

I am Aishat



Meet our first international medical student
~ [Aishat Olanlege from Nigeria](#) ~
attending BRI-Leadership Conference 2015!

Dear Friend of BRI,

March 3, 2015

I am Aishat Olanlege, a 400 Level Medical Student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I first got interested in BRI through a friend actively involved with Students for Liberty (SFL). When I asked about SFL's work with free market and pro-liberty ideas in healthcare he suggested I get involved with Benjamin Rush Institute.

I find our government's apathy for Nigeria's health sector quite appalling. Medicine in Nigeria is not solely patient oriented; rather, it is sometimes based on what a patient can afford, or what is available. Some people who practice medicine do so strictly for financial security or prestige, and this has drastically affected doctors' exploratory abilities in practicing medicine and is impeding innovation and development in Nigeria.

To give you a sense of what we face here, in the University College Hospital we suffer with elevators that have been out of service for years with no apparent plans to repair them, and dilapidated structures - all from the effects of an almost abandoned health system. On top of that, hospitals lack supplies so that patients' families have to buy what they need from external pharmacies before care can be given to their loved ones. Most shockingly, we even recently suffered the death of a consultant physician due to the hospital's lack of oxygen needed to revive a myocardial infarction.

You can support Aishat attending the BRI-LC2015 by making a special donation on BRI's Donations form. Please click [here](#), and check the box marked "for Aishat Olanlege from Nigeria." Any amount is appreciated. Thank you!

With BRI, I hope to awaken my colleagues to new possibilities in healthcare, and work to affect decision- and policy-making that can impact our healthcare situation. I want to spike colleagues' interest in wanting to improve the way we practice medicine in Nigeria by hosting debates and discussion sessions to address various concerns.

I believe that if an overarching free market approach were applied it would improve our laboratories' functionality, improve how our surgical theaters operate, and even affect how health workers are paid. Currently, they are paid under a centralized payment system that allows physicians to earn similar pay as surgeons, but with longer hours. In Nigeria, our government's neglect of the health sector is evident in that even they - the policy makers - do not patronize onshore hospitals, but rather visit foreign facilities for treatment on taxpayers' money.

We need drastic changes in healthcare in Nigeria, and it starts when we begin to do more about policy decisions that directly impact the way we practice medicine. In some cases it will mean the difference between life and death for our patients. So far I have been able to grow more in knowledge, and I am aware of decisions being made that affect doctors and medical practice in Nigeria. I also have my own project, "Ékó Dára" (meaning "education is good" in Yoruba). It is aimed at helping little children stay in school for at least their basic education. In a country where education is pursued to increase economic opportunity, obtain value or status, uneducated children grow up disadvantaged to be able to get good work. Often because the parents also lack a basic level of literacy and are hampered in their ability to earn a decent living, these little children become street hawkers to support their families.

To support my trip to Washington DC and keep updated on my progress, [forward this email to your friends and colleagues](#), tell them to [sign up for our newsletter](#), [like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

There is much work to be done in Nigeria and I am committed to doing my part, both as a future doctor, and a citizen. Thank you for supporting Benjamin Rush Institute, for your support helps me stay connected, informed and inspired about what I can do in my own country.

Thank you,

Aishat Olanlege

400 Level Medical Student, Ibadan, Nigeria

More about Aishat

Aishat has graciously written or contributed to several blog posts for BRI both during and after the Ebola epidemic in Africa. We salute Aishat for her commitment to taking on the huge challenge of educating people about the Nigerian healthcare condition, and look forward to welcoming her in Washington DC.



[Read More](#)

Your purchases on AmazonSmile support BRI



We're excited to be AmazonSmile affiliates! You can now support BRI directly, just by shopping on Amazon. Sign up on AmazonSmile and select "Benjamin Rush Institute" as your charity of choice, and a percentage of all eligible purchases will directly support us. Please register now!

[Get Started](#)

Donations & Memberships



BRI
Donations &
Membership

Thank you for your time and dedication to BRI. We would not exist if it were not for medical students like you who believe in what BRI stands for, and who are willing to give of their time, talent and treasure to help advance healthcare freedom. Please take a few

minutes to join now, or make an additional donation to continue BRI's important work. Thank you!

Benjamin Rush Institute

BenjaminRushInstitute@gmail.com

PO Box 3113

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.