Today there is an unprecedented level of interest in global health, with a sensitivity to the burden of infectious diseases in impoverished regions in the world, specifically sub-Saharan Africa and South America. Foreign aid programs often deliver medicines and provide clinical care, although these measures are non-sustainable and rarely build intellectual capacity. By contrast, few aid programs support research and training, further accelerating the exodus of talented scientists to the United States and Europe. We believe that sustainable improvements in health can best be achieved through global collaborations that invest in human capital and knowledge creation. In this talk, I will share with you the Sankofa experience with the enduring goal to build sustainable global health research capacity in Ghana.