

Jennifer Morgan

Growing up in a small Ohio town, Dr. Morgan quickly learned of the many barriers to adequate health care that rural communities face. Determined to address both the cultural and medical aspects of these obstacles, she studied pre-med and anthropology at the University of Michigan. She became passionate about global health and creating health systems that can provide sustainable health care for a community. She went on to medical school at Michigan State University and completed the Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved program, participating in clinical rotations in a variety of limited resource settings: Flint, Michigan, rural Michigan and Nicaragua.

“It was in these settings where I saw that improving health care was possible through a concerted effort of doctors, nurses, community health workers, and local stakeholders.”

It was also in her clinical years that she assisted with surgical oncology research and began exploring how to provide oncology care in limited resource settings. It was during her time at Northwestern for Internal Medicine residency that she began combining passions for global health and oncology. She graduated from the Global Health Clinical Scholars program, traveling to Chiapas, Mexico with Partners in Health.

“This program taught me a valuable ethical framework for approaching and working in settings with variable resources. I was fortunate to have incredibly supportive mentors in global health at Northwestern. I joined the Global Health Clinical Scholars program as an assistant program director after graduation so that I could help to encourage other trainees to pursue careers in global health.”

For two years after residency, she continued her work with Partners in Health, but in Rwanda at the Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence (BCCOE), a hospital dedicated to providing basic cancer care to Rwanda’s rural poor. When not in Rwanda, she worked as an oncology hospitalist at Northwestern Prentice and Women’s Hospital. She also became involved in a research study looking at the outcomes of CML patients in Rwanda treated with imatinib which resulted in a first author publication and has implications for the future of CML treatment in Rwanda and sub-Saharan Africa.

“Over those two years, I recognized the tremendous and disproportionate burden of cancer in limited resource settings and felt an imperative to collaborate with others to provide safe and effective treatment”

“Going back and forth between the two cancer centers, I am optimistic about working to close the gap in cancer outcomes through research, sound clinical care and community involvement.”

“I was incredibly inspired by the team of doctors, nurses and collaborators at BCCOE and all of the progress that has been made in cancer care in the last 7 years there. I am very excited about how it will continue to evolve and impact the region.”

Dr. Morgan completed her Hematology/ Oncology fellowship at the University of North Carolina where she conducted implementation science and breast cancer-related research at UNC Project Malawi which was supported by a Fogarty Global Health Fellowship, an American Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award and an AIDS Malignancy Consortium Fellowship. She is now an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Indiana University. She serves as the Oncology Team Leader for AMPATH (Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare), a longstanding partnership between Indiana University and Moi University/ Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in western Kenya. Dr. Morgan lives in Eldoret, Kenya where she conducts breast cancer care and research, and serves as a mentor for fellows and students interested in global health from the IU School of Medicine.