



Dear smartname

We are 10 days into our neurosurgical mission in Liberia and we only have five days to go. Brain tumors are being resected, spines stabilized, and shunts inserted. From newborns to seniors, we are pleased that our courageous patients are recovering and are heading home to renewed lives.

Amelia's Story

Amelia, a wife and mother with a brain tumor the size of a fist, had the tumor removed this past week. You can imagine how compromised this woman was pre-operatively. Loss of speech and mobility and facing imminent death. I had the privilege of caring for her in the ICU post-operatively while she was ventilated. Hours passed as we stayed focused on ensuring she was stable. Late in the evening, Amelia's husband appeared in the corridor outside the door. Our Liberian nurse informed me that her husband was there to find out if he needed to buy medications. I approached him, observing that he was obviously anxious. I reassured him, emphasizing that while ill, we were watching her closely. Grateful, he then asked me whether he had to purchase medications.

"Did you pay the hospital admission fee?" I asked him.

He responded affirmatively.

"Did you pay for the pre-operative blood work?"

"Yes," he nodded.

"Did you pay for her CT Scan?"

Again he quietly answered, "Yes."

I smiled and said: "Then you have done your part. Now KBNF will do our part."

When I told him that KBNF is covering her medications and care in hospital, he looked so relieved. My heart was touched. Another miracle unfolding.

[Now we need your help.](#)

Fusions come at a steep cost due to the price of nuts, bolts, rods, and screws. Last week, our available donated supply was finished. On Friday, Augustine Ballah, our newest Liberian neurosurgeon, was given the task of informing patients that they would need to cover the cost of the screws. **One screw costs US\$75.** One screw cap that goes with the screw, costs US\$7.25. In a country where a professional could earn a monthly salary of about US\$350, that is a very steep price.

Several patients were going to have to go home without surgery as they did not have the funds to pay for the screws. Dr. Ballah was emotionally torn, while our rehab team and KBNF Board Member Aaron Fedora decided to make the choice to *do something*. Within hours, they pulled together and raised the funds back home to cover the patients' spine hardware.

But there are many more costs.

We have extended ourselves in every way and critically need a fresh supply of donations. **Just the cost of medications alone is daunting. More surgical tools also need to be purchased urgently.**

KBNF can do more, in real time, with your financial support. We have dozens of patients anxiously waiting their turn for surgery.

Amelia's family has done their part. The neurosurgeons and entire team here are doing their part. What could your part be? **Could you help us finish this neurosurgical mission strong?**

We need your one-time donation, but even more than that, we need monthly donors to support our ongoing work.

When our international team members leave Liberia on Friday, neurosurgical care here will continue. Dr. Alvin Nah Doe and Dr. Augustine Ballah will continue seeing and caring for patients.

During rounds this morning, when we checked on Amelia, I was so excited that she was already talking, writing, moving all her limbs and drinking water. Her future is much brighter now.

Please, we need everyone to pitch in and help us finish strong.

With Love,

Marj Ratel

[Donate Now](#)

Copyright © 2024 Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).