In 2022, Cures Within Reach funded Dr. Mercy Jatto at University College Hospital Ibadan to support a Phase I trial testing a commonly available antiseptic, povidone-iodine, in children with chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM). CSOM, inflammation of the middle ear lining, is a leading cause of hearing loss in low and lower-middle income countries (LMICs). Although commonly treated with antibiotics, microbial resistance and treatment failure have increased the need for new therapeutic options.

Dr. Jatto has focused her research efforts on pediatric hearing loss in Sub-Saharan Africa, where limited and inaccessible medical resources have resulted in a high rate of hearing loss largely due to preventable causes. During her residency, Dr. Jatto coordinated research efforts to inform new treatment protocols: a universal newborn hearing screening program and a post-discharge auditory assessment. From project ideation to implementation, these programs have helped over 4,000 children to date.

In 2018, Dr. Jatto was recognized by the West African College of Surgeons with the Olu-Ibekwe Award for being the Best Graduating Fellow by the Faculty of Otorhinolaryngology. Dr. Jatto was granted the International Visiting Scholar Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Jatto’s goal is to save children’s hearing in low and lower-middle income countries through practical and cost-effective solutions by developing meaningful treatments for children with ear infections and delivering them at scale.

**PROFILE**
- Dr. Mercy Jatto is an otorhinolaryngologist, focused on preventing hearing loss in children, as well as a consultant ENT surgeon and clinical audiologist at UCH Ibadan.
- Dr. Jatto studied and trained in Nigeria and London before returning to Nigeria for her residency and medical practice.

**CWR FUNDING**
- This $50,000 Phase I clinical trial is testing a common antiseptic for pediatric chronic ear infections.
- Dr. Jatto and this trial represent three of Cures Within Reach’s communities:
  - Pediatrics
  - Developing World / LMICs
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion