



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Psychiatry

GLOBAL MENTAL

HEALTH

REPORT - JULY 2024

VISIT TO GHANA



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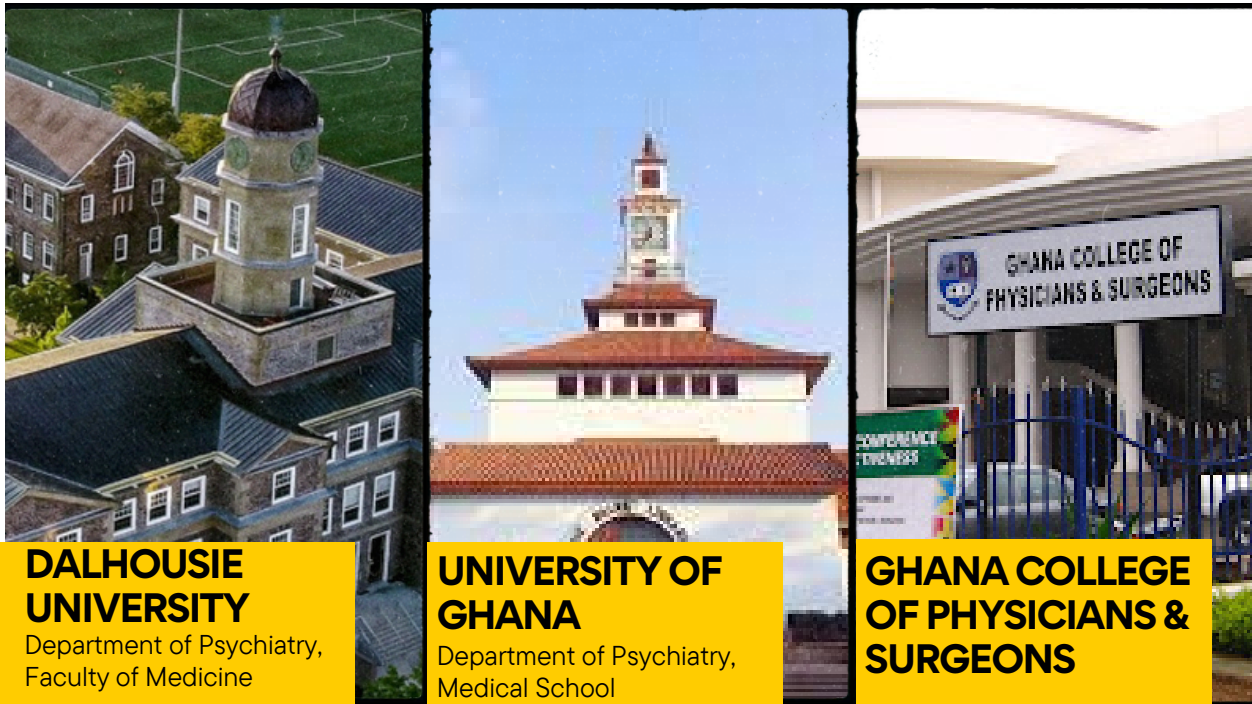
OBJECTIVE

This report aims to document the visit of a Dalhousie University delegation to the University of Ghana, the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Ghana Mental Health Authority marking the initial steps in implementing an innovative international fellowship and elective exchange program for residents in psychiatry.

The report offers the context of this collaboration and a comprehensive account of the visit, emphasizing the foundational work established to bring this collaboration to fruition. It includes detailed insights into the clinical spaces, study areas, lecture halls, and accommodation options available for visiting residents at the University of Ghana Medical School, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the infrastructure that will support this exchange program.

GLOBAL PSYCHIATRY PARTNERSHIP

Context and Foundations



The **Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry** has formalized two significant partnerships with the **Department of Psychiatry at the University of Ghana Medical School** and the **Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons** through a memorandum of understanding. These partnerships lay the foundation for an innovative international fellowship and elective exchange program for residents.

This collaboration underscores a shared commitment to excellence in psychiatric education within a global framework. By providing residents with opportunities for cross-cultural immersion and collaborative learning, the program aims to enrich training experiences and foster a deeper understanding of diverse mental health practices. This initiative not only enhances educational opportunities but also strengthens the bonds between the two institutions, paving the way for ongoing collaboration in advancing global mental health.

The memorandum of understanding represents a significant commitment by the Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry to enhance the global competencies of its residents. By facilitating elective experiences at the University of Ghana Medical School, this agreement aims to equip Dalhousie Psychiatry residents with vital skills in global mental health and transcultural psychiatry.

In keeping with the spirit of this collaboration, the partnership between the Universities is bidirectional, fostering a dynamic exchange of expertise and cultural insights. Psychiatrists from the University of Ghana will have the opportunity to undertake a clinical fellowship at Dalhousie University, allowing them to gain exposure to different clinical practices and enhance their professional development. This reciprocal arrangement not only broadens the educational horizons of participants but also strengthens the global network of mental health professionals dedicated to advancing psychiatric care across diverse cultural contexts.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THIS COLLABORATION



Psychiatry residents and international fellows gaining skills in global mental health and transcultural psychiatry



New knowledge and research opportunities in Global Mental Health



Capacity building to serve multicultural populations in Canada and abroad



THE VISIT TO GHANA

From June 11 to June 14, 2024, **Dr. Vincent Agyapong**, Head of the Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry, **Dr. Alexandra Manning**, Director of the International Psychiatry Residency Exchange Program, and **Dr. LeAnne Revell**, a PGY-4 Psychiatry Resident, embarked on a pivotal visit to Ghana.

This visit marked a significant step in solidifying a collaborative relationship between the two institutions, aimed at fostering cross-cultural education and advancing global mental health initiatives.



The delegation held successful meetings with the **Ghana Mental Health Authority**, the **Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons**, and key stakeholders within the **University of Ghana Medical School**, and conducted site visits to the **Accra Psychiatric Hospital**, the **Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital** and the **Melody Psychiatric Centre**.

This included touring clinical spaces, study spaces, lecture halls, and accommodation options for visiting residents at the University of Ghana Medical School.

In the following pages, the facilities and support structures provided by the University of Ghana for visiting residents are outlined in detail.



SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR VISITING RESIDENTS



University of Ghana Resident Accommodations



Resident Rooms



Cafeteria

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS



LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT



JoyNews

Mental Health: Ghana partners Dalhousie University to combat mental health crisis

Click [here](#) to watch the full interview.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

During the 2024/25 academic year, five psychiatrists from University of Ghana Medical School and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons have been accepted to complete a clinical fellowship at Dalhousie University. These fellowships offer the opportunity to enhance clinical experiences, within the Canadian context, in various subspecialties, including Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Neuropsychiatry.



TAKEAWAYS



- ✓ The international partnership between Dalhousie University, the University of Ghana and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons underscores a shared commitment to advancing global mental health training.
- ✓ This collaboration offers invaluable opportunities for cross-cultural learning and professional development in psychiatry at both institutions.
- ✓ The visit to Ghana highlighted a robust foundation for this partnership, showcasing well-prepared facilities and a mutual enthusiasm for enhancing psychiatric education through global exchange.

