



AMSUL

Digest

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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS.

WHAT'S IN AN M.B.B.S.?



AS THE WORLD GOES MOLECULAR

A peep into the Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital

#myMBBSstory

Amsulites take to Twitter to narrate their experiences in med school

SODA RUSH

Do you know what is in that bottle?

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE NEW CURRICULUM

Prof. Christy Okoromah
Director, Medical Education Unit, CMUL

DADDY DAYS

An Amsulite's Case for
Paternity Leave

SHIP WITHOUT A CAPTAIN

In troubled waters with mutiny brewing. Will captain, crew and cabin berth safely?



THINK.ZOOM.SEE

Zuby Onwuta is a creative problem solver who is passionate about web & mobile technologies, mentoring and volunteering. He became legally blind in 1998, which led to a medical discharge from the U.S. military, and ended his plans to pursue a medical career. After going through a spell of depression due to the setback, he enrolled at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to study Computer Engineering.

He started his software career at UIC, where he was a UNIX Account manager helping clients from incoming freshmen to veteran medical doctors with computer account and Internet configuration issues. This role helped shape his approach toward solving problems.

His flagship app is **ThinkandZoom**, a proof of concept app running on Google Glass that aims to alleviate the sufferings of people with low vision by making seeing as natural as possible. It uses EEG readers that detect and use brain waves to drive visual enhancement.

<http://zubyonwuta.com/bio.html>

Introduce yourself

My name is Azubuike "Zuby" Onwuta. I hail from Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. I'm an inventor, tech entrepreneur, disability advocate, Global Speaker and Global mentor. For the past 20 years, I've worked as a software engineer for fortune 500 companies like Lucent-Alcatel, Goldman Sachs & Co, and IBM. I hold a B.Sc in Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago, along with a Global Entrepreneurship Certificate from MIT Sloan and a Disruptive Strategy Certificate from Harvard Business School.

Why did you want to become a doctor?

I wanted to become a doctor because I was looking for a complex and challenging field, moreover, growing up, I discovered a passion for sciences and business courses weren't my favorite.

What inspired your think and zoom app?

I suffer from multiple complex eye diseases, coming from 3 genetic defects found in my ABCA4 gene that lead to 2 forms of Stargardt's macular dystrophy as well as cone-rod dystrophy. The result is low vision, an eye condition where the sufferer still cannot see well, while wearing the best level of prescription eye glasses.



NEUROSKY EEG HEADSET



GOOGLE GLASS



You suffered a great blow when you lost your sight and went through a bout of depression, looking back what would you say helped you to bounce back?

Bouncing back from the spell of depression was possible with God's help and also encouragement from my uncle, Dr. Emeka Onwuta and his family. Thankfully, he understood the intricacies involved with the eye disease and was a great mentor. It was based on his advice that I studied Computer Engineering.

How has it been, adjusting to this new life?

The only way to cope is through assistive technology or low vision aids i.e. magnifying aids. With my passion for medicine and my engineering training, I invented an easy way for people with low vision to see better.

How do you view your loss of sight?

Adjusting is a constant challenge. From one day to the next is a struggle. I know I'm not alone. I've dedicated my time and energy to finding

solutions that will hopefully help myself and millions of other people with low vision around the world.

What exactly does it mean to be legally blind and in what way is it different from being blind?

Legally blind in the US means an acuity of 20/200, or 10x worse than normal vision acuity of 20/20, when the person is wearing the best level of prescription glasses. The visually impaired community is made of blind and low vision persons. Only about 5% of the world's visually impaired population is blind, i.e. where the person has only light perception or even worse

In what ways do you hope to expand the think and zoom app to improve the quality of life of the visually impaired?

By continuously studying and understanding the various day to day needs of the visually impaired person, we hope to leverage technology and enhance the app

Your technology is novel and inspiring, but how do you plan

to bring it to the reach of the average visually impaired Nigerian who still has to pay for healthcare from his pocket?

That is being taken into consideration at the moment, since only 5% of the world's 140m low vision sufferers have access to low vision aids. We hope we can solve this challenge soon.

What advice do you have for Nigerians back home who are interested in the technological aspect of medicine?

Have a passion for medicine and a quest for solving problems. Both will fuel the curiosity to seek out solutions. Learning can be done via the internet through iTunesU, Coursera, edX, or other MOOC platforms and continuously keep learning. This way, you'll always know about the latest tools with which to solve the problems you are interested in.

You migrated in the 90's, do you have any plans to return home?

I come home often as I have interests both at home and in the U.S, so I have residences in both countries.