

Diversity and Networking

Irene Agyepong

Irene Agyepong is a public health physician with a focus on research and academia. Retired from the Ghana Health service as Regional Director of Health Dr Agyepong now works for the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons with a focus on capacity building and research.

The first thing that Dr Agyepong mentions about her involvement in the GCRF AMS workshops was the diversity of people involved:

“A mix of senior people and young, early and mid-career researchers, representation from the north and the south and a good strong gender balance. A really great approach to get the diversity of viewpoints required”.

Dr Agyepong continues “On a personal level the opportunity to meet and listen to different people, network with former colleagues and develop new relationships. Meetings have spin offs which can be equally as important as the primary agenda. I have been able to connect a young doctor from Equatorial Guinea with the West African network of emerging leaders. This has been extremely useful as we are keen to introduce young people to our network.

We often need radical approaches to drive major policy decisions and changes and getting people together can be the catalyst to drive this change.

Having an awareness of networks to tap into when the need arises has been very beneficial”.

Asked to summarise, Dr Agyepong mentions numerous benefits to being part of the workshop programme.

“The opportunity to network, develop new relationships, reconnect with former colleagues and exchange knowledge has been really great. Due to the different levels of knowledge, experience and expertise, peer to peer exchange and peer to coach and mentor exchange has been possible. Cross learning while building and strengthening capacity has been a wonderful output of the programme due mainly to the diversity of those involved”.

If you would like to see more about the programme please click here to see a video compilation <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/gcrf>