



Alexandra E. Graham, Ph.D., MBA

Co-Founder & Vice President, LaGray

Dr. Alexandra Graham is Co-founder and Vice President, LaGray Chemical Company, Inc., an Africa-focused pharmaceutical company that has established the first fully integrated fine chemicals and drug manufacturing operations in West Africa. The manufacturing facility was specifically designed, built and is operated to US-FDA standards. LaGray manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients in Ghana, starting from commodity chemicals and converts them into finished dosage forms. This makes the company a self-sufficient drug manufacturer and enables LaGray to make a number of critical, but otherwise inaccessible drugs, available and affordable to the African continent.

Dr. Graham was born in Nigeria and feels privileged to hold dual citizenship of the United States and Nigeria. She obtained a B.Sc., 1st Class Honors (Summa cum Laude) from Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and went on to pursue her Ph.D. studies at the University of Lagos, Nigeria where she held a Graduate Teaching Assistant position. As an outstanding graduate student, selected through competing universities in Africa and Asia, Dr Graham was awarded the prestigious Sir Adam Thomson Scholarship, which enabled her to continue her research studies at the University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K., in order to acquire her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. She also holds an MBA in Global Technology Management from American Intercontinental University.

Dr. Graham has over ten years university teaching experience at University of Lagos and Lagos State University in Nigeria; University of Sussex in the UK, Stockton State College and Dutchess & Orange County Community Colleges in the US.

On immigrating to the US, Dr. Graham engaged in research into new peptide molecules for use as antihypertensives at SUNY at Stony Brook, New York before moving to IBM in Hopewell Junction, New York. At IBM she worked on the development of polymeric materials for microelectronic applications. She joined Abbott Laboratories as a Research Analytical Chemist with the Hospital Products Division and later moved to the Chemical and Agricultural Products Division as a Process Research Chemist. During her tenure at Abbott, Dr. Graham rose through the ranks to become a Program Manager at Abbott's Specialty Products Division. In this position, she had responsibility for the manufacture, distribution and quality control of a product portfolio in excess of \$1.5 billion.

Dr. Graham holds patents in polymer applications in microelectronics and in pharmaceutical process development research. She has several publications in heterocyclic, polymer, analytical and pharmaceutical process chemistry.

Driven by a passion to help address the healthcare crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Graham made a decision to give up the convenience of employment in the United States as a pharmaceutical executive, to pioneer a sustainable approach to self-sufficient drug manufacturing in Africa. She came to the conclusion that the only approach to solving Africa's healthcare problems is through sustainable technological growth in drug manufacturing and decided to apply her expertise in that direction. Hence in 2000, she and her husband, Dr. Paul Lartey founded LaGray and in 2001, she left her position at Abbott to build the first fully integrated pharmaceutical production facility in West Africa.

In recognition of her efforts Dr. Graham received an award at the first Pan-African Female Invent and Innovate Awards 2005, sponsored by the IFC Gender Entrepreneurship Markets (GEM). She is a 2007 TED Global Fellow (www.ted.com) and a member, Board of Trustees of Springboard Enterprises (www.springboardenterprises.org)