Joan McLeod Omawale

Joan worked as a global public health nutrition and health researcher with governments, NGOs, universities and international agencies.

Joan McLeod joined Orbis International in 2001 as the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, followed by positions of Quality Assurance Director, Senior Technical Advisor, Global Director of M &E, and Regional Program Director for Latin America and Caribbean (LAC). She was member of the following: Latin America’s Vision2020 Regional Working Group, advocacy and research sub-committees, co-chaired International Agency for Blindness Prevention (IAPB) North America /Caribbean region, and an active member of the V2020 Caribbean Collaborating Group of INGOs. She was Orbis’s representative at the IAPB Council of Members 2010-2011, and a member the Global Indicators Reference Group led by Australia’s Fred Hollows Foundation which advocated for the Global Action Plan indicators, later adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Joan McLeod’s Orbis experiences (January 2001-July 2016) ranged from technical advisor for global programs in India, Bangladesh and LAC region to active collaborator with national level government partners to implement multi-year programs in Peru, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Guyana and Haiti. These included comprehensive eye care assessments and capacity building in institutions, advocating with governments for better eye care, supporting continuing professional development of individuals, and national and regional institutions, strengthening ophthalmology in national children’s hospitals, including Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) programs. Joan was a member of the Coordinating Committee which successfully planned the Commonwealth Caribbean Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) program supported by Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. While the Guyana DR program secured funding from World Diabetes Foundation, University of Toronto, Government of Guyana & Orbis. Joan promoted a culture of research, and used institutional data to inform policy and program decision making.

Prior to Orbis, Dr McLeod was an international health consultant for HKI, UNICEF, CFNI/PAHO and WB evaluating nutrition programs in Caribbean, Asia, and Africa, including North Korea to assess children nutrition status. She also worked with Jamaica’s MOH implementing national nutrition surveillance and breastfeeding programs as part of Maternal & Child Health program, including training of health staff at different levels. She was a faculty member at UWI’s Tropical Metabolism Research Unit.

Dr. McLeod is a graduate of University of the West Indies (UWI-B.Sc. Hons. in Chemistry & Biochemistry; and M.Sc. & Ph.D. Nutrition). She also holds an MBA from Rutgers University.

Personal tidbit:

Former member of Jamaica National Dance Theater Company, participated in annual four-five week seasons of dance, overseas travel and end of year pantomimes.