in to words an experience as vast as a global health rotation.

First off, I feel so lucky to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Bonyo and the rest of the medical staff at the Mama Pilista Clinic in Kenya. Dr. Bonyo

grew up in a rural area of Kenya where he lost his sister due to



inadequate access to health care. He had a dream that his neighbors and loved ones would never have to go through these horrible losses; he wanted to go to school and become a doctor. He worked extremely hard and was accepted in to a medical school in the United States. He fulfilled his dream and built a clinic in the rural area he grew up in, and named it after his mother “The Mama Pilista Clinic”. Dr. Bonyo still practices medicine in the United States and travels back to Kenya multiple times per year to practice in his clinic as well. His clinic has a full medical staff and sees patients year round providing vaccinations, preventative health care, inpatient care, diagnostic lab tests, and a birthing center. Dr. Bonyo and his staff are partnered with attendings and medical students in the US to allow for an amazing global health experience.

I think it’s important to know the background of any organization you work with, particularly when it comes to global medicine. My experience with Bonyo’s Kenya Mission taught me just how important and powerful the ideals of “sustainability” and “partnership” can be in global health care. The community seen at the clinic now has access to health care year round and has follow up care after they are seen by an American attending or student, or a Kenyan health care provider.

The partnership Dr. Bonyo has built also allows for connection and problem solving between health care providers. It was incredible to do rounds and talk through patient problems with the medical staff at the clinic and the attendings from the US. With their help I was able to diagnose and treat first-hand, diseases we rarely see in the United states such as malaria, typhoid, parasitic infections, fungal infections and so much more. I got to witness the birth of a healthy baby boy, after his mother had walked in the heat and humidity to the clinic, and was already 6 cm dilated on arrival. They also taught me how to give joint injections which are extremely common in this patient population due to the high incidence of osteoarthritis’s from many years of farming and working in the rice fields.

I am in awe of the kindness of Dr. Bonyo, and our patients, to welcome us in to their community and their home. I am continually amazed by the capacity of the human body to heal and the openness for love and human connection that can be shared by individuals who grew up half way across the world from each other. I will never forget the patients I saw during my time in Kenya and the impact they had on my life and my future medical career. I hope I gave them even a fraction of what they gave to me. Working in health care is such an amazing privilege.

Kalee Morris, OMS III
KCUMB