The focus of my existing research is vector-borne emerging infectious diseases risk assessment. Specifically, I am currently looking at subjective (human self-reported) and objective (tick-vector surveillance) assessment of population health risks in relation to exposure to tick vectors. Currently, very little attention is given to tick-borne disease risk assessment in many low-middle income countries (LMIC), particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, even though most tick-borne diseases were first identified in this part of the world. Recent lessons learned from the ravaging global effects of re-emerging infectious diseases of public health importance (e.g., Ebola) suggest the benefits of being proactive in combating global health challenges. This involves identifying and partnering with relevant collaborators/stakeholders in Sub-Saharan Africa. My approach in this regard is two-fold; 1) engage key stakeholders in forging collaborative research partnerships in the field of global health, and 2) cultivating a culture of excellence and capacity building in public health teaching and research. During my presentation, I will discuss my recent visit to the University of Ghana, University of Liberia, and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPIL). Within that context I hope to review the opportunities and challenges for engaging in impactful research, both with faculty at the various Universities I visited, as well as with key stakeholders in the community.