



Dr. Olaide Odumosu (left) and Dr. Oseme Eriakha (right) are two of four IMG physicians now practising in Nova Scotia

Creating a Pathway

Four international medical graduates are practising in Nova Scotia thanks to NSPRAP

By **BARB JOHNSON**

Senior communications advisor

Four international medical graduates (IMGs) have successfully completed the Nova Scotia Practice Ready Assessment Program (NSPRAP) and are practising family medicine in Glace Bay, Hubbards, New Glasgow and Tatamagouche.

The program recruits IMG family physicians for underserved areas. Candidates undergo interviews, write the Medical Council of Canada Therapeutics Decision-making Examination and complete two, six-week clinical field assessments in the practices of experienced family physicians throughout the province.

Dr. Olaide Odumosu was born and studied medicine in Nigeria. She was fascinated with becoming a family doctor since childhood because it's the foundation of medicine.

In 2018, Dr. Odumosu moved to Calgary with her husband and two daughters. "I was in one of the first cohorts of the program and it did a rigorous assessment to ensure candidates were on par with

Canadian-trained residents," she said.

Dr. Odumosu speaks highly of the assessors and found they made the process seamless. She is now practising at a collaborative clinic in Glace Bay, N.S., and also does hospitalist work at the community hospital.

She speaks of how her husband and daughters fell in love with the island during the site visit. "We love it here in Nova Scotia," she said. "The mixture of rural, which is great to raise kids, and urban, which was what we had in Calgary, is great for our family."

Dr. Oseme Eriakha studied at the University of Benin, in Edo State, Nigeria. He arrived in Fredericton in 2016 with his wife and two sons.

"Medicine came naturally as my parents worked in the health sector, so I grew used to helping and serving others," said Dr. Eriakha. "Family medicine provides that opportunity."

He credits the NSPRAP for the opportunity to continue practising medicine. "It was a well-structured introduction to

practising in Canada and provided me the opportunity to see most of Nova Scotia, interact with the people of this lovely province and meet colleagues along the way, some of whom are now mentors," he said.

Dr. Eriakha works in a collaborative practice in New Glasgow, N.S. practising comprehensive community general practice, which includes hospital inpatient coverage. "I have fully settled into my practice and this is largely due to the wonderful colleagues and people in my community," he said.

International medical graduates in all specialties have long been integral to the delivery of health care in Nova Scotia, particularly in rural communities.

"We are delighted we've created a pathway for these physicians to demonstrate they are capable of practising family medicine in Nova Scotia and we look forward to assessing more foreign-trained physicians in the future," said Dr. Fiona Bergin, clinical director of the NSPRAP. "If physicians and their

families are well-supported in their communities, both personally and professionally, they are more likely to stay in Nova Scotia and that will benefit everybody."

Due to COVID-19, candidate assessments were deferred from spring to fall 2020. However, when the program is fully operational, it will welcome 10 candidates for assessment each year.

Learn more about the NSPRAP at www.nsprap.com.

Clinical assessors needed

Experienced family physicians are needed as assessors for international medical graduates. Assessors supervise candidates in family practice settings to determine readiness and qualification for independent practice. For more information, email info@nsprap.ca.