

Olayinka Adebayo

Born: Nigeria

Currently: Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia



I was born in Nigeria in 1978, November 19th, to be precise. I'm the first girl in the family, I have six brothers and sisters and with my cousins, there were 18 of us in the household. I showed an early passion for medicine and health, perhaps because my mother was a nurse and my father were an engineer. When my father asked me what I wanted to do when I was 6 years old, I told him, "I want to be a doctor."

My father was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma when I was in high school. He died of renal failure from the side effects of chemotherapy. We were very close, so it was very painful for me. I was too young to help him, but when I finished high school, I started on the path to become a doctor.

After getting my first degree in human physiology, people started to ask me: "Okay, when are you going to marry?" "Now you should be preparing to move

to your husband's house." I said "I'm just getting started!"

I met my husband in my fifth year of medical school, and joined him in the US after I finished my medical degree. I had to start all over again. I took the medical boards here in the US and started my PhD in cancer research. I'm a hard worker, a go-getter, and a risk taker.

My daughter often says "Mommy, most times you work at night." I say, "Yeah, because mommy's looking for an answer." I'll just keep working until I unlock the answers. I know cancer is very smart - but I tell people we are smarter than cancer.