



## **Zegbeh JALLAH**

### **Home Country**

Liberia

### **Degree**

PhD in  
Bioengineering

### **Expertise**

Female Pelvic Floor  
Disorders

### **Research Focus**

Pelvic Organ  
Prolapse and Urinary  
Incontinence

### **Host University**

University of  
Pittsburgh, United  
States

### **Fellowship Awarded**

2010

Zegbeh Jallah was born in Liberia as the second and youngest child in her family. As a child she was always eager to learn new things and her great interest was reading and mastering new words. Growing up during years of civil war in Liberia, the idea of peace seemed fragile and the educational system suffered greatly due to frequent school closures during times of civil unrest.

Zegbeh decided to attend high school in the United States and graduated in 2006 from Saint Augustine's College in North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. She then worked in the pharmaceutical industry and as a researcher at the Georgia Institute of Technology before enrolling in doctoral studies in bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

At the University of Pittsburgh her area of research is in pelvic floor disorders with a focus on pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence. Pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence are disorders for which childbirth is a primary risk factor. These conditions affect women all over the world, but they are especially prevalent in Africa. Liberia is one of the many African countries facing an increase in the number of women affected by urinary problems. In countries where a women's worth is defined by her ability to have children, these conditions can lead to social isolation and exclusion. Zegbeh feels that women facing these challenges need to have a female figure who understands the challenge and is working to find a remedy.

When she returns to her home country with her PhD, Zegbeh intends to take up a teaching position at the University of Liberia.