I write to you today with a heart swelling with pride. Not for myself, but for our BRI student leaders and what they are accomplishing in the world.

BRI is in a unique position to be a conduit for medical students, who share common values and goals, to find each other. The typical BRI medical student cares deeply about protecting the doctor-patient relationship, and about quality healthcare being accessible to everyone, not only to those "who can afford it."

California meets Nigeria
As this conduit, BRI’s recent Leadership Conference brought together two incredible students from across the world, Faith Njoku of UC, Irvine School of Medicine, and Aishat Olanlege of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. These bright, energetic women forged a bond and are now setting out together to do nothing less than change the world.

At BRI, our vision is "a world of affordable, quality healthcare accompanied by accelerating medical innovation and excellence." And we mean it.

As a BRI member, supporter and friend, you already help achieve this vision. You can help further by supporting Ms. Faith Njoku’s bid to travel to Nigeria and put her vision into practicable action.

READ FAITH’S PROJECT PROPOSAL
Faith Njoku, UC-Irvine medical student, BRI chapter president and founder is raising funds for a research and health policy trip to Nigeria starting at the end of May. She has spent the past several months studying healthcare policy, economics, and the roots of poverty -- in addition to her medical studies -- in preparation for a trip to Nigeria. Her goal is to spark a dialogue to transform the way healthcare is practiced in rural areas, thereby improving lives in those communities. Collaborating with Ms. Aishat Olanlege, her vision is that this will be the beginning of more work to come, expanding to other rural and impoverished regions of the world.

You can help Faith by donating to her trip. Please see how, below.

Ms. Njoku met Aishat Olanlege, medical student, BRI chapter president and founder at the University of Ibadan in Oyo State, Nigeria, at the 2016 BRI Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. They found they have much in common, including serving and helping others.

From Ms. Njoku's proposal: "This event will create a platform to discuss how improvements in healthcare management and health policy can foster socio-economic solutions in rural Nigerian villages through education. By reaching medical students, local physicians and members in the Ibadan community, we will explore the local government's role--or lack thereof--in the primary health sector.

"We are going to discuss the theme "Health Disparities as Issues of Poverty," and how we can work together on a global scale to add to the eradication of poverty by empowering and educating the individual.

"This trip will provide a basis for follow up in the summer of 2017 as part of UC Irvine School of Medicine's Ultrasound Research Initiative. I am honored to represent Benjamin Rush Institute in this endeavor."
Faith's trip will cost $1,000 for airfare alone. We are asking our membership and community to donate as generously as possible to support Faith and Aishat in their very large vision for every rural or impoverished community to have access to quality, affordable healthcare.

**HOW TO DONATE:** Simply click on the DONATE TO FAITH button below, and check the option "Faith Njoku's Nigeria Trip" in the drop down menu under Membership Category.

Donate to Faith

In partnership with a vision to the future,

Beth Haynes, MD
Executive Director
Benjamin Rush Institute