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IWU Student Gaining Valuable Medical Experience in Chicago

June 20, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University student Toju (Toritseju) Eshedagho, a sophomore biology/pre-medicine major, is spending his summer in an intense 10-week medical internship with the Hospitalist Project at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

The goal of the Hospitalist Project, which originated in July of 1997, is to improve the quality of general medicine service by frequently surveying patients and abstracting information from their charts. Eshedagho joins medical professionals, medical students, and recent University of Chicago graduates as a research assistant with the project. Through conversations with hospital patients, Eshedagho and his colleagues will be able to ascertain aspects of care that patients consider most effective, as well as those aspects of care that patients do not like.

A native of Nigeria, Eshedagho began his internship on May 29, and has attended rigorous training workshops on interviewing and communication skills. He is currently learning how to accurately interpret patient charts. "Learning to interpret patient charts," according to Eshedagho, "helps me identify the strengths and weaknesses of record-keeping in the hospital." He interviews patients upon their admittance to the hospital, during their hospitalization, as well as one-month following their discharge.

Eshedagho believes that his internship with the project will have a positive impact on his studies at Illinois Wesleyan, "My internship is helping me put things in perspective – and it's making me certain that medicine-specifically pediatrics-is exactly what I want to do."

Eshedagho will conclude his internship with the Hospitalist Project on August 13.

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