

Marlon Benjamin, Fuld Fellow Cohort II



“I love solving problems with the aid of technology. However, I spent 10-plus years in finance operations, a.k.a. Wall Street, and never really felt that I fulfilled my purpose.”

After nearly 11 years, Marlon Benjamin washed his hands of Wall Street. Now a Fuld Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, the technophile hopes to help hospitals wash their hands of some patient safety concerns with a program that measures and monitors hygiene compliance.

Born on the island of Trinidad, Benjamin emigrated to Brooklyn, NY, with his family of seven almost 25 years ago. His love of technology eventually drew him to the JHU Whiting School of Engineering, and he was steered by job recruiters toward high finance when he returned to New York City as a graduate. But something was missing. He noticed himself paying attention to patient safety issues at New York hospitals, and avoiding known trouble spots like the plague. Still, knowing about the problems ate at him. He'd thought about nursing school for a couple of years and, when he lost his father, finally got serious about it. Other schools accepted him, but Hopkins once again felt right.

Today, with project mentor Laura Winner, RN, MBA of the Center for Innovation in Quality Patient Care at Johns Hopkins Medicine, Benjamin is evaluating the ability of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to accurately track hand hygiene compliance. He hopes it's just the start.

“Within end of the next five years I hope to have combined my experiences, background, and training in systems engineering, risk analysis, and financial operations to lead efforts in improving the patient safety and quality with the aid of technology and process improvements. I have already discussed plans with two of my classmates and some of my professors.