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COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

is pleased to announce its

5TH BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

to be held from

**26th - 28th
September, 2022**

at the

**Cedi Conference Centre,
University of Ghana, Legon**

Registration commences in January, 2022

For Sponsorship and further details, contact

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Professor Julius Fobil,
Provost, College of Health Sciences



Profile of the Provost of College of Health Sciences

Julius Fobil is a Professor of environmental health with an outstanding academic career at the University of Ghana School of Public Health; having contributed significantly to the field of environmental epidemiology in Ghana and beyond. He has over hundred (>100) peer reviewed publications in the field and has trained more than 80 students at the undergraduate level and doctoral to postdoctoral levels. He is a fellow of the *Collegium Ramazzini*, an international academy of internationally renowned fellows in environmental and occupational health and a fellow of Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He is the Provost of the University of Ghana's College of Health Sciences; having previously served as Dean in the School of Public Health. He is also an Associate Scientist at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg. His research focuses on environmental exposure assessment, urban environmental health in low-income economies and more recently, he has been involved in research capacity building in environmental and occupational health in the West and Central African regions.

He was appointed as the sixth Provost of the College on 1st August, 2021 for a renewable three-year term.

Interview With Reverend Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi

The InFocus Team (IFT) visited a former Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology, second Dean of the then School of Allied Health Sciences, first Dean of the School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBAHS) and the immediate past Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Reverend Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi (PFAK) at his residence on the University of Ghana Campus, Legon. The Team had a lengthy chat with him on a variety of issues. Here are excerpts of the interview, after initial pleasantries.

Interviewers: Dr. Esther Brobbey and Mr. Augustine Amissare

IFT: Can you tell us a bit about your background and upbringing?

PFAK: I was born in Accra at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital on 19th February, 1961, so you can see that I am a son of the soil and have a strong attachment to the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital. I believe it was by divine orchestration that I found myself back here to render close to 24 years of service to the Hospital, the College, the University of Ghana and our dear nation.

I spent part of my formative years in Osu and stated my pre-school education at the Maaba School at Osu-Ajumako. I later moved to the Presbyterian Cluster of Schools behind the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Osu to continue with my primary school education. At the time, I lived with my maternal grandmother. I was later sent to stay with my maternal great grandmother at Mamfe on the Akuapem Ridge in the Eastern Region. This relocation became necessary as my family was greatly affected by the 1966

coup d'état. I had a rich Akuapem training and godly upbringing staying with my maternal great grandmother and other family members who were staunch Presbyterians at the time. Truthfulness, discipline, orderliness, respect for authority, humility and cleanliness were family virtues and legacies that could not be compromised.

While living in the Akuapem area, I attended Mamfe Presbyterian Primary and Middle Mixed Schools. It was



*Reverend Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi,
immediate past Provost of CHS*

there that I sat for the Common Entrance Examinations while in Middle Form 3 and by the grace of God, I was successful. Providentially I chose St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School for my GCE O' Levels. The then Headmaster of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rev. Father John McKillip sent me a personal letter informing me of my success in the Common Entrance Examination and my subsequent admission into the St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School. So I accepted the offer and found myself in the School and I have never regretted it for St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School was at the time, among the topmost secondary schools in the nation and I am happy to put on record that it has remained one of the best second cycles school in the nation. Our motto was "**Veritas Liberat**" (The truth shall set you

free). As students, we were encouraged to stand for truthfulness in life. So I am an Old Tom and very grateful to my maker for that exposure.

Following my admission into the St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, I returned to Accra to stay with my parents at Burma Camp. I commuted on foot from Burma Camp to Osu RE through the Cantonments every day for five years of my secondary education since St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School was a day school so I have the topography of the Cantonments in my palms. . Whilst in the school, I learnt a bit of the Catholic tradition because it was a Catholic School. It was also during this period that I joined the Garrison Methodist/ Presbyterian Church/Choir at Burma Camp having been

baptized and confirmed as a Presbyterian from childhood. So you can see that I have imbibed a fair amount of the Methodist tradition as well. This makes me a bit of a "*mixed breed*" kind of a Christian.

Life in the military community sharpened my sense of discipline and comportment even further. At a point I contemplated joining the military but my quest for an academic career was stronger. During this time I experienced the coup d'états staged by the late Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings as this was during 1979 and 1981. It was a terrible experience that truly shaped my world and made me reflect on life.

After completing St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, I got a job at the National Co-

operative Wholesale Unit (NCWU) located at the Trade Fair Site, Labadi, as a Messenger. I worked for two years and got promoted to Clerk Grade III. Although excelling at my work, I still had the affinity for academic excellence so I decided to further my education. This led me to enroll at the Agona Swedru Secondary School for my GCE A' Levels where I became the Prep (Academic) Prefect in my final year and completed in 1984. The motto of the School was "***Semper Cum Optimis***" (Always with the Best). I am a Swesonian and a proud old student of that great school. Since leaving the school I have treasured the experience gained in the school and strived to always live in tandem with the motto of the school: ***always with the best.***

I did my National Service for 2 years at the 37 Military Hospital after my 'A' Levels, starting from the Laboratory and ending up at the Theatre. After the National Service I got an appointment as a Photometric Operator with the National Commission for Democracy (Electoral Commission) and worked for close to two years. Thereafter, I enrolled for my first degree training at the University of Ghana and completed my BSc. degree in Zoology with Botany (2nd Class Upper Division). I then served as a Teaching Assistant in 1991 and a Demonstrator in 1992 in the then Department of Zoology, University of Ghana while pursuing a Master of Philosophy (MPhil.) programme in Applied Parasitology in the same Department. There were three pioneering students (including myself) that started this particular programme. In 1993, I was awarded a UG/UC-Berkeley Scholarship and spent a year abroad as an exchange student to undertake part of my Masters degree training at the University of California, Berkeley Campus in the United States of America. Thanks to Professors Florence Abena Dolphyne and Reginald Assoku, the then Pro-VC and Dean of Graduate Studies respectively for their immeasurable assistance. I successfully completed in 1995. I am greatly indebted to my supervisor Dr John Kpikpi and Prof Daniel K. Attuquayefio for his support .

In December 1997, I joined the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) as a Lecturer in the



*Rev. Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi,
at a Congregation Ceremony*

Department of Medical Microbiology. I served under distinguished academics like Professor J A A Mingle, Professor Mercy J Newman, Dr, Elizabeth Bannerman, the late Professor S N Afoakwa and the late Professor Reginald K. Anteson who was my direct boss and the late Prof. Kingsley Twum-Danso. I benefited greatly from their tutelage and good counsel.

In my desire to acquire a terminal degree, I applied to some foreign universities and got admission into the prestigious London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and some other top universities in the USA and Canada. Unfortunately much as I tried, I could not obtain a government scholarship to support my training, therefore Management of the UGMS advised that I should register with the University of Ghana for my PhD. After some consideration I took up the challenge and registered, but not long after, the opportunity to study at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA presented itself. Thanks to Reverend Emeritus Professor Andrew Seth Ayetey (the then Dean of the UGMS), Mr. Miguel F. Ribeiro (the then executive secretary) Professor Mercy J. Newman (the then Head of Microbiology Department) and



L-R: Prof. Asiedu-Gyekye, Dean of SOP; Prof. Adanu, then Dean of SPH; Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, Provost; Mr. Opare Atuah, College Secretary; Prof. Ofori-Acquah, Dean of SBAHS; Prof. Lydia Aziato, Dean of SONM; Prof. Abraham Anang, immediate past Director of NMIMR at a Congregation Ceremony

my local supervisors, Professor Theophilus K. Adiku and late Professor Reginald K. Anteson, Professor Kwamena Woode, Professor Dick Littleton Guerrant and Professor Bill Petri my foreign supervisors for their incalculable support. Even though I was to study abroad, the certificate would however be awarded by the University of Ghana.

Upon completion of the programme, I became the first to be awarded a PhD in Microbiology by the University of Ghana in 2003. I have since remained with the University till my retirement on 31st July, 2021. My PhD was awarded by the Department of Medical Microbiology so I am a proud alumnus of the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS). Dr. Esther Dennis I remember, was the first to receive a PhD (in Anatomy) from the University of Ghana Medical School and I was

the second having received my PhD in Microbiology.

In private life, I must admit that my wife (Mrs Beatrice Ayeh-Kumi) and Children, my parents and siblings and most importantly my mother (Madam Grace-Beauty Ohenewa Bekoe) and maternal grandmother (Madam Mary Korama Yeboah) were a big influence on me and I am grateful to God for giving me such lovely people.

IFT: Can you tell us about your career/journey as an educator and the administrative roles you held in the University?

PFAK: As I earlier mentioned, I joined the UGMS in 1997. Professor Anteson, who was the Head of the Microbiology Department and Head of the Parasitology Unit at the time, was my direct boss. I assisted in teaching medical students as well as the residents. Professor

Anteson also doubled up as the Head of the Parasitology Unit of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Central Laboratory. Unfortunately, he was taken ill and I was tasked with taking up his teaching assignments and some of his administrative duties. With the support and the able tutelage of Professor Mingle and Professor Newman who took up the Headship of the Department after Professor Anteson, I was able to hold the fort in the absence of my boss.

From 2006-2008, I was appointed the Head of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences in the erstwhile School of Allied and Health Sciences (SAHS) and served under Professor Edwin K. Wiredu who was the Foundation Dean of SAHS. Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei was the first Head of that Department. I was later appointed Head of the

Department of Medical Microbiology in the Medical School, a position I held from 2007- 2011. At the beginning of the 2011/2012 academic year, I was appointed Ag. Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences after Professor Edwin K. Wiredu's tenure as Dean ended. I applied for the substantive position at the beginning of the 2012/2013 academic year and was given the chance to serve for two years as substantive Dean.

Following the University's decision to adopt the collegiate system of governance at the beginning of the 2014/2015 academic year, the School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBAHS) came into being. The Basic Sciences and Para Clinical Departments of the Medical School were added to the existing Department of the School of Allied Health Sciences to constitute the SBAHS. I served as the first Dean of the new School of Biomedical and Allied

Health Sciences until 31st July 2016 when I moved to occupy the position of Provost of the College of Health Sciences.

I was appointed the fifth Provost of the College of Health Sciences at the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year. By that appointment I then became the first non-medical person to assume that position. My appointment, to a large extent has made it possible for non-medical persons at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to appoint non-medical persons (but health professionals) as Provosts of their Colleges of Health Sciences/Health and Allied Sciences. It is worthy of note that the first non-medical person to have been appointed to that position at UCC has now moved up to become the current Vice Chancellor of UCC.

In the course of my service as Provost, I also had the privilege to act as Dean of the School of Public Health from August, 2018 to July, 2019. As you can see, it has been a long haul, I brought my service to this prestigious University to an end on 31st July, 2021. Thanks be to the Almighty God for His divine providence and care.

IFT: How were you able to handle all these numerous administrative roles?

PFAK: (Laughs) it was not by my might nor by my power but by the providential grace of God. Divine grace was provided for the execution of my responsibilities at each step of the way. I was just an unworthy servant, I did it at the command of my Master and with His help. As it is recorded in Luke 17:10 "So you also, when you have done everything commanded of you, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'". It took a servant's mentality, humility and attitude to get through though. Admittedly, it was a very busy and tiring journey.

IFT: Could you tell us some of the successes you achieved during all these administrative roles?

PFAK: That is a difficult one since several things were achieved, but the few I can readily recall are as follows; all the achievement were not by my singular efforts but with the



Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, then Dean of SBAHS with Faculty and Partners of BSc Respiratory Therapy

support of the forefathers of the College, Senior Management, Deans and Directors, staff and students as well as well-wishers. Let me tell you about a few in a stepwise manner.

As Head of Medical Laboratory Sciences, I inherited five batches of diploma students from the erstwhile School of Medical Laboratory Technology, Korle-Bu whose training had stalled. The students were brought under the ambit of my Department. With proper strategic planning and assistance from the then Dean Prof. E. K. Wiredu, Vice-Dean of the School Dr Michael Mark Addae, Mr Barima Afari Danso, School Administrator and Management. Two groups were able to graduate successfully. A number of them have progressed to become Medical Doctors/Consultants, Biomedical Scientists and Entrepreneurs locally and internationally. During my tenure as the Head of Microbiology, I was committed to the postgraduate programmes introduced by my predecessor (Prof. Mercy J Newman). The Department, prior to my headship, through to date remains the best in the UGMS for training of postgraduates. I strongly believe in maintenance of facilities and improvement of the work environment. During my tenure several facilities were renovated in the Department and our immediate grounds were beautifully landscaped. I

managed to recruit young, enterprising and dynamic faculty who are now proudly raising the flag of the Department very high in teaching, research and service provision.

As Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences and later School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, I equipped and refurbished the various facilities of the school; laboratories, lecture rooms, offices for staff and faculty. For example, the Basic Sciences Building was re-roofed, the Red Building was reroofed, the Tropics Building (which was a dormitory facility then) was reroofed and completely renovated and converted into lecture rooms, demonstration rooms, office space, a mini restaurant and washrooms for students and faculty. The Administration block of the School was also refurbished. These modifications completely changed the School's outlook.

On the academic front, all existing programmes before my coming into office were strengthened and some new programmes for example, BSc. in Respiratory Therapy were introduced. Credit to Professor Aaron Lawson (then Provost of CHS) and Professor Stephen Asante-Poku, Dr. Audrey Forson, Dr. Esther Brobbey, Mr. Kwami Ahelegbe and Mr. Michael Mensah for their pioneering role in ensuring that the BSc

Respiratory Therapy programme was introduced. Professors Lisa Trujillo, Karen Schell and Paul Eberle, worked with UG staff in Ghana to develop the programme. Other programmes which Professor Wiredu had pitched were also formally introduced. Programmes like BSc. in Occupational Therapy and MSc. Audiology and BSc Dental Laboratory Science initiated by Professor Wiredu before his tenure as Dean ended were given the needed support to ensure their smooth take off. The MSc Medical Laboratory Sciences was repackaged and introduced. The MSc in Speech and Language Therapy was also introduced during my tenure. MSc in Ultrasonography and MSc in Physiotherapy were given due consideration. The icing on the cake was the introduction of PhD in Dietetics. A lot more grounds were covered and I am proud to say that all the aforementioned programmes are currently up and running. Thanks to my Vice-Dean at the time, Professor (Maj. Rtd.) George Asare, all H o D s , t h e S c h o o l Administrators Dr Daniel Hammond, Messers A A Addy and Richard Daah, Mrs Florence Twum (our School Accountant), faculty and staff of the School for their immeasurable support. Faculty training was also given due consideration.

At the College level, let us take

for instance, the repackaging of the University of Ghana Dental School (UGDS). If you could cast your mind back a little you would remember that when the University adopted the collegiate system of governance, the clinical departments of the Medical and the Dental Schools were merged to form the School of Medicine and Dentistry. After some years, it was noted that the merger was not working, so there was the need for separation. This was a big challenge at the time. A Committee was set up to advise on the way forward and the Committee recommended separation of the two Schools after much deliberation. The Schools were separated at this point and so far the rate at which the Dental School is making strides is very conspicuous. The development that the School is seeing is amazing! Phase II of the Dental Clinic/Academic Building as well as the School of Pharmacy Building that had begun much earlier were completed and commissioned before I left office. Thanks to the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu and University Senior Management for the support. The College Library was refurbished and given a face-lift with the only outstanding issue at this point being the provision of furniture and books to make the students' learning experience worthwhile. Thanks to the Donors, the Fundraising/Implementation

Committee and the CHS Management not forgetting the administrative and professional staff for the support,

We also got Kingdom Books and Stationery Ltd to open a branch on the Korle-Bu Campus of the University. Additionally, a modern convenience shop (The Kingdom Mart) has also been added to the facilities for the benefit of staff and students and the Korle-Bu Community in general. All offices in the College and the Conference Room were given a face-lift as well as the interior and the exterior parts of the Charles Easmon Building. The building was also re-roofed and the surrounding garden was fixed.

New flagship programmes were introduced across the Schools in the College, such as special sandwich programmes in Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health, DPharm/top-up programmes in Pharmacy, Postgraduate programmes in nursing e.g., the PhD programme in nursing which has gained international recognition etc. A PhD programme in Clinical Sciences which was initiated by my administration, has also been approved to be run in the UGMS to offer PhD options to interested clinicians of the College.

It is worthy of note that during my administration research gained some significant momentum. For example,

funding for the construction of the UG-Noguchi Advanced Research Laboratory was sourced from the Japanese Government by the then Vice Chancellor (Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu) to promote medical/biomedical research in the University. The building was started, completed and commissioned during my tenure of office and under my supervision. The contribution of this building to the COVID-19 related exercise nationally and internationally cannot be quantified. Our deepest gratitude to the Japanese Government and Professor Oduro Owusu for this wonderful gift. Two Research Centres were established, one on Environmental and Geo-Health Studies and the other on Genetic Studies were added to the existing research facilities. Again, a Research Directorate was established at the University of Ghana Medical Centre to further research activities in the College. The successes and achievements of this new and budding facility so far is commendable. The extension to the School of Public Health Building which was built with local funding from the School was started during my tenure and about 80% of the construction was completed before I left office.

With reference to appointments and promotions, we did very well by ensuring that faculty members' appointments and

promotions were not unduly delayed, a few excesses could not be avoided though. A good number of staff across the College were promoted. Four Emerita Professors (Emerita Professor Isabella Quakyi - first female to be appointed Emerita Professor in Health Sciences in Ghana; Emeritus Professor R B Biritwum, Emeritus Professor A S Ayettey and Emeritus Professor A G B Amoah) were appointed during my administration. This is good news for the College. A good number of new staff were also appointed to augment the efforts of the scanty staff on the ground. Staff welfare was not neglected, for example, payment of hospital premium for Junior and Senior staff on the Korle Bu Campus/NMIMR was restored during my time. The payment of the premium became a bone of contention between the staff and Management prior to my appointment but this was resolved to the satisfaction of staff. On the student front, hostel facilities were refurbished, furniture was provided for some of the lecture halls and students study areas were provided in the College Building.

Visibility of the College was also important to my administration. To this end, the CHS Administration established the *Health Sciences Investigations Journal* and the College Newsletter – *Infocus*. A book that captures the history of the College since its inception has

also been written and is now in press, thanks to the team of senior faculty and committee members who sacrificed to make this a reality. In an attempt to ease commuting issues of our students and staff, my Administration assisted the Medical School as well as the School of Nursing and Midwifery to acquire a few buses, while the Dental School had two vehicles (a pickup truck and a saloon car).

Last but not the least, some Units were also set up during my administration. One of which is the Health Professions Education Unit which was established fully under my tenure prior to approval by the CHS Academic Board, using the report of a Committee set up by my predecessor, Professor Yao Tettey. Other units of notable mention are the Counseling and Mentorship Units and the CHS Chaplaincy Board. The monthly Lunch Hour also came on board during my Administration. The list is tall but we have to end somewhere somehow.

IFT: What were some of the challenges you faced?

PFAK: Hmm this is really a tough one but I must admit that as Provost I came to terms with the full meaning of the saying “the first to go through the wall gets bruised”. I contended and contested with a lot of forces but God was with me. I guess being the first non-medical person to

assume the position also came with its own challenges. Some people went as far as making comments to the effect that it would be “over their dead bodies” that I would become Provost of the College. Some people absented themselves from my meetings except where they had interests, some made it their business to write monthly letters and releases to defame me. That is human nature and the Bible is so right on this. As an ordained minister I have prayed for all of them. So they meant it for evil but the Lord meant it for my good. To Him then be the glory. I decided not to focus on the detractors when I got the job. I can say in all humility that a lot of the things we set out to do were achieved with the grace of God, and the able support of Management, faculty and staff.

Despite all the things I have mentioned, I must say that in light of my background as a Reverend Minister, I was patient, accommodating, and also had the heart to listen to people and offered whatever help I could.

It is most gratifying to note that all that happened during my term of office is the doing of the Lord. I also doff my hat in homage to the founding fathers, Management, College Secretary Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Finance Officer Mr. Samuel Nkrumah, Deans and Directors, Senior Assistant Registrars and School Officers. I

will not forget my able secretariat; Mrs. Nana Adwoa Dzane, Miss Agnes Baidoo, Mr. Leslie Khumalor, Mr. Isaac Baffoe and Mr. Timothy Acquah. Mr. Augustine Amissare, Mr. Sulemana Abdul Karim, Mr. Charles Shiamgor, Mr. John Tetteh, Mr. John Yawson, Mr. Desmond Tetteh, entire staff and students. Members of the College Chaplaincy Board cannot be left out, I'm grateful to them for their spiritual, brotherly and moral support. Every credit that accompanies the achievements are to be celebrated and shared with everybody, however for all the failures I take sole responsibility.

IFT: Do you have any advice for the staff of the College?

PFAK: The advice I can give is that we should all recognize that all authority comes from God. We therefore need to respect our leaders irrespective of their backgrounds and angles of tilt and persuasions. The young ones must learn to be humble, respectful and sober. Unfortunately I lost some of friends to chance because of the truthfulness with which I worked but my heart is at peace with my Lord. I urge leaders to be mindful of their actions and consider the corresponding recompense of rewards. Let us always think about the well-being of the institution we work for and not be driven to enrich themselves to the detriment of the institution. I exhort leaders

to strive to leave good legacies so they can be remembered for the right reasons after they have left office. Our paramount objective should be to serve the institution and its staff.

IFT: Any comment on how COVID-19 has impacted teaching and learning and general work processes?

PFAK: Well I would say COVID-19 has left good and bad imprint on us. Whether we like it or not it has exposed both the efficiencies and deficiencies in our system. COVID-19 has reminded us of how simple actions like washing of hands which had otherwise been trivialized can be lifesaving. It has exposed the fallibility of man and the infallibility of God. As a College it has changed our style of teaching and research focus completely. To a large extent, it has also brought us together to work as a team to save humanity irrespective of our specialty areas of training and expertise. As a microbiologist and parasitologist, I cannot overlook the fact that COVID-19 has uncovered the need to educate people to understand the importance of infection control in our daily engagements. On the negative side, I must however confess that the pandemic took away a year of my administration's active time in office, a lot could have been done to add to the beauty of our work.

IFT: What are your next steps?

PFAK: I am very excited and fulfilled actually and this is mainly because I now have time to try and tackle some of my private and ministerial ambitions/assignments. I intend to commit myself fully to my ministry as a man of God and also try to finish writing some books I could not complete. I will also devote a bit of time to do my research and also teach courses my Department will assign to me. The training of students and mentorship of young faculty is dear to my heart and I will be more than happy to offer my help in any way I can. This is also the time I will have to do a lot more advocacy and fundraising for the College. I will endeavour to do this anytime the opportunity avails itself. **So this is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.**

IFT: Thank you so much for your time.

PFAK: You are most welcome. To wrap up let me leave you with this quote "Whatever gets supervised, gets done".

Health Professions Education Unit Holds Faculty Development Workshop



Professions Education Unit to organise more of such educative workshops to enable more faculty of the College to benefit from it.

The workshop equipped participants with theories of teaching and learning; modern trends in teaching and curriculum design; practical use of technology-aided and simulation-based experiences. It was specifically aimed at helping participants to be the type of teacher that can make even the most boring or difficult courses lively for their students and also help them to learn and not simply memorise what they are taught just to pass examination. The workshop also equipped the participants with skills that will enable them to help their students appreciate how to learn, so that they could keep updating their knowledge when things change and lastly, to dream about being the type of teachers who inspire their students to be better than them. The training brought together facilitators with expertise in different areas of health professions education. The facilitators took participants through the basics of medical simulation and simulation-based medical education sessions aimed at helping participants to

The College of Health Sciences Health Professions Education Unit in collaboration with Med-Ed Consult has organised a 3-day workshop under the theme **“Enabling Learning: Becoming an Effective Teacher”**. The workshop was attended by all the Members of the Health Professions Education Committee and selected faculty from the constituent schools of the College.

Opening the 3-day workshop, the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Reverend

Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi commended the Health Professions Education Unit for putting together such an important workshop meant to sharpen the teaching skills of faculty of the College. He indicated that the training was necessary to build the capacity of faculty. He therefore entreated the participating faculty to take full advantage of the opportunity provided by the Health Professions Education Unit of the College for the benefit of their students. The Provost asked the Health

incorporate simulation-based learning to enhance students' experience.

The workshop dubbed "Teaching-the-Teacher Series" covered topics on the use of modern teaching methods, engaging the 21st century learners, understanding individual learning styles, and implementing the modern trends of health professions education. The facilitators exhibited great expertise and skills as health professions educators by keeping

participants engaged and helping them recognise their roles as mentors and change-makers. Participants were charged to serve as health professions education 'propagators' in their constituent schools. They were asked to indicate their readiness to develop and support other faculty members to achieve and maintain the goals of excellence, competence and relevance as health professions educators.

Facilitators for the workshop were Dr. Nkechi O. Dike, Team Lead at Med-Ed Consult, Dr.

Emmanuel Kusi Achampong, Senior Lecturer at the School of Medical Sciences, University of Cape Coast, Dr. Daniel Amoako-Sakyi, Senior Lecturer also at the School of Medical Sciences, University of Cape Coast, and Dr. Jonathan Quartey, Senior Lecturer and Head of Health Professions Education Unit, College of Health Sciences.



Group photograph of the participants of the workshop

Council Chair Pays Working Visit to Korle Bu Campus

The Chair of the University Council, Rt. Hon. Justice Akufo (Rtd) accompanied by the Ag. Vice-Chancellor Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (RID) Professor Felix Ankomah-Asante has paid a working visit to the Korle Bu Campus of the University.

Welcoming the delegation, the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius Fobil was grateful to the Chair of Council and her team for making time to visit the Korle Bu Campus of the University. He indicated that the College was made up of six schools, One research institute and three centres. He added that three of the schools and one centre were situated on the Korle Bu Campus while three schools, the institute and two centres are on the Legon Campus. The Provost added the College of Health Sciences was the first College to be established by the University in 1999. According to him, the College lacks a lot of infrastructural facilities so he pleaded with the Chair to use her networks to assist the College to improve on its infrastructural facilities and add on new ones.



From Left: Rt. Hon. Justice Akufo (Rtd), Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante and Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo



Prof Fobil, Provost (left) welcoming the Chairperson and her entourage to the College



A group picture with the delegation

Rt. Hon. Justice Akufo (Rtd) indicated the visit was to afford her the opportunity to see for herself the facilities of the University to be able to determine what could be done to improve them.

The Team was taken round the facilities of the College including the Charles Easmon Building which houses the College Administration, the Hostels

including the International Students' Hostel, the Dental School, the Basic Sciences Building, the Medical School Administration, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences Administration and some departmental buildings.

Among the Council Chair's Team were, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, the Registrar, Mr. Kofinti, Director of PDMSD, Mrs.

Elizier Ameyaw-Buronya, Director of Public Affairs and Mr. Boakye, Deputy Director of PDMSD.

The Provost was also accompanied by Professor Ebenezer Anno-Nyako, Ag. Dean of the University of Ghana Dental School, Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Secretary and some other senior members of the College.

Vice-Chancellor Commissions Infrastructural Projects At The College Of Health Sciences 29th July, 2021



Immediate past Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu cuts the tape to commission the new Dental Clinic building.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu has at two separate ceremonies commissioned a number of infrastructural projects at the College of Health Sciences. The projects were the University of Ghana Dental School Phase II Project, the School of Pharmacy New Building and the Refurbished College of Health Sciences Library.

Welcoming the gathering, the Provost of the College, Rev. Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi expressed his joy for the successful completion of the projects. He expressed his gratitude to God and University Senior Management for the successful completion of the projects. He noted that the College started with one school but it now has six schools and one research institute. According to the Provost, most of the schools of the College started in borrowed structures of the University of Ghana Medical School. With time, the schools are acquiring their own infrastructure,

he noted. He stated that among the numerous challenges the College has is space for faculty, staff and students so any addition of space comes as a relief to the Management of the College.

The Provost commended the Vice-Chancellor and his Team for their support, noting that the College of Health Sciences has benefited immensely from the Vice-Chancellor's Administration. He was hopeful that the commissioning of the facilities will produce the expected outcomes. He also commended the founding fathers who dreamt about the inception of the College and have continued to support the College in diverse ways to

ensure its sustainability and continuous progress. He charged the Administration to maintain the facility for posterity.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu in his remarks was pleased to see the successful completion of the projects. He expressed his appreciation to all those who contributed in diverse ways to make the completion of the projects possible. He indicated that the completion of the projects will go a long way to help the College of Health Sciences and for that matter the University to achieve its strategic priorities of research, teaching and learning. He applauded the College of

Health Sciences Fundraising Committee Chairperson, Professor Angela Ofori-Atta and the members for their efforts in raising the funding for the refurbishment of the College Library.

Professor Oduro charged staff to embrace the culture of maintenance, noting that one criterion for ranking universities worldwide is how well their facilities are maintained for better students' learning experience. He advised the gathering to avoid doing things that have the potential to injure the enviable reputation of the University. He urged all to build the University and support the new Management to



Dental Clinic building

succeed.

The Dental School Phase II Project was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ndanu, the Chairman of the College of Health Sciences Chaplaincy Board while The School of Pharmacy New Building and the Refurbished College Library were dedicated by Rev. Dr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako, University Chaplain.

Present at the two ceremonies were Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei, Co-ordinator of Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Teams, Rev. Dr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako, University Chaplain, Professor Isaac Julius Asiedu-Gyekye, Dean of University of Ghana School of Pharmacy, Professor Ebenezer Anno-Nyako, Ag. Dean, University of Ghana Dental School, Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Secretary, the Projects Contractors, Faculty and Staff



Ms. Eccles Andoh, former Ag. Director



Immediate past Provost receives a plaque from Dean of UGDS



A cross section of audience



*Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
immediate past Vice-Chancellor*



Mr. Opare Atuah, College Secretary



School of Pharmacy building

Immediate Past Provost Commissions New Department of Physiotherapy Office

The Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Reverend Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi has commissioned a new office for the Department of Physiotherapy, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences.

Welcoming the invited guests to the commissioning, the Head of Department, Dr. Jonathan Quartey acknowledged the

support of Mr. William Addo of J.M Addo and Sons Ltd for his support towards the project. Dr. Quartey stated that he was motivated to embark on the project because of the increasing number of faculty and students in the department. He was grateful to some old students of the department for their generous contributions both in cash and in kind towards the successful completion of the

project. He also thanked J.M. Addo and Sons Limited for the donation of GH¢14,213.00 towards the project. He further commended the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, the Dean of the School of Biomedical Sciences and Ms. Anna Hughton, a former Head of the Department for their unconditional support towards the successful completion of the project.



Immediate past Provost (middle) assisted by the Dean of SBAHS Prof. Ofori-Acquah (right) and Mr. William Addo (left) to commission the New Office.



Dr. Jonathan Quartey,
Head of Department of Physiotherapy

Mr. William Addo of J.M. Addo and Sons Ltd. was delighted to be part of commissioning of the project. He indicated how important it was to attend to Dr. Quartey's request for support to undertake the project. He congratulated Dr. Quartey and

his team for a good work done. He further encouraged him to continue to work hard for the Department and the School.

The Dean of the School of Biomedical and Allied Health

Sciences (SBAHS), Professor Solomon F. Ofori-Acquah congratulated the Head of the Department for his fearless leadership. He encouraged him to continue with the good works. He thanked the faculty

and staff of the Department for their support. He was also grateful to the Provost for his unwavering support towards the project.

Reverend Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi in his address

expressed his joy at the outcome of the project. He thanked the team that worked on the project for a good work done. He noted that among the numerous challenges the College has is office space for faculty and staff so any addition comes as a relief

to Management. He advised faculty and staff to maintain the building for future generations. He further encouraged them to use the place to deliver on their mandate.



Group photograph of former Provost and Staff

University of Ghana Dominates Ranking of Top 50 Lecturers in Ghana

The University of Ghana has 25 lecturers in the top 50, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has nine, with the new entrant, the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, having seven of its lecturers ranked among the top 50.

The others are University of Cape Coast (UCC), three; the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), two; the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), the Koforidua Technical University, the Ghana Technology University College and the Catholic University College, one each.

According to the rankings, Dr Dwomoa Adu of the University of Ghana, whose subject area is Medical and Health

Science/Dentistry, placed first in Ghana, first in the university and 71st in Africa.

He, however, came out 9,522nd position among all lecturers in the world.

Emerita Professor Isabella Quakyi of the University of Ghana with the subject area in Medical and Health Sciences/ Epidemiology and Community Health placed fifth in the university and 626th in Africa.

Emeritus/Emerita Appointments

A | EMERITA PROFESSOR ISABELLA AKYINBA QUAKYI



Emerita Professor Isabella Akyinba Quakyi is a Professor of Immunology and Parasitology

and the Foundation Dean of the School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences. She joined the University as a Lecturer in 1983. She was appointed the Director of School of Public Health from 2002 to 2006. She was appointed the Dean of School Public Health from 2006 to 2007.

Emerita Professor Quakyi holds BSc. (Human Biology) from the University of Surrey, England awarded in 1973. She was awarded MSc. (Immunology), by the Brunel University, England in 1978 and PhD (Immunoparasitology) in 1980. She is affiliated to a number of associations. Amongst them are Laureate of the Prestigious African Union Kwame Nkrumah Award for Women in Science, 2014, Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2015, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, British Society of Immunology and Federation of African Immunological Societies. She has served on several committees in the University.

In March, 2021, Emerita Professor Quakyi was recognized during the International Women's Day as one of the women who have excelled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She has numerous research publications and articles.

B | EMERITUS PROFESSOR RICHARD BERKO BIRITWUM



Emeritus Professor R.B. Biritwum holds MBChB from the then Ghana Medical School, now University of Ghana Medical School awarded in 1973. He

holds a postgraduate Diploma in Statistics from the University of Ghana in 1976. He continued to the Harvard School of Public Health where he received MPH and MSc. in 1978 and 1979 respectively. He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and Surgeons (WACPS).

Emeritus Professor R.B. Biritwum joined the Ghana Medical School as a Lecturer in 1986 after serving as a Medical Officer at the Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital from 1974 to 1975. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer in 1995. In 1996, Emeritus Professor R.B. Biritwum became an Associate Professor and the Head of Department for Community Health. By dint of hard work, Professor R.B. Biritwum rose to the position of Vice-Dean for Ghana Medical School from 2004 to 2006. He has trained medical and paramedical students in conducting research in several medical institutions; Ghana, Uganda, Kenya and many other African countries.

Emeritus Professor R.B. Biritwum has served on a number of Committees in the University. Amongst them are the College of Health Sciences Academic Board, University of Ghana Academic Board, Faculty Appointments Committee, Board of Medical School in addition to other Committees.

C | REVEREND EMERITUS PROFESSOR ANDREWS SETH AYETTEY



Reverend Emeritus Professor Andrews Seth Ayettey joined the University of Ghana in 1978 as a Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy, University of Ghana Medical School. He was promoted to the rank of a Senior Lecturer in 1982 and Associate

Professor in 1991. He served as the Head of Department for Anatomy from 1981 to 1996. He rose to become the Vice-Dean of the University of Ghana Medical School from 1998 to 2000. By dint of hard work, he became the Foundation Provost of the College of Health Sciences from 2000 to 2004.

Reverend Emeritus Professor Ayettey holds MBChB from the University of Ghana Medical School awarded in 1974. He holds PhD in Anatomy from the University of Cambridge awarded in 1978. He was a founding member of the Anatomical Society of West Africa, and a member of Ghana Medical Association. He also served as the President of African Organization for Research Training in Cancers (AORTIC) from 2003-2004.

Reverend Emeritus Professor A.S. Ayettey has served on numerous committees in the University and outside the University. Amongst them are the CHS Council, CHS and UG Academic Boards, Trustee of the College of Health Sciences Postgraduate Endowment Fund, University of New York-UG Integrity Programme, International Advisory Committee, National Medical Fellowship, USA and many other committees.

He is a staunch Christian and an ordained Reverend Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

D | EMERITUS PROFESSOR ALBERT GEORGE BAIDOO AMOAH



Emeritus Professor Albert George Baidoo Amoah joined the University of Ghana Medical School in 1989 as a Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry. He rose to the rank of a Senior Lecturer in 1998 in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics. He became a Professor in 2001. By dint of hard work, he was appointed the Vice-Dean from 2001-2004 and the Deputy Provost and Ag. Provost of the College of Health Sciences from 2005-2007.

Emeritus Professor Amoah holds MBChB from the University of Ghana Medical School in 1975. He was awarded a PhD in 1984 from the University of Surrey. He obtained his Residency Membership from the Royal College of Physicians in 1987.

Emeritus Professor A.G.B. Amoah was very instrumental in the setting up of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and the National Diabetes Centre. He has served on numerous ad hoc and statutory University Committees. Amongst them are; the College Council, College Appointments and Promotion Committee, College of Health Sciences Interfaculty Appointment Committee and many others.

Awards & Recognition

College of Health Sciences Congratulates

Emerita Professor Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi

Professor of Immunology and Parasitology, Foundation Dean, School of Public Health

- The College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana is congratulating you for being recognised internationally during the 2021 World Women's Day as one of seven women in Science who have changed our world for the better.
- This remarkable feat is a testament of your hard work and dedication to duty.
- Management of the College of Health Sciences is extremely proud of your accomplishments and humbled by the honour and prestige you have brought to the College in particular and the entire University of Ghana.
- You have been a strong pillar in our establishment throughout your years of exemplary service.
- Your works, particularly in vaccines, have had a significant impact on the world of Science and on healthcare delivery systems around the globe.
- You are an inspiration and one-of-a-kind role model for young Scientists and women who aspire to achieve greatness.
- We congratulate you again on your special recognition.



ASCO Honours Professor Lorna Awo Renner

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has honoured **Professor Lorna Awo Renner**; a faculty at the Department of Child Health, University of Ghana Medical School, College of Health Sciences and Deputy Director for the West African Genetic Medicine Centre (WAGMC) also at the University of Ghana for her extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to ASCO. She was honoured with the "International Women Who Conquer Cancer Mentorship Award".

The Women Who Conquer Cancer (WWCC) is a programme of Conquer Cancer that is designed to offer critical support to young women in cancer research to help them build their careers and stay in the field. The Mentorship Award recognises extraordinary female leaders in oncology and role models who have excelled as a mentor and have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the professional development of women colleagues as clinicians, educators, and researchers in oncology.

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (the Society) is committed to the principle that knowledge conquers cancer. Together with the Association for Clinical Oncology, ASCO represents nearly 45,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of high quality and equitable patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer



Professor Lorna Awo Renner

and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy.

Professor Renner is also a Consultant Pediatrician and heads the Pediatric Oncology Service at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. She is also the past President of the African Continental branch of the International Society for Pediatric Oncology (SIOP). Currently, she is the Ghana country project leader for World Child Cancer, and is a founding trustee of Lifeline for Childhood Cancer Ghana. She has served on several national and international boards and committees and received awards including the First Lady's award for excellence in health.

Congratulations to Professor Lorna Awo Renner!

Recognition of Professor Lydia Aziato

for her contribution towards Nursing and Midwifery Education and Research nationally and internationally.



Professor Lydia Aziato receiving her award.

On 27th May, 2021, **Prof. Lydia Aziato** was awarded by the Ministry of Health, for her contribution towards nursing and midwifery education and research nationally and internationally. Prof. Aziato is an Associate Professor and the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Ghana. She graduated with her first degree in Nursing and Psychology in 2001 and in 2005, she graduated with an MPhil in Nursing from the University of Ghana. She also had her specialty training in Oncology Nursing from the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Canada and completed in 2006. Subsequently, she graduated

with a PhD in Nursing from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa in 2013.

She has published over 60 articles in credible international peer-reviewed journals and is a reviewer for many journals. She holds both local and international positions in nursing organizations such as Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). With her 20-year teaching career, she has taught over 10 undergraduate courses and 15 graduate (Masters and PhD) courses, from 2001 to the present. She has taught at various Schools apart from the University of Ghana, including teaching Oncology Nursing at the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives where she was the first Faculty Chair for the Oncology Nursing Programme. She has been the primary or secondary supervisor of over 45 graduate students and has also supervised numerous undergraduate students and a few PhD students.

Prof. Aziato has applied this combination of practical and academic experience to a variety of other disciplines outside Nursing and Midwifery by teaching research ethics and qualitative research at the Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS). Her contribution towards research is unmatched. She is passionate about pain, breast cancer, herbal medicine, and women's health. She successfully developed a Pain Assessment tool (Colour Circle Pain Scale) and developed a Clinical guideline for post-operative pain management. She has advanced skills in qualitative research, has led several research projects and together with other researchers, has won a number of research grants.

Dr. Dwomoa Adu's Scholarship Highly Ranked by AD Scientific Index

Dr Dwomoa Adu, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Ghana Medical School, has been highly ranked in Ghana by the AD Scientific Index Report 2021 out of the 231 scientists who made the ranking cut-off. Dr Dwomoa Adu's scholarship was captured under the Medical and Health Sciences / Dentistry subject area.

The AD (Alper-Doger) Scientific Index is a science citation index that evaluates scientific output at universities, countries, regions, based on the publications and citations of scientists in the last 5 years.

After a career as Consultant Nephrologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Birmingham, England Dr. Adu returned to Ghana in 2009 to take up an appointment as Honorary Consultant Nephrologist and Senior Research Fellow at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and the University of Ghana Medical School. His research interests have been into the immunopathogenesis and treatment of glomerulonephritis and the genetics of chronic kidney disease. He is Co-Principal Investigator of the H3Africa Kidney Disease Research Network grant funded by the NIH to study the genomics of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in Africa. This is a network of 13 Academic centres in Ghana and Nigeria. The studies show an association between variants in the Apolipoprotein L1 gene and the risk



Dr. Dwomoa Adu

of developing chronic kidney disease. These variants evolved some 10,000 years ago and because they provided protection against Trypanosomiasis rose to a high prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa. Ongoing studies include studies into the role of APOL1 variants in

- a) the progression of CKD
- b) the development of childhood nephrotic syndrome
- c) the pathogenesis of sickle cell nephropathy and
- d) the pathogenesis of COVID-19 associated kidney disease.

Dr. Asare Wins Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Dissertation in the Sciences



Dr. Prince Asare, Department of Bacteriology at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) was the recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Dissertation in the Sciences for the 2019/2020 Academic Year.

Dr. Asare received the award during the University's Academic Prizes Awards Ceremony held on 23rd April, 2021. The Awards Ceremony is held annually to recognize outstanding students in the University in the various disciplines.

Congratulations, Dr. Asare.

Millennium Excellence Award to NMIMR

Excellence in distinction for research and science

The Life Patron, HRM Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and the illustrious Board of Governors of the Millennium Excellence Foundation conferred on Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) the coveted

Millennium Excellence Award for Science and Research in high recognition of your great service to Ghana as the leading biomedical research Institute. Your legendary rise to the defence of the nation in the wake of the corona virus pandemic has awakened the conscience of the nation to the critical role the institution

plays for the well-being of all Ghanaians.

This recognition is to the leadership and the many brave men and women who risk their lives in the frontline on daily basis to protect the rest of us.

The award was received in July, 2021



Prof. Abraham Anang (far right), immediate past Director of NMIMR receives the award.

AGI Award (Association of Ghana Industries) **In recognition of the sterling leadership in the fight against COVID-19 AGI Award**

On November 13, 2020 the Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research was given an Honorary Award at the 9th Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and Quality Awards 2020. This follows the shortlisting of nominees and subsequent evaluation by the AGI Awards Technical Committee, in recognition of the gallant fight of the Institute in the COVID-19 pandemic. The award was received by the Institute Administrator, Mr. Theodore Ahuno. He dedicated the award to all members of staff who have been working tirelessly to curb the pandemic.



Mr. Theodore Ahuno receives the award. on behalf of NMIMR

EMY Salute Honour Award: Exceptional Contribution towards the fight against COVID-19



This award is in recognition of the Institute's great impact made in the fight against COVID-19. On Saturday 4th July 2020, the Institute received an EMY Salute honour. The award which was received by the Institute Director and Administrator on behalf of the Institute, is a special tribute paid to NMIMR for the great impact made in the fight against COVID-19. Mr. Daniel Kojo Soboh, Executive Director for EMY Africa said "Your organisation has been at the forefront of the fight against this pandemic by being the main testing centre in the country and by issuing the public with accurate data to better help them understand the gravity of the situation. To this, we salute you for an excellent work being done to the team of NMIMR for making the Institute proud.

COVID-19 Heroes of Distinction Award

Professor William Kwabena Ampofo, immediate past Head of the Department of Virology has been named one of the COVID-19 Heroes of distinction in the fight against COVID-19.



Prof. William K. Ampofo

College of Health Sciences Holds 5TH BIENNIAL PUBLIC LECTURE

The College of Health Sciences has held its 5th Biennial Public Lecture under the theme "Update on COVID-19 in Ghana. Building a Resilient Strategy to Combat Future Pandemics." The Lecture which was held virtually was chaired by Dr. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, the Director of Institutional Care Division, Ghana Health Service. The Speakers were Professor William Ampofo, an Associate Professor and former Head of the Department of Virology, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Child Health, University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) and Professor Ernest Kenu, an Associate Professor and Epidemiologist at the Department of Epidemiology and Disease Control, School of Public Health (SPH). All three speakers were from the College of Health Sciences.

Welcoming the participants, the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius Fobil noted that it was the first time that the Public Lecture was being held virtually. He explained that the Lecture was being held because of the raging COVID-19 pandemic. According to Professor Fobil, the College holds the Biennial Public Lecture in line with its mission to promote health through education, research and service, as well as provide promotive, preventive and curative services to meet the health needs of the nation and the global community. He asked participants to increase their knowledge about the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic, recognise the ongoing efforts to combat it in Ghana and strategies to prevent future pandemics. He urged participants to



Professor Julius Fobil, Provost of College of Health Sciences



Dr. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, Chairman for the Lecture

make good use of the information to be shared to enrich their knowledge.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman for the Lecture, Dr. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, Director of Institutional Care Division of Ghana Health Service, expressed his joy of meeting old friends and acquaintances. He noted how lucky we were as a country not to have experienced the



Professor William Kwabena Ampofo



Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson



Professor Ernest Kenu

effects of Ebola during the outbreak in West Africa. He indicated that, COVID-19 issues should be discussed in a comprehensive manner. According to him, COVID-19 had proven to us that all units and sectors are inextricably linked to each other. He noted that we were all part of the problem and part of the solution and no one deserved to be left behind.

Delivering his lecture on *Update on COVID-19 Pandemic in Ghana*, the Virologist and Coordinator of National Laboratory Network for COVID-19 Testing, Professor William Ampofo stated that the disease associated with the novel coronavirus – severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that affected the lower respiratory tract of patients with pneumonia in Wuhan in China in December, 2019 is called COVID -19 by the World Health Organisation

(WHO). He indicated that as COVID-19 was still ongoing with SARS-CoV-2 evolving, an update was a difficult undertaking.

Prof Ampofo indicated that public health measures in Ghana have been based on pillars of Testing, Tracking and Treating with Risk Communication providing important linkages. The testing led to the formation of the National Laboratory Network for COVID-19 that directly informed surveillance and case management. He added that antigen screening coupled with mandatory quarantine for incoming air travelers had been a major containment strategy to mitigate foreign importation of the virus. Ghana has also adopted molecular screening of clinical cases using pre-existing equipment of the Tuberculosis Prevention Programme. Limited antibody surveys have provided some data on surveillance, and

specific vaccine-effectiveness studies are being initiated. Early genomic sequencing of SARS-COV-2 by Ghanaian scientists provided timely evidence that informed major policy decisions. The notable achievements by pooled testing that provided disease intelligence gathering during the lockdown and the prioritization of laboratory supplies and stockpiling were major milestones in Ghana's response, he noted.

Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson speaking on *Ghana's Strategy so far in Combating COVID-19* indicated that the first case of COVID- 19 was reported in Ghana on 12th March, 2020, a day after the WHO declared it a pandemic. According Prof Yawson, the pandemic had demonstrated the critical importance of a resilient health system in protecting health security. Health systems

globally have been severely overwhelmed by large surge of patients with respiratory symptoms, lack of space, essential medical supplies, and workforce to manage patients. It has affected millions and left thousands of mortalities in its wake globally. Ghana has made efforts and taken steps to control the pandemic, yet we continue to experience the surges and waves as the pandemic evolves, and has really tested the resilience of the health system.

As a nation with a large proportion of vulnerable unvaccinated population, all preventive measures that have served us so well must be strengthened and continued – wearing of facemasks, handwashing and sanitizing the hands, social/physical distancing and avoidance of mass gatherings. Unfortunately, these measures have been extremely difficult to enforce and complied

with at the individual and population levels.

According to Prof Yawson, government's response to limit the effects of the pandemic on socio-economic activities include, limiting and stopping the importation of cases, detecting and containing cases, caring for the sick, social and economic responses to protect the most vulnerable, and improving capacity and deepening self-reliance.

Professor Ernest Kenu concluded the Lecture on the topic *Strategies to Combat Future Pandemics*. He indicated that stringent control should be imposed on drivers that influence how soon a pandemic occurs including control of human behavior starting from the family unit. At the stage of prevention and preparedness, International health regulations should be strictly enforced in all

countries with standardised mechanisms in all states.

Prof Kenu added that in combating future pandemics, strategies should focus on emergency preparedness, stringent behavioural controls from household level along with holistic multisectoral support that provides adequate financial and infrastructural preparation before, during and after pandemics.

This year's Biennial Public Lecture was the fifth to be organised by the College. It was the first time to be organised virtually. Among the few people that were present at the virtual lecture were Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei, Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Biennial Public Lecture, Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Secretary, Mrs. Elizier T. Ameyaw-Buronyah, Director of Public Affairs and Members of the Planning Committee.



A group picture of the Speakers and other dignitaries after the Lecture

The College Chaplaincy Board



The College of Health Sciences Chaplaincy Board was formed at the assumption into office of Rev. Prof Patrick Ferdinand Ayeh-Kumi (the immediate past provost of the College of Health Sciences). The main functions of this Board is to cater for the spiritual and religious needs of both students and staff as well as regulate and coordinate religious activities of the College especially at the Korle Bu Campus of the University of Ghana. The Board also advises College Administration on religious matters.

The establishment of this Board became necessary because, the University Chaplaincy Board is located on Legon Campus is unable cater for religious activities that take place at the Korle Bu Campus, it was therefore deemed necessary to have the College version of the Board to cater for, properly coordinate and monitor religious activities of staff and students on Korle Bu Campus.

Rev. Dr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako who is currently the Chairman of the University of Ghana Chaplaincy Board and the former head of the Department of Physiology, UGMS was the foundation chair for the College of Health Sciences Chaplaincy Board.

Since its inception, it has coordinated the celebration of major religious events of College. These include annual Easter programmes, Christmas Carols and Thanksgiving services and crusades. The Board has also mediated in settlings some religious disputes amongst churches and individuals.

Some Board members have represented the College at weddings and funerals of members of the College Community within and outside Accra. .

Rev. Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, delivering a sermon at the 2018 Annual Thanksgiving Service



Praise singers at the 2018 Thanksgiving and Carols Service

The current Board comprise of the following:

- Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Ndanu - Chairman, University of Ghana Dental School
- Rev. Prosper Amegashie - Secretary, College Library
- Rev. Fr. Prof. W. C. Kwamena Sagoe - Member, Department of Medical Microbiology
- Dr. Matilda Asante - Member, HoD, Dept of Dietetics, SBAHS
- Rev. Dr. Emmanuel K. Tsegah - Member, Principal Medical Officer, School Clinic
- Rev. Stanley M. Amankwa - Member, Head, Medical Illustration Unit, UGMS
- Mr. Derrick Amoako - Student Representative

The goal of the current Board is to seek harmony among all religious groups on the Korle Bu Campus of the College and unite all Reverend Ministers within the College to intercede for our administration as well as provide spiritual support to members of the College who will need such support especially in their challenging moments.

The mandate of the College Chaplaincy Board are as follows;

- To coordinate in consultation with the University Chaplaincy Board, the activities of the various religious groups and committees in the College
- To advise the College, Students and staff on religious spiritual and faith matters
- To coordinate celebrations, spiritual events and festivals
- To provide pastoral support for students and staff of all faiths or none
- To support student faith societies
- To enhance interfaith dialogue and multifaith activities where there is a desire among members

The Chaplaincy Board is currently seeking an office to allow members of the college who might need consultation and counselling with the minister to be able to do so.

Some specific events held under the auspices of the Board are:

- The maiden Annual Thanksgiving and Carols Service College of Health was held on 22nd December, 2016, at School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences Examinations Hall. Rev. Prof. Andrews Seth Aryeetey, the foundation Provost of the College of Health Sciences gave the sermonette. All Deans and Directors of the constituent institutions of the College, students and staff choirs were in attendance.
- The maiden Easter Celebration service for the College was successfully held on 6th April 2017 at SBAHS Examinations Hall, at Korle-Bu and Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tsegah, Principal Medical Officer in charge of the Medical School Clinic gave the sermon. Just like the annual thanksgiving and carols services of the college which have been organized since 2016, the Easter programs have also been customarily held and were graciously attended by Deans, Directors, Students and Staff.
- Revival of a hitherto defunct CHS Lunch Hour Christian Fellowship Meeting. Both written and oral histories pointed to the fact that Christians in the college used to meet to pray for the college administration, staff and for themselves during lunch times. However, these meetings died out until the Chaplaincy Board was inducted into office. The first meeting successfully came off on 29th March, 2017 in the Charles Easmon Examinations Hall. The then Provost, was billed to exhort thirty-eight (38) members who had gathered for the meeting on that day, but had to

attend to another equally important appointment at the same period, and so he asked the then Chairman, Rev. Dr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako to step in for him. The Board has consistently organised monthly Lunch Hour Prayer Meetings held on every last Wednesday of the month, between 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm. The Meeting brings all believers on Korle Bu Campus once every month to share



Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tsegah giving the sermon at the Easter Celebrations



fellowship and intercede for the College Community. Members of the Board as well as others within the College and others from outside the University have been invited to minister the word of God to the Christian community in the College and people around Korle Bu Campus. For instance, the 2020 February meeting featured Prof. Abraham Kwabena Annan, the former Director of Nugouchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research at Legon Campus, while the July 2021 session hosted Rev. Dr. David Bindan, an alumnus of the UGMS, and that of September meeting played host to Apostle Dr. Abraham Ofori-Kuragu, a former General Secretary of The Apostolic Church-Ghana

- Early morning prayer meetings are also held each day between 7:30am and 8:00am by Chaplaincy Board members and some interested staff.
- **Funeral Services:** The first anniversary meeting of the lunch hour programme of 28th March 2018, was incidentally dedicated to the memorial service for the late Dr. Christian A. Botchway, the first Director of the Dental Programme of the Medical School. This was when the meeting, apart from its attendees, hosted the bereaved family members, sympathizers, former friends and colleagues in honour of the late Dr. Christian A. Botchway for his great contributions as the first Director of the School. Dr. Thomas A. Ndanu delivered the sermon on that occasion.

In September 2019, there was an unfortunate incident where a level 300 male medical student of UGMS committed suicide. The Chaplaincy Board, keeping with tenets, sent a

delegation (Rev. Dr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tsegah and Rev Prosper Amegashie) to visit the parents at Anyaa to commiserate with them. On Saturday, 14th September, 2019 the Board conducted the burial service at the Korle-Bu Main Mortuary, assisted with the interment of the body and duly represented the College of Health Sciences at the final funeral rites observations.

The Board has also participated in activities organised by Legon Campus chaplaincy. On 12th June, 2019, the Secretary, Rev. Prosper Amegashie represented the board at an **Evening of Remembrance Service in Honour of the Late Professor Emeritus Kwame Gyekye** under the auspices of the Department of Philosophy and Classics, at Akuafo Hall Chapel.



2018 Thanksgiving & Carols Service





MED CHORALE



NOGUCHI CHOIR



MEDICAL CHOIR



DENTAL CHOIR



VANDAL HARMONICS CHOIR



SBAHS CHOIR

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