

## 2024 OTA Humanitarian Scholarship Testimonial

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**Marcella Ryan-Coker, MBChB, MSc, ESSQ**  
Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya  
Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery Resident



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The OTA Humanitarian Scholarship was a life-changing experience that I'll always hold close to my heart. From attending the annual meeting to completing an observership at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, every moment was eye opening and unforgettable. Without a doubt, it was the highlight of my year.

At the annual meeting, I had the rare honor of presenting twice on the podium; on the outcomes of intermedullary nailing for femur shaft fractures in low- and middle-income countries, and on comparing outcomes for standard SIGN and SIGN FIN nails in Sierra Leone. It was both intimidating and exhilarating to stand in front of some of the most accomplished orthopaedics surgeons in the world to share my research. In those moments, I felt a deep sense of purpose and excitement for the future. Beyond the presentations, I met and connected with trailblazers in orthopaedics, shared my story and dreams, exchange ideas and learn about innovations that could shape the future of trauma care in resource-limited settings, and had conversations that left me inspired and hopeful.

One of the most uplifting parts of the conference was hearing about the work being done in other low-resource environments. Seeing how surgeons and researchers around the world are tackling challenges with limited resources reminded me that we are all in this together. It gave me a renewed sense of hope and strengthened my resolve to keep pushing for better trauma care in Sierra Leone. It was a beautiful reminder that with creativity, perseverance, and teamwork, we can create meaningful change.

Some lighter but equally memorable moments were being recognised at the international reception and interviewed for OTA TV and recording an episode for the OTA podcast. I never thought I'd get to share my journey and vision with such a wide audience. These opportunities made the experience even more special and gave me a chance to amplify my passion for improving trauma care in underserved communities.

The observership at Sunnybrook was a truly amazing part of this journey. For the first time, I saw orthopaedic surgeries performed in ideal conditions, where every element (from equipment to team coordination to patient care) came perfectly together. It was awe-inspiring and reminded me why I fell in love with orthopaedics in the first place. The ortho team at Sunnybrook welcomed me very warmly and made me feel like one of their own, even for a short time. I observed multiple surgeries, attended clinics, and learned from some of Canada's finest orthopaedic surgeons. Their kindness and encouragement gave me fresh perspectives on surgical training and delivering top-notch care, and will stay with me for a long time.

This entire experience has rekindled my passion for making a difference in orthopaedic care, especially in Sierra Leone, where the need is so great. The connections I made, the insights gained and lessons learned, and the inspiration I gained from this scholarship will remain with me as I continue my journey.

To the OTA, thank you for believing in me and giving me this incredible opportunity. I would also like to thank the Wyss Medical Foundation for their support of this important program. I am profoundly thankful. For anyone thinking about applying for the OTA Humanitarian Scholarship this year: go for it! This opportunity opens doors you never imagined, and the connections, knowledge, and memories will stay with you for a lifetime.

This experience has left me more determined than ever to bring meaningful change to trauma care in my country and beyond. Thank you, OTA, for giving me the tools, encouragement and inspiration to keep going.