



# SOURCE

## Star of the Month

June 2020

**Hulai Jalloh**

School of Medicine



*Congratulations to our Star of the Month for June 2020, Hulai Jalloh from the School of Medicine! Hulai serves as the regional lead of the Connect for COVID-19 chapter in Baltimore. We spoke with her about the organization's mission and how others can get involved.*

**How did you start getting involved with Connect for COVID-19? Can you tell us a little bit about your role with the organization and the work it is doing in Baltimore?**

Connect for COVID-19 ([www.dhcproject.org](http://www.dhcproject.org)) is a national organization that was started by recent Princeton graduates who were concerned about patient isolation during the COVID pandemic. There have been many stories of patients who are unable to see their family members while in hospitals and nursing homes, and it is horrifying to think that patients are going through these critical moments alone. In an effort to expand their reach and maximize impact, they began reaching out to medical students throughout the country to be regional leads and start local campaigns. Connect for COVID-19: Baltimore has been working to assess need at hospitals and nursing homes in the area. We have also worked to get smart device donations from local businesses and institutions. We recently made a delivery of donated smart tablets to the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital, and we are working to make an even greater impact in the local and state community!

**As a medical student with a busy schedule, has it been a challenge to make time for your work with Connect for COVID-19 or other community service? Is there a set number of hours you volunteer per week or has it been somewhat flexible week to week?**

During the COVID pandemic, many Hopkins medical students have found themselves taking online elective courses, finishing up research, and studying for board exams. In general there seems to be more time in our schedules right now, and I wanted to take advantage of that. Many people who are not on the front lines have felt a desire to somehow help during this crisis, and this is a great

opportunity to do just that! The time commitment has been flexible week to week and since almost all of this work can be done remotely, it has allowed us to build a team of Hopkins and UMD medical students who are currently dispersed throughout the country.

**How have you been collaborating with others at Hopkins, or elsewhere, in Connect for COVID-19? Are there specific partnerships with student groups or organizations in the community that you would like to highlight?**

Connect for COVID-19 has gotten great support from other Hopkins student-run organizations. CovidUp2Date is doing amazing work to synthesize COVID news from reputable sources and present that information in a palatable form on social media, and they have been open to sharing some of our work on their platform. We are also hoping to work closely with WeGo Project, another non-profit working on digital connectivity in our health system. We are happy to continue to grow these partnerships and collaborate with others!

**With the summer approaching, are there any opportunities for others to get involved with Connect for COVID-19 or volunteer with any other organizations that you would like to share?**

As summer approaches, we are excited to welcome anyone interested in joining the Connect for COVID-19 team. We encourage those who are motivated to make an impact in the community to reach out to [connectforbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:connectforbaltimore@gmail.com). Additionally, if you or any family members have spare smartphones, tablets, and laptops around that you would like to donate please visit <https://www.dhcproject.org/donate-device> and specify that you would like your device to go to Baltimore! If you would like to donate to our Go Fund Me for the purchase of device chargers and stands, please visit <https://gf.me/u/xwv4bk> and give to the Baltimore Drive.

**Thank you Hulai for your tremendous service to Baltimore!**