



**Dr. Enam Sobkeng Goufack**

Expert Testimonial

Château Thierry, France

I offer my testimony of solidarity with, and gratitude to, the WGO Rabat Training Center. This center is particularly important for the development of gastroenterology in Africa. It was a driving force and a source of inspiration in my professional development. Frequent contact with international experts in each field of gastroenterology encourages self-empowerment.

I personally attended this center first as a trainee doctor (both short- and long-term internships) from 2009. Since 2016, I have been regularly invited by WGO as a French expert of Cameroonian origin. I would notice the educational, logistical and human transformations carried out over this time. I can testify of the constancy in the requirement of an excellent quality education in a pleasant environment at the service of the trainees in gastroenterology.

This all happens under the leadership of the Director of the Center, Prof. Naima Amrani, who has great scientific and human values and whose dedication makes gastroenterology practice prosper in Africa and in the world. I was very honored by her becoming President of WGO. It is a very beautiful distinction for Africa.

The teaching model consisting of theoretical course sessions with video projections completed by practical courses with workshops on different models (electronic simulators, anatomical mannequins, animal models) offers to participants (trainees and experts) the unique and multiple possibilities to achieve educational and practical goals of each trainee. It is a real model for transferring skills within the framework of a fairly general, but also personalized, training since it integrates the level and specific needs of each student.

When returning to their countries, many trainees show us their recognition and the impact of the WGO courses and internships in their progress in endoscopy. I regularly receive photos or video of their progress, especially in endoscopy.

Based on this WGO experience, I was able to initiate, with the institutional agreement of the Jeanne de Navarre Hospital Center (in the town of Château Thierry) in France, the possibility of welcoming gastroenterologists from African countries for long-term internships (6 months to 2 years) in my Gastroenterology - Digestive Oncology Department. Recently the possibility for endoscopic nurses to benefit from short term (1 month) trainings was established as part of a partnership project launched each year by the French Ministry of Health for international inter-hospital cooperation between France and identified countries on the basis of problematic public health criteria. We are currently experimenting this partnership with the endoscopy unit of the Cotonou University Hospital in Benin. Indeed we welcomed on our site an endoscopic surgeon and a digestive endoscopy nurse from the University Hospital of Cotonou for one month. An evaluation of the knowledge acquired will be performed by our team at Cotonou Hospital during a one week stay. It is a working process to ensure a continuing and structured transfer of competence for the development of some African problematics.

For all these reasons, I am very grateful for the opportunities and positive contributions of the WGO-Rabat Training Center in my personal development, both human and professional, and today I am very proud to bring my modest experience to the service of junior physicians.