

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph Ernest de Graft-Johnson

ADDRESS

Business

Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRIMARY AREAS OF EXPERTISE: *Maternal and newborn health, child survival, Quality Assurance for Health Services, Community Mobilization, HIV/AIDS/STI, family planning, Program Design, M&E, BCC, Epidemiology and Research, Management.*

Key Qualifications & Technical Areas of Expertise

Dr. de Graft-Johnson has worked in international community mobilization and public health for over 20 years in Africa, South East Asia and the Caribbean. He currently works for Save the Children as a Senior Maternal and Newborn Health Advisor and serves as the Team Leader for Newborn and Community Health on the USAID global maternal, newborn and child health flagship program, MCHIP. The program works to scale-up use of proven maternal, newborn and child health interventions in developing countries with a primary focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. Prior to joining MCHIP, he served as the Community Interventions Specialist on the USAID global maternal and newborn health flagship program, ACCESS Program. Joseph also served as Save the Children's Regional Health Advisor for Africa based in South Africa, applying his in-depth knowledge of public health systems and expertise in program design, and providing technical assistance to Field Offices in safe motherhood, newborn health, child survival, community-based HIV/AIDS/STI activities, school-based HIV/AIDS activities, facility- and community-based family planning services, health systems strengthening, and adolescent health activities in projects in Africa. From 2001, as part of his regional responsibilities for Save the Children, Joseph was appointed the Africa Regional Newborn Health Advisor on the Bill Gates funded Saving Newborn Lives Project. Joseph is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Maternal and Child Health Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Graft-Johnson takes a broad skill-based approach to quality improvement and on the use of qualitative and quantitative methods in program development and implementation and public health. He conducted research on contraceptive use, determinants of infant mortality, and the existing impact of AIDS on child survival and maternal morbidity and mortality. He developed innovative approaches while working with the Ghana Traditional Birth Attendants Project that was designed to evaluate the impact of TBA training on the health of mothers and newborns. He was a principal investigator on a study in Mali on presumptive intermittent treatment (IPT) of pregnant women for malaria, assessing the most appropriate way to provide treatment in the community.

Dr. Graft-Johnson's in-depth knowledge in public health began in Ghana as a Medical Officer at a number of hospitals where he managed clinical care for medical, obstetric, gynecologic, pediatric and surgical patients. He provided family planning services, prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum/postnatal care, health education and child welfare outreach services during that time. As Postdoctoral Assistant Medical Director of Policy and Research Utilization Division of Family Health International, he provided technical assistance in reproductive health in Africa and the Caribbean. He speaks English fluently and French at an intermediate level. Dr. de Graft-Johnson has spent both his professional and personal lives working with communities to enhance quality maternal and neonatal services.

Education

Dr. PH UNC at Chapel Hill, Maternal and Child Health, Chapel Hill, NC, 1989.
MPH UNC at Chapel Hill, Maternal and Child Health, Chapel Hill, NC, 1994.
MB.chB (MD) University of Science and Technology, Medicine, Kumasi, Ghana, 1983.
B.Sc. University of Science and Technology, Human Biology, Kumasi, Ghana, 1979.

Additional Professional Training

Participated in workshop that developed effective BCC strategies organized by USAID in South Africa in February 2002.

Participated in training in Population and Health Research at the Carolina Population Center, as a predoctoral trainee, from 1990 to 1991.

Participated in training/internship on adapting family planning and child survival research papers into brief policy papers so that findings are easily accessible to decision makers. This was organized by the Population Reference Bureau and held in Washington, DC, June 1989.

American Public Health Association (member) 1991- present
Population Association of America (member) 1991- present
Ghana Medical Association (member) 1983-present

Experience Record

Team Leader, Newborn Health, Maternal and Child Health Integrated program (MCHIP), Save the Children Federation, Inc., Washington DC, Oct 2008-present.

Responsible for leading the newborn health team in providing technical assistance to scale-up proven newborn interventions including essential newborn care, neonatal resuscitation, care of premature/low birth weight babies and the management of neonatal infections both at facility and community levels. MCHIP works in over 25 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and Caribbean regions.

Community Interventions Technical Advisor, Save the Children Federation, Inc., Baltimore, Oct 2004-2008. Responsible for providing technical and managerial assistance on community interventions and selected clinical activities to a USAID funded global maternal and newborn project, ACCESS. This is a global project with the mandate to scale-up evidence-based essential maternal and newborn interventions with the goal of assisting developing countries to attain their set MDGs 4 and 5.

Regional Health Advisor for Africa, Save the Children Federation, Inc., South Africa, Nov. 1999-Sept 2004. Responsible for providing technical and managerial assistance to health programs in SC's Africa Field offices. These include newborn health and child survival activities, community-based HIV/AIDS/STI activities, school-based HIV/AIDS activities, facility-based and community-based family planning services, health systems strengthening and adolescent reproductive health activities. Provide technical assistance ranging from proposal writing to monitoring and evaluation. He provides supportive supervision to all Health Program Managers/Advisors in the SC's field offices in sub-Saharan Africa.

Senior Health Program Manager, Save the Children Federation, Inc., Malawi, 1997-99. Management of all SC health programs in Malawi including proposal writing, implementation, and technical assistance to our partners (Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women, Youth and Community Services and the Muslim Association of Malawi), planning, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, data analysis, report writing and supervision of operations research projects. Management of grants from various donors including USAID, UNICEF, World AIDS Foundation and private foundations. Health programs include strengthening maternal and child health including family planning services, improving the quality of primary health care services at the district level, operation research on breastfeeding, empowering women through literacy and small business skills training, empowering youth to live healthier lives through health education on RH issues, life skills training, apprenticeships, internships, management, capacity-building and youth organizations networking. Provided technical assistance to the school health and nutrition program for mass treatment of intestinal worms and bilharzia, micronutrient supplementation, life skills training, demonstration gardens, and physical examinations in primary schools. All the four (4) health project coordinators in Malawi reported directly to him.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Evaluation Project, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1996-97. Analysis of secondary data, report writing and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students at the Center.

Postdoctoral Assistant Medical Director, Policy and Research Utilization Division, Family Health International, 1994-97. Provided technical assistance on RH to developing countries, primarily in Africa and the Caribbean. Conducted research on maternal mortality and morbidity. Proposal writing, expert speaker on contraceptive and related RH issues.

Graduate Assistant, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993-1994. Taught students in Public Health Planning and Evaluation on the use of qualitative and quantitative methods in program planning. Provided guidance to three groups of students in the development of health program planning and evaluation in Ghana on: maternal mortality, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and family planning.

Senior Medical Officer in-charge of Public Health, Brong-Ahafo region, Ghana, 1992-93.

Administrative responsibility for all public health activities in the region. Training of technical support staff of the regional Ministry of Health. Provided health care services including emergency obstetric and newborn care, and family planning at the regional hospital.

Conducted Maternal Morbidity Survey in Bosomtwe-Atwima-Kwanwoma District, 1992-93. The survey researched pregnancy complications and research was used for doctoral dissertation.

Research Assistant for Dr. Milton Kotelchuck, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of North Carolina, 1991-92. Management and analysis of the Healthy Baby Boston Project using SAS software.

Research Assistant for Dr. Amy Tsui, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina, 1989-90. Assisted with research on contraceptive use, and determinants of infant mortality. Analyzed Ghana DHS data using the SAS software, and Sri Lanka data on pregnancy avoidance.

Research Assistant, International Projects Assistance Services, 1988-89. Developed health educational teaching manuals, survey questionnaires and a family planning and post-abortion counseling module.

Medical Officer at various hospitals in Ghana, 1983-88. Clinical management of medical, obstetric, gynecologic, pediatric and surgical patients. Provided facility-based family planning and prenatal care services. Day-to-day administration of the hospital and provision of family planning services, prenatal care, health education and child welfare outreach services.

Consultancies

Midterm Evaluation of a Maternal Syphilis Prevention Program, UNICEF/LUSAKA, 1994.

Maternal and Neonatal Health Center, provided technical assistance to the Ghana Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) project. This is a project to evaluate the impact of TBA training on the health of mothers and newborns, Family Health International, 1994.

AIDSTECH, Family Health International, 1990. Part of a three-person team which examined the organizational and program structure in Ghana for child survival and AIDS prevention; to examine existing and anticipated impact of AIDS on child survival and maternal morbidity and mortality; to investigate opportunities for integration of child survival and AIDS prevention.

LANGUAGE ABILITY

English-Fluent, French-Intermediate

Geographic Experience

Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and South East Asia.

RELEVANT PAPERS/PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Kerber K, de Graft-Johnson, et al. Continuum of care for maternal, newborn and child health : from slogan to service delivery. The Lancet, Volume 370, Issue 9595, October 2007

De Graft-Johnson J et al. Household-to-Hospital Continuum of Care of Maternal and Newborn Care. ACCESS Program. 2005

Miller S et al. Home and Community-Based Health Care for Mothers and Newborns. ACCESS Program. 2006.

Hoffman I, Paz Soldan V, Tsui A, de Graft-Johnson J, Bisika T, Banda T, Feluzi H, and Kazembe P. Reducing the STD burden in rural Malawi: STD screening, case and contact treatment, counseling and condom promotion. Presented at International Society for Sexually Transmitted Disease Research Conference, 2003.

de Graft-Johnson J, Paz Soldan V, Tsui A, and Bisika T. HIV voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) service preferences among a rural population in Malawi. Presented at 2003 APHA Conference, San Francisco, USA.

de Graft-Johnson J. Improving pregnancy outcomes and newborn health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Presented at the Federation of International Gynecology and Obstetrics 2003 Conference, Santiago, Chile.

Paz Soldan V, Edwards J, de Graft-Johnson J, Bisika T, and Tsui A. Determinants of joint choices for family planning and sexually transmitted infection care implications for integration. Presented at PAA May 9-11, 2002.

Tsui A, de Graft-Johnson J, Bisika T, Paz Soldan V, Cohen M and Hoffman I. Perceived risks for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections among women and men in a Malawian District. Presented at PAA annual meeting, March 29-31, 2001.

Paz Soldan V, Bisika T, de Graft-Johnson J and Tsui A. Sexual risk behaviors among men in Malawi: a district-level study of social, economic and demographic determinants. Presented at XXIV general population conference of the international union for the scientific study of population, August 18-24, 2001, Salvador, Brazil.

de Graft-Johnson J. Women and sexually transmitted infections: the continued challenge of diagnosis and treatment in Africa. Presented at the Global Health Council 2001 Annual conference in Virginia, USA.

Buekens P, Tsui A, Kotelchuck M, de Graft-Johnson J. Tetanus immunization and prenatal care in developing countries. Int. J. Gyn & Obs 48(1995): 91-94.

Benefo K, Tsui A, de Graft-Johnson J. Ethnic differentials in child-spacing ideals and practices in Ghana. J. Biosoc. Sci 26 (1994): 311-326.

Barden-O'Fallon J, de Graft-Johnson J, Bisika T, Sulzbach S, Benson A and Tsui A. Factors Associated with HIV/AIDS knowledge and risk perception in rural Malawi. AIDS and Behavior 8 (2004):131-140

Smith J, Coleman N, Fortney J, de Graft-Johnson J, Blumhagen D, Grey T. The impact of traditional birth attendant training on delivery complications: evidence from Ghana. Health Policy and Planning; 15(3): 326-331

de Graft-Johnson J. Estimates of maternal mortality ratio in two districts of Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2001, 79: 400-408

de Graft-Johnson J. Prevalence of self-reported symptoms of reproductive tract infections among recently pregnant women in Uttar Pradesh, India. Accepted for publication by Journal of Biosocial Science.

Hall A, et al. Alternatives to body weight for estimating the dose of praziquantel needed to treat schistosomiasis. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (1999) 93, 653-658.

de Graft-Johnson J. Determinants of maternal morbidity in the Bosomtwe-Atwima-Kwanwoma district, Ghana. 1994, (Doctoral Dissertation).

de Graft-Johnson J. A study of the suitability and feasibility of UNICEF's GOBI-FF Strategy for Ghana. 1989, (Masters Thesis).