

## **Dr Cedrik Ngongang-Tekendo**

### **Biography**

Dr Cedrik Ngongang-Tekendo graduated (MD) from the University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon. He is pursuing an MMED specializing in Medical/Clinical Genetics with the University of Cape Town, with the aim of completing the CMSA Fellowship examination (I & II) in Medical Genetics.

Cameroon, like many African countries, is recognized as having a high burden of birth defects and genetic disorders, including Sickle Cell Disease. This burden falls mainly on children, contributing to both mortality and lifelong morbidity. In addition to affecting families, the burden of these conditions extends to communities with major social and financial implications. Genetic Medicine is a growing field in Cameroon, with some established research centres around the country. The only Medical Genetic Unit was established in 2007 at the Yaounde Gynaeco-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospital. This tertiary hospital is a centre of excellence for maternal and child health in Cameroon and the Central Africa sub-region. With a population of about 25 million inhabitants, Cameroon has presently no permanent Specialist in Medical Genetics.

Dr Ngongang's interest in Medical Genetics was sparked during his undergraduate training period in Medicine. That interest was reaffirmed during his position as Medical Officer in the Medical Genetic Unit at Yaounde. Dr Ngongang attended previous international training courses and conferences to consolidate his basic knowledge in Genetics and prepare him for the following full specialized training in Medical Genetics. The aims of his current training is to, upon his return, contribute towards maintaining the sustainability of the existing Medical Genetic Unit. He will accomplish this by addressing the capacity building in Medical Genetics both at the hospital and university levels and to establish, with the support of his supervisors, an academic training program, which will be one of the first in Central Africa.

At the end of his training, Dr Ngongang will be able to fulfill the role of a Specialist Medical Geneticist in the medical and academic communities, and in the Cameroonian society at large.