

REPORT FROM UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATION TRAINING INSTITUTE 2011

Introduction

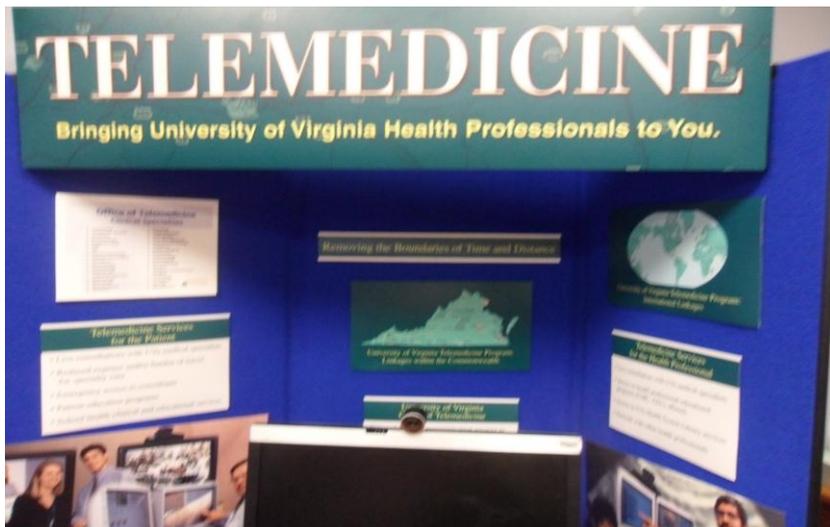
The United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI) is a non-profit, public-private partnership institute dedicated to the aggressive sharing of ICT knowledge in order to make modern communications a reality throughout the developing world. This is ensured through the USTTI's diverse and cutting edge courses and curriculum. Tuition-free trainings are offered in volunteered corporate and federal training facilities, universities, laboratories and so on (www.ustti.org).

I was offered the opportunity to become a USTTI scholar through admittance into 2 of the Telehealth Sequence: "Telemedicine and Distance Learning Synopsis" sponsored and conducted by the University of Virginia Health System, Office of Telemedicine, Charlottesville, VA, and "Telemedicine Review" sponsored and conducted by Howard University and Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library, Washington, DC.

Course Content

The purpose of the course was to highlight the use of modern information communication technology for health and disease management. This was achieved through focus on teleconferencing networks, internet applications, multimedia education tools and other advanced applications for the provision of health care services and education at a distance. These were showcased through tele-ophthalmology, tele-paediatric cardiology, tele-dermatology, cancer outreach, tele-mental health, chronic disease management, remote monitoring and home telehealth, Continuing Medical Education (CME), and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Opportunity was also created to experience technology demonstrations, review of equipment and applications.



Outcome

An incredible amount of information was disseminated at the training with live demonstrations whenever feasible, and challenging scenarios elucidated with possible solutions in an interactive forum.

It was interesting to note that people like the Appalachia still exist in America with their peculiar challenges and relatively worrisome health statistics and the possibility of telehealth coming in handy as telemedicine is successful when it is needed.

Every bit of information shared was relevant and I could see immense opportunity to help build telehealth systems in my country.

Conclusion

It was not training all the days as time was carved out to visit some historical locations. Worthy of note was the visit to a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site, MONTICELLO, located just outside Charlottesville, Virginia. This was the estate of the third President of United States of America and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence,

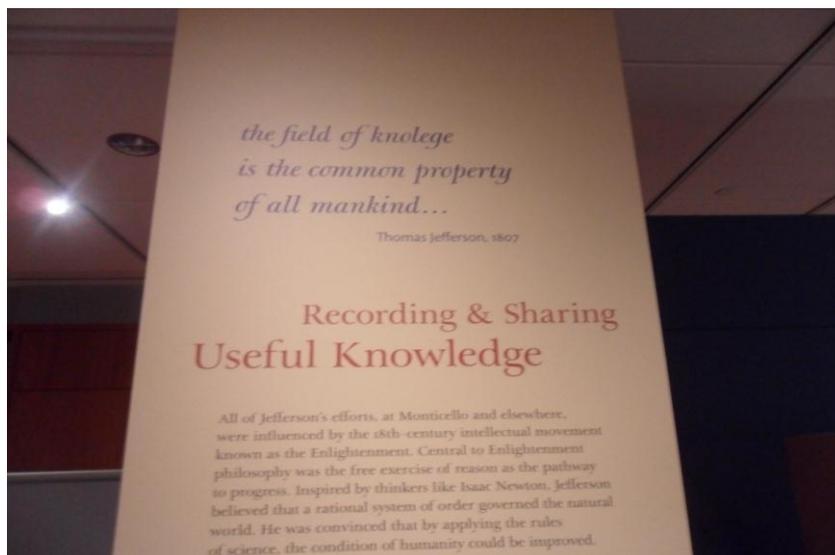
Thomas Jefferson. Coincidentally, he was the founder of the University of Virginia where we had the first USTTI telehealth training programme.



Femi Oyeyemi in front of the main house at Monticello

As the guide took us round the house, narrating and clarifying history, telling the story behind every piece of furniture, painting and work of art, I began to feel the presence of this great man Thomas Jefferson, who lived centuries before us. And as we were about to enter his bedroom, I could not stop myself from knocking the door before we entered.

And as we later departed Monticello, the memories of the great man who once lived there stayed with me.



Finally, the trip to the United States of America was an inspiring and fulfilling one. The experience was awesome, and my expectations were met. Thanks to NUUG FOUNDATION for making all these possible.



Group picture with the Executive Director of USTTI, Jim O'Connor



Receiving the course diploma certificate

OYEYEMI Sunday Oluwafemi

Department of Telemedicine and eHealth

Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Tromso

femi_oyeyemi@yahoo.com