

# INFOCUS

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Volume 7



West-Wing Building, School of Public Health

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***Theme:***

***“Nurturing Resilience: Adopting Technology, Embracing Humanism”***

# MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST



**Professor Julius Fobil**  
*Provost CHS*

It is a pleasure to once again come your way with the first edition of the 2023 issue of the Newsletter of the College of Health Sciences, INFOCUS. The year began in earnest, taking off from where 2022 left us, with so much uncertainties, especially on the economic and financial fronts.

In spite of the prevailing challenges, the College of Health Sciences continues to make strides on all fronts, as Schools, Institute, Centres, Faculty, Staff and Students engage in activities and projects

toward the achievement of the objectives of the College and for that matter the University.

The June 2023 edition of the INFOCUS Newsletter captures a few of these activities and projects for your reading pleasure. I take this opportunity to thank all Deans/Director, Heads of Department, Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students who continue to work hard to advance the cause of the College and the University. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and it is my hope and prayer that we will continue to work together in unison, even under the challenging conditions and under the circumstance we find ourselves. I am hopeful that with consistent hard work, commitment and dedication to our common cause, we shall reach our goal of bringing good health, comfort and happiness to people through health education research and service to humanity.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the Newsletter Committee and Editorial Team for the great job they are doing to ensure that the INFOCUS Newsletter is of standard quality and released timeously. Kudos to you guys and may your efforts yield greater fruits as you continue to churn out more issues for our reading pleasure.

Have a good read!





**Professor Simon Beinakpaa Naaeder**

The InFocus Team (IFT) on 31st January 2023 visited Professor Simon Beinakpaa Naaeder (SBN), a Professor of Surgery, former Deputy Provost of the College of Health Sciences (January 2001 to January 2005); and Head, Department of Surgery, UGMS from October 1997 to January 2001.

After initial pleasantries, the IFT interacted with SBN about his background and upbringing, career journey as an educator and administrative roles he held in the University. Here are excerpts of the interview.

Interviewers: Dr. Esther Brobbey and Mr. Daniel A. Ameyaw

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

**SBN:** I was born at Nandom in the Upper West Region, Ghana. I had my basic education at St. Paul's Catholic Primary School and St. Andrew's Catholic Middle School, both in Nandom. I went to St. Charles Secondary School, Tamale, from Middle Form 2,

where I took my "O" Levels and then proceeded to St. John's School in Sekondi for my "A" Levels. I then entered the University of Ghana in October 1969, where I did my pre-medical year, then enrolled in the University of Ghana Medical School and graduated in June 1975.

**IFT:** *What or who inspired you to pursue medicine? Was there any particular inspiration?*

**SBN:** It is very interesting that you asked that! I would say it was divine inspiration. When I was in Form 6, it was not my intention to read medicine at all. I was very interested in Chemistry because I was good in the subject and I won the Chemistry Prizes at school. Therefore, I initially applied to read Chemistry at the University of Ghana. However, on admission in October 1969, I was told by the Head of Department (HOD) at the time, during registration, that I needed both pure mathematics and additional mathematics in order to study the Chemistry Honours degree programme. Unfortunately, I did not have both, so he suggested that I should perhaps pursue another programme like Biochemistry. I was very disappointed because I really liked Chemistry! However, I took his advice and went ahead to register for Biochemistry.

The interesting part of it is, I had previously received a telegram inviting me to come for an interview at the Medical School even though I had not applied to read medicine, so I did not attend as I was not interested in pursuing medicine at the time. A close friend and mate of mine who had applied to read medicine but also failed to honour his invitation to attend the interview at the Medical School was admitted into Science. Both of us were very disappointed with the turn of events. A friend of ours, who was then a medical student, advised him to go and see Professor D.W. Ewer, a Professor of Zoology, who was then Head of Department of Zoology and who was in charge of Medical School admissions. I decided to accompany my friend to the department and it was on the way that I decided that if I got medicine I would do it. We met with Professor Ewer and he asked us to

report at the registration centre the next morning with our O' and A' Level results, which we did. To our utmost surprise and excitement, we found our names on the final list of medical students when it was put up. That is how I got into Medical School. I believe that it was divine intervention and I have never regretted it!

**IFT:** *Can you tell us about your journey to become an educator?*

**SBN:** I have always been interested in educating young people. My interests started when I was in secondary school and during the holidays, I used to gather primary school children in the village to teach them English and Mathematics. After my "A" Levels, I went to teach Chemistry in my old secondary school, St. Charles, for one year. So, you can see where my passion for Chemistry and teaching started.

After doing my House Job at Korle Bu, and working as a Medical Officer in Anaesthesia for two years, I was appointed as a Demonstrator in the Department of Anatomy in 1977. While in that department, I took the Primary Fellowship examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and passed. I then enrolled as a Surgical Resident. As a student, my interest had always been in surgery and my mentors, the late Emeritus Professor E. A. Badoe and the late Emeritus Professor E. Q. Archampong guided me well. Especially Professor Badoe because I was on his floor as his student, house officer and surgical resident. So, I developed the interest in surgery and he was also keen in mentoring and encouraging students. He actually arranged for me to be appointed as a Demonstrator in Anatomy. I spent almost two years in the Department of Anatomy while preparing for my Primary Fellowship examinations in surgery. So, when I passed, he took me on as his Surgical Resident. After two years residency in 1981, he got in touch with a friend of his in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK, the late Professor Ivan Johnston, then Head of Department of Surgery, who got me a paid post in the Department of Surgery, Newcastle Group of Teaching Hospitals. At the same time, I received a scholarship from the British Technical Aid for Surgical Training in the UK. So, I had a scholarship and a job!

I went to Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, in August 1981, to continue my surgical training and I got my Fellowship

in April 1983. After working for a few years, I felt that I had an obligation to come back home, mainly because of the support I got from my mentors and their hope that I would come back to the department. So, I applied for a lectureship position in 1986, and was interviewed at the University of Ghana's London Office by the late Emeritus Professor E. Q. Archampong, who was then Dean of the Medical School and Professor F. I. D. Konotey-Ahulu.

I joined the Department of Surgery as a Lecturer in October 1986, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1993, Associate Professor in 1998 and Professor in 2003.

**IFT:** *Can you tell us about your administrative roles in the University?*

**SBN:** I served as Tutor (1986-1988) and as Senior Tutor (1988-1991) of the UGMS Students' Hostels and as Chairman of the Clinical Inter-Departmental Committee (1997-1998). I was appointed Head of Department (HOD) of Surgery in 1997 and served my first term. During my second term in office, I was appointed as Deputy Provost of the College of Health Sciences, which was established in December 1999. Professor A. S. Ayettey who was appointed as Provost in January 2000, encouraged me to apply and to come and support him at the College. So, I completed one year of my second term as HOD, then commenced as Deputy Provost from January, 2001 to January, 2005, having served two terms.

I also served as Acting Provost from October 2004 to January 2005, and contributed to University governance by serving on boards and committees of the University, the College of Health Sciences and the Medical School.

**IFT:** *What were some of the challenges or difficulties you faced as Deputy Provost?*

**SBN:** At the time I joined the College Administration, things were difficult in the sense that funding was a big issue as the College was established without any funding. It was hoped that some resources could be obtained from the Medical School, but it was not in a position to provide sufficient funding at the time as the School had its own financial challenges, similarly

with the other constituents of the College. So, the Provost wrote to the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) to request for a budget line for the College, but unfortunately, we had missed the budget deadline. It was, therefore, difficult to support the activities of the College. The other challenge that we had was administrative issues with constituent institutions. In fact, it was a serious challenge because the College was set up to provide central administration for these constituents, however, they were already financially autonomous institutions and they were getting funding directly from government. So, these independent constituent institutions, who had well-established structures and administrations, perceived the new College with some apprehension and there was some resistance. They feared that the College wanted to take over their finances and assets.

Another challenge was accommodation for students. The Medical School was unwilling to share its hostel facilities, which were already inadequate, with other students of the College and that was understandable. Consequently, the College built its own hostel as an attempt to solve accommodation problems. There was also the problem of a shortage of faculty for the basic sciences and para-clinical/clinical departments. So, the College established the Post-graduate Endowment Fund, which provided funding to support postgraduate students. There was a Scholarships Committee that considered all applications. So, scholarships were awarded to postgraduate students across the College. That was one way of developing faculty and it did help increase the numbers recruited. Even though there are still some challenges now especially with the clinical departments.

**IFT:** *What were your greatest achievements as Deputy Provost?*

**SBN:** I would say that I helped to “settle nerves” in the College and thereby contributed to the stability of the College in its early years. As Chairman of some committees of the College, I helped to move the College agenda forward. The “Statutes Implementation Committee”, which I chaired, helped to iron out virtually all the challenges that the College

Central Administration had with its constituents and which were threatening the very existence of the College. This brought stability to the College and enabled it to move forward as one Unit.

**IFT:** *You mentioned earlier some special individuals who have mentored and inspired you along your journey. Are there any others who motivated you?*

**SBN:** Well, I mentioned the late Emeritus Professor E. A. Badoe and the late Emeritus Professor E. Q. Archampong earlier on. The other person who was very supportive, especially on the part of administration was Professor A. S. Ayettey. My role as Deputy Provost was to help him as Provost at the time, and he provided a great deal of guidance and support, for which I am grateful.

**IFT:** *Apart from your work at the University, what other specialty areas are you involved in and are there any interesting facts about yourself that you are willing to share?*

**SBN:** One interesting fact that I should mention is that, when I became HoD in the Department of Surgery, I supervised the construction of the administrative offices and its furnishing. Funding had already been secured and the contract awarded before I took over as HoD. The Department did not have an office initially, when the Surgical Block was built. So, the Department, for over 35 years, occupied the wooden structure, in front of the Surgical Block, previously used by the building contractors to store materials for construction!

Another interesting fact is that, when I took office as HoD, there were very few Surgical Residents and faculty strength was not encouraging. Many of the Residents that the Department sent abroad for training did not return and young doctors were not entering the surgical training programme. So, I embarked on an enrolment drive to build up the numbers. The introduction of the Additional Duty Hours Allowance for doctors by the Ministry of Health in 1997 slowed down the exodus of young medical officers to greener pastures. I took this opportunity to encourage and persuade many young doctors over the three years that I was HoD to join the Department and to enrol in the residency programme. Once in the

Department, I literally goaded them to prepare and take the postgraduate entrance examinations conducted by the Ministry of Health at that time. The number of Residents in the Department increased rapidly and I later got to know that they were christened "Prof. Naaeder Babies". Some of them eventually became faculty members and others, including the current Chief Executive of Korle Bu, are providing surgical services to Korle Bu and elsewhere in the country.

Other things I have been involved in outside of the University; I was a member of the Board of the Ghana Medical and Dental Council for quite a number of years and served as Coordinator for Council's examinations for foreign-trained medical and dental graduates, later becoming the Chief Examiner for these examinations. I was also involved with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, where I was Chairman of the Surgery Faculty Board for two terms. I also served on the Faculty Board of the West African College of Surgeons for two terms and on the College Council for one term.

One other thing I am involved in is charity work. I have two daughters, unfortunately, my wife passed on 6 years ago. We set up a foundation to her memory called "Pauline Naaeder Memorial Foundation". The objective of the foundation is to support poor and needy individuals as well as to support deprived schools in a rural community with uniforms and learning materials. The foundation also supports the local health centre and church in a rural community in the Upper West Region. The Foundation raised funds to put up a maternity and children's wards at this health centre and equipped it with 32 beds and cots. The foundation was set up to continue my late wife's charity work as she used to raise funds to support school children in her village.

**IFT:** *Can you tell us your plans for the future?*

**SBN:** My plans for the future and my main objective is to get the 6th edition of our surgery textbook: Principles and Practice of Surgery including Pathology in the Tropics, written and published by the Department for our medical students. I am the Editor-In-Chief, working with two other editors. It was first edited by my teachers, Badoe and Archampong and

Jaja (a Nigerian). The book is called BAJA – an acronym for their three names.

At this stage in my life, I am taking a back seat. Currently, I do not do any clinical practice, however, due to a shortage of teachers, I teach twice a week. So, the book and teaching are keeping me busy.

I am also encouraging one of the surgeons in the Department, Professor Jonathan C. B. Dakubo to carry on with research into colorectal diseases which is my area of interest. I did a research fellowship in Nottingham and London on Colorectal Cancer research, which earned me my Doctor of Medicine Degree (MD) from the University of Ghana in 1994.

**IFT:** *Do you have any parting words for us and The College?*

**SBN:** I pray that the College continues to move forward as one Unit, because we need the human resource and working together, we can develop the human resources that this country needs. I hope they are still working on the School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences and Postgraduate Research Institute. It was one of the things that Professor A. S. Ayettey proposed and we worked on it up to a point. The aim was to help solve the issue of the shortage of Basic Sciences teachers in the country. So, it will be good to see the realization of this all-important project!

**IFT:** *So once again, the College of Health Sciences Newsletter, InFocus Committee members would like to thank you very much for all the contributions you have made towards the College and the University at large. Thank you for your time and God bless you!*



*Professor Simon Beinakpaa Naaeder*

# COVID-19 National Trust Fund Commissions 2.3 Million Ghana Cedi Research at NMIMR



Dr. William Collins Asare, Administrator, COVID-19 National Trust Fund (L); Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Director, NMIMR (R)

The Government of Ghana through the COVID-19 National Trust Fund is funding an 18-month research to be conducted by the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), into the effects of COVID-19 vaccines on Ghanaians.

At a brief ceremony to sign the GH¢ 2,274,000 contract at the Secretariat of the Trust Fund at the Jubilee House, Accra, on Tuesday, 9th August 2022, the Administrator of the Trust Fund expressed confidence that the research, would determine the durability of immune responses elicited by three different vaccines - AstraZeneca, Pfizer, and BioNTech-and produce the necessary results to effectively contribute to the development of locally produced antiviral treatments. The research would also include measuring and comparing immune responses in relation to individuals who received the three vaccines, as well as determine the level of vaccine-mediated protection.

Dr. William Collins Asare, the Fund's Administrator, who signed the agreement on behalf the Fund, stated his delight at the collaboration and the fact that the Fund is helping the Institute to carry out this study that would have an impact on the people of Ghana. He added that the Trust Fund was certain that the Institute "will be able to adhere to the provisions in the agreement and complete the research in 18 months", Dr. Asare said.

Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, the Director of NMIMR, thanked the Fund Administrator for the support, adding that the money would significantly support the institute in its research work. She also mentioned that the study had come at a good time, as it would among other things, help to direct policy decisions.

Prof. Yeboah-Manu also assured the Administrator and the Trust Fund that the Institute will be able to adhere to the provisions in the agreement and complete the research within the agreed time.

The research is expected to help obtain vital information to support the health system and inform policy on which vaccines the nation needs to prioritize for procurement and utilization. The outcome would also help determine the frequency of booster shots which may be necessary to maintain immunity against the virus over time and also inform policy at the national level.



Officials of the COVID-19 National Trust Fund and NMIMR



# SOD-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA MEDICAL SCHOOL CLINIC



*An artist impression of the new School Clinic*

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Students Affairs (ASA) of the University of Ghana, Prof. Gordon Akanzuwine Awandare; Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Prof. Julius Fobil; Dean of University of Ghana Medical School, Prof. Alfred Edwin Yawson; Director, Office of Institutional Advancement, Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah and the Chairman of the Tobinco Group of Companies, Mr. Samuel Amo Tobin on Wednesday 15th February 2023 cut the sod for the commencement of work for the re-construction of a new Medical School Clinic for teaching, learning and service at Korle Bu.

The short but impressive ceremony was attended by members of staff of the College of Health Sciences and staff of Tobinco Group of Companies.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA) was assisted by the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Director of Institutional Advancement, Dean of University of Ghana Medical School, Deans of other Schools, Heads of Department and other dignitaries to cut the sod.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA) in an address described the occasion as unique and very important in the history of the University of Ghana Medical School, which would go a long way in health care delivery for staff and dependents.

The Group Chairman, Mr. Samuel Amo Tobin express his gratitude for the partnership and promised that the project would be completed in record time of eighteen months.

The Dean of University of Ghana Medical expressed his appreciation to Mr. Samuel Amo Tobin for his readiness to build an ultra-modern facility for health care delivery for the School. He added that when completed, it will go a long way in providing good health care for staff, students and the general public who patronize the School Clinic.





# Workshop on Malaria Parasite Visualization held at NMIMR



*Participants at a group discussion during the workshop*

A five-day practical hands-on training workshop on malaria parasite visualization has been held at the NMIMR in partnership with the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) UG, through the Building Stronger Universities (BSU-III) Project and with the Centre for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Ghana Medical School, and University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Workshop began on 21st November 2022 following a brief opening ceremony, and ended on 25th November 2022. There were a host of skilled and experienced academic, technical and administrative officers from the Universities of Ghana and Copenhagen who handled the teaching and non-teaching aspects of the training.

Participants from various institutions in Ghana in the first and second years of their respective PhD or MPhil programmes, whose research interest's, were in malaria or related infectious diseases attended the workshop. The workshop was a practical hands-on training with emphasis on visualization of the malaria parasite using different diagnostic methods.



*Participants engaging in a group discussion*

At the end of the workshop, participants were equipped with understanding of all the methods available for diagnosing malaria as well as the underlying principles behind each of the methods, not leaving out their pros and cons. Additionally, the workshop also covered interesting lectures on malaria, including epidemiology of malaria, mechanism of transmission, effects on human health and methods of prevention. Other lectures covered national guidelines on antimalarial treatments, drug resistance, and inadequate care for vulnerable populations like expectant mothers, young children, immunosuppressed individuals and non-immune individuals.

The workshop was funded by the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) III Project at the University of Ghana.

# NMIMR HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL RESEARCH MEETING



*Group photograph of the Vice-Chancellor(UG), Director (NMIMR), dignitaries and participants at the opening ceremony of the Annual Research Meeting 2022*

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana, organized a 2-Day Annual Research Meeting (ARM) from 17th – 18th November, 2022 under the theme “Epidemics, Pandemics and Diseases of Public Health Importance: Bridging the Research-Policy Divide”.

The ARM provided a forum for researchers, health policymakers, practitioners, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, and community health partners to address the research and policy divide while bringing researchers together to present their research and engage in intellectual discussion.



*Poster presentations by a Fellow*



*Winner of the Young Presenter's Award making his presentation*

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, who chaired the event reiterated the need to translate scholarly outputs for a lay audience. “Training researchers to know how to

effectively communicate research findings and works to lay audience is what will enable better understanding of the science we practice. Community members are principal in the process of research and it is for this reason that scientists must deem them as key players in the whole process of research”, Prof. Appiah Amfo added.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of NMIMR, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu stated that that the Institute has long been a leader in the fight against epidemics, pandemics, and local outbreaks of disease. The current Marburg outbreak was quickly identified, thanks to the Institute's prompt reaction to the national call, and effective treatments helped to prevent an otherwise catastrophic event.

On the first day, Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, Presidential Coordinator, COVID-19 Response Programme, gave the keynote address on "Strategies for Ensuring Uptake of Research Data for Policy Formulation". He suggested that due to the gap between research and policy, researchers must better understand the process of formulating policy. He explained that by doing this, academics would be better able to identify the issues and potential solutions.



*Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, Presidential Coordinator, COVID-19 Response Programme*



*Professor John Gyapong, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Health and Allied Sciences*

Prof. John Gyapong who delivered the keynote address for day two on the topic "NTD Research Landscape and Challenges with Elimination" explained that research into Neglected Tropical Diseases was not given the necessary priority in countries with limited resources. As a result, the ability to attract and successfully carry out cutting-edge research in the field of NTDs is limited.

At the two-day scientific symposium, which was attended by researchers, health professionals, policymakers, and members of the public, NMIMR had the chance to obtain crucial feedback from stakeholders for assessing its research programmes and activities.

Research Fellows and Scientists of the Institute also presented their research in the various areas including Vaccine-related research, NTD research and policy, Bacterial research and policy, Malaria research and policy, Viral research and policy as well as Entomology research and policy.

The focus of an engaging debate that marked the culmination of the ARM was on the topic 'The Global Race Against Epidemics and Pandemics is a Hopeless Case'.

The ARM was attended by over 500 local and international scientists.



*Poster presentation by the training office*



*Cross-sectional view of participants at the scientific meeting*

# UG School of Pharmacy Holds Maiden White Coat Ceremony



*A section of students at the ceremony*

The University of Ghana School of Pharmacy has held its first White Coat Ceremony to usher in the first batch of 5th year Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Students into the clinical years of the programme. The event which took place at the Great Hall, was on the theme: "Retooling the Pharmacist for Practice in the Digital Age".

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, stated that the ceremony, which is intended to foster a professional attitude, is significant because it instils a sense of responsibility and commitment in student pharmacists who are adorned in a white coat, which is a recognised symbol of clinical service and care towards patients or clients.



*Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo*

She indicated that, "this ceremony is evident that the University of Ghana is undergoing massive transformation by adding value to its pre-existing range of programmes and services." Prof. Appiah Amfo encouraged the students to incorporate technological advancements into their field of work.

She also charged them with resolving to protect their patients' rights and privacy, caring for them, upholding and maintaining ethical practices in their interactions with them in order to make them feel safe. She expressed her gratitude to the committee for their efforts and congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

Prof. Isaac Julius Asiedu-Gyekye, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, gave a brief history of the School and revealed that due to limited infrastructure, the School had to admit only 131

applicants who were duly qualified for admission into the programme. He expressed the hope that the School would broaden its admissions process in subsequent academic years. He then commended the past and present Deans for their unwavering support to the School and students, as well as members of the committee and the organisers for their contributions to the success of the programme.

Addressing the gathering on the theme, the Keynote Speaker, Pharmacist Frank Owiredu-Yeboah, Head, Account Maintenance Origination and Servicing (AMOS) at Stanbic Bank Limited, remarked that if pharmacists do not collaborate in the digital world, they will become irrelevant. He further explained that collaboration in this context means sharing of data and insights among pharmacists and other health practitioners. He recommended that a platform be developed, such that pharmacists could access data for analysis and findings. He urged his colleagues to receive constructive feedback in good faith. Pharm. Owiredu-Yeboah also advised them to take advantage of social media platforms and to be good communicators.

Some former Deans and Administrators namely, Prof. Arthur Commey Sackeyfio, Prof. Alexander K. Nyarko, Mrs. Bernice Tamakloe, and Mrs. Susan Fosua Okan were also awarded for their immense contributions to the School.

Speaking on behalf of the Class of 2024, Mr. Andy Andoh recounted the transition period from Level 100 to date. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation

to the faculty, staff, parents, and guardians for their unwavering support.

In attendance were Hon. Lydia Seyram Alhassan, MP, Ayawaso West Wuogon; Prof. Gordon Awandare, Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA); Prof. Julius Fobil, Provost, College of Health Sciences; Heads of Department from the University of Ghana Medical School; staff, parents and students. The Abibigroma Theatre Company performed beautiful traditional dances at the ceremony.



*A cross-section of students at the ceremony*

## Commissioning of School of Public Health West Wing Building and Inauguration of the West Africa Center for Global Environmental and Occupational Health (GEOHealth)

The University of Ghana School of Public Health (UGSPH) on 8th December 2022, inaugurated a new research facility to contribute to the improvement of environmental and occupational health of people in the country and the continent as a whole.

This Centre is planned to help facilitate the undertaking of cutting-edge research in the area of environmental health with respect to exposure to harmful toxins and chemicals in the environment. The birth of this centre also seeks to create a platform for hands-on training for students and junior faculty members, while contributing to the generation of new knowledge in Ghana and Africa. The building houses modernised classrooms, laboratories as well as offices for faculty and staff.

The inauguration of the Centre coincided with the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, Dr. Marcos Orellana, whose special mission sought to interact with government officials, members of the legislature and judiciary, state institutions, civil society organisations, academia and individuals on a broad range of areas; including the extractive industry, waste management and use of agro-chemicals, etc.

### **Aspiration**

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, said the University was committed to becoming a world-class research-intensive university through strategic objectives, including reinvigorating impactful research in the areas of applied sciences

and humanities. This would result in increased research income, exponential growth of research outputs, improved citations and vibrant community engagements. "I am therefore, particularly excited about the inauguration of the West Africa Centre for GEOHealth, which I am optimistic will impact tremendously as the case has been for the other centres of excellence", Professor Amfo emphasised.

The Dean of the School of Public Health, Professor Kwasi Torpey, said the School would continue to modernise classrooms, provide high speed and stable internet to facilitate learning and research. This he said was an attempt to consolidate its position as a regional centre for public health training, while creating a niche for flexible programmes through in-person, online and blended modes. "We in the School of Public Health will collectively, continue to develop this institution as a foremost centre for learning and public health research in the African region," Professor Torpey said.



*The Vice-Chancellor, Provost and other dignitaries cutting the tape at the ceremony*

## Breakthrough

The Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius Fobil, described the Centre as a major breakthrough for the University and the country at large. "Now for the first time, we will be able to conduct biological testing of samples because we have established our own laboratory infrastructure, where we can analyse samples in-country rather than sending them to Europe or America for testing," he explained. Professor Fobil, therefore, urged students to look forward with optimism because they could now have training in the country that would mould them into home-grown research scientists with competitive abilities.



*A group photograph of dignitaries at the commissioning*



## Three Early Career Scientists Awarded the 2022 AREF Fellowship

Three Early Career Scientists at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) have been awarded the 2022 Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) Research Development Fellowship. In line with this, Dr. Prince Asare and Dr. Dorothea Obiri will be at the University of Cambridge, and Dr. Frederica Partey will be at the University of Copenhagen to conduct research in their respective fields as Principal Investigators.

Dr. Asare's project is on "Building Capacity in Computational Biology for Exploring the Clinical Relevance of Zoonotic TB and Non-tuberculous Mycobacteria Towards Future Control Tools Development and Drug Resistance". Dr. Obiri will focus on "Training in Experimental Study Design, Bioinformatics, and Placental Transcriptomics to Build Placental Research Capacity in Ghana", while Dr.

Partey's research will be centered on "Characterization of Malarial Antibody Glycosylation and its Correlation with Immunity in Children".

AREF is a research funding firm established by Professor Tumani Corrah (the first Emeritus Director of the UK Medical Research Council, The Gambia Unit, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) to retain African talents in Africa for Africa. Within five years, AREF has nurtured close to 300 talented African researchers from 29 different African countries who are based in Africa whilst winning their own research funding, publishing their research findings in peer-reviewed journals, and increasingly gaining promotions in their institutions.

Congratulations to our winners. You have made NMIMR proud again!

## Profile of the Winners



**Dr. Prince Asare**

**Dr. Prince Asare** is a Research Fellow at the Department of Bacteriology. As a young scientist, he is trained as a molecular epidemiologist and has developed keen interest in mycobacterial diseases over the past decade. His career vision and aspirations are to use the invaluable knowledge and skills gained to lead a research team to explore mycobacterial diseases of public health importance, focusing on understanding transmission dynamics and detecting epidemics using genomic epidemiology, as well as computational biology approaches to aid their management and control. Bacterial pathogens of interest to Dr. Asare include *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *M. ulcerans* and *vibrio cholerae*. Dr. Asare is also poised to transfer the knowledge and skills gained to younger generation scientists through frequent teaching and workshops. He is familiar with working in Microsoft Windows, Ubuntu and IOS Environments and has knowledge in programming languages including R and Python.



**Dr. Dorothea Obiri**

**Dr. Dorothea Obiri** is a Research Fellow with the Department of Immunology. Dr. Obiri envisions a world where maternal mortality is eliminated and a key aspect of her research is channelled into investigating pregnancy complications associated with the placenta. She has a strong interest in understanding maternal and fetal interactions to improve pregnancy outcomes and lifelong health of women and unborn babies in sub-Saharan Africa. Her active research areas are preeclampsia, placental malaria, sickle cell disease, and COVID-19. The overarching goal is to identify novel targets and interventions through basic and translational research to provide further insights into preventive management, diagnosis, and treatment for these conditions during pregnancy.



**Dr. Frederica Partey**

**Dr. Frederica Partey** is a Research Fellow in the Department of Immunology. Her broad research interest involves understanding humoral and cellular responses against viral and parasitic infections in individuals naturally exposed to guide the design of next-generation vaccines. Her present research work focuses on examining the effect of different malaria transmission intensities on the development of functional antibodies.



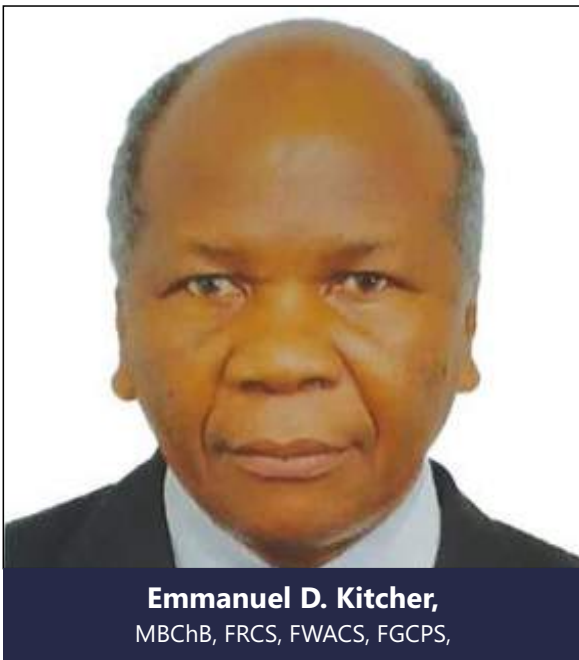




# 2022 Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD International Public Service Award

The American Association of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) supports otolaryngologists around the world who demonstrate a unique commitment to the specialty as part of continued effort to foster a global otolaryngology community.

The AAO-HNSF Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD International Public Service Award honors a non-U.S. otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons whose achievements have advanced the specialty. The Award is in fulfillment of the AAO-HNSF's aim to foster a global otolaryngology community, and made possible through the generosity of Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD, a longtime advocate of AAO-HNSF international affairs.



**Emmanuel D. Kitcher,**  
MBChB, FRCS, FWACS, FGCPs,

This year's awardee for the Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD International Public Service Award is **Prof. Emmanuel D. Kitcher, MBChB, FRCS, FWACS, FGCPs**, who, after completing his training in otolaryngology in the UK, returned to his native country of Ghana and established an ENT department at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. According to a colleague, Prof.

Kitcher's perseverance, dedication, and devotion to his department, as well as the entire hospital community are legendary as he lived on campus and was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for more than two decades.

Currently an otolaryngologist consultant at Korle Bu, he is also an Associate Professor of otolaryngology at the University of Ghana Medical School, College of Health Sciences. When not lecturing in the Medical School, Prof. Kitcher can be seen on ward rounds teaching medical students, residents, and consultant colleagues. He displays deep compassion and consideration for patients of all ages.

Some of Prof. Kitcher's major achievements include establishing an ultramodern audiology center at Korle Bu, acquiring and developing space to house 10 well-furnished outpatient consulting rooms, starting a master of science (MS) degree programme in Audiology and Speech and Language Therapy at the University of Ghana, supporting otolaryngology nursing and theatre nursing training programmes, providing and refurbishing operating theatre equipment, and much more.

To date, Prof. Kitcher has mentored more than 20 otolaryngology specialist surgeons and has made it his objective to promote otolaryngology ancillary services by training nurse specialists, perioperative nurses, audiologists, and speech and language therapists. Graduates of his MS programme are now supporting otolaryngology-head and neck treatment and surgery throughout Ghana.

Congratulation, Prof. Kitcher!



# Invest to End Tuberculosis: Save Lives



*A staff of NMIMR with some market women*

March 24 every year is set aside globally to commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB and step-up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The theme of World TB Day 2023 – was “Invest to End TB: Save Lives”. The theme conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitment by global leaders to end TB.

The Department of Bacteriology of the NMIMR in collaboration with the Department of Chest and Diabetes Clinics of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) and the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP), marked World TB Day with education and screening of patients for both TB and Diabetes.

The joint TB Team on 22nd and 23rd March embarked on a two-day educational and medical community outreach at the Nii Kojo Ababio Cluster of Schools - Mamprobi, the Agobloshie and Makola Number 2 markets respectively. School children at the Nii Kojo Ababio Cluster of Schools were educated on the TB disease, while the traders at the markets were educated and screened for TB, diabetes, and malaria. On 25th March, there was an outpatient screening and education of patients for both TB and Diabetes at Chest Clinic, Diabetes Clinic, and the Korle Bu Polyclinic.

According to Dr. Adwoa Asante-Poku, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Bacteriology, TB remains a major public health threat in Ghana and

the world at large. At the outreach programmes, she reiterated that “the fight against TB requires joint effort by all stakeholders. Fighting TB means uniting under the overarching theme and sounding the alarm that the low levels of funding for the TB response year after year cannot help eradicate TB as far as the fight against TB is concerned. We need a lot of finances to undertake our activities. We need the full commitment of the Government to tackle TB in Ghana. This includes equipment and other resources”, Dr. Asante-Poku added.

She further indicated that many people are unable to detect TB symptoms early, which complicates the situation if not dealt with on time. “TB can lie dormant and undetected for years, so it is important to spread awareness. TB anywhere is TB everywhere and we all stand the risk of contracting the disease if we do not act fast. The good news is that TB is curable if we seek medical attention quickly”, she added.

TB remains one of the world's deadliest infectious killers. Each day, over 4,100 people lose their lives to TB and close to 28,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 66 million lives since the year 2000. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress made in the fight to end TB. For the first time in over a decade, TB deaths increased in 2020.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The team was also engaged on various media platforms to create awareness on the TB disease.



*A staff of NMIMR screening a member of the public*

## The NMIMR Unveils Four Migele Gel Electrophoresis Equipment Donated by PerkinElmer

The NMIMR, on 13th October, unveiled and launched four (4) Migele Gel Electrophoresis equipment and accessories donated by PerkinElmer.

The Director of the Institute, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu indicated that this equipment will facilitate workflow at the sickle cell laboratory as it will help detect 50,000 extra genetic diseases of hemoglobin in new-borns and adults, including sickle cell disease.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Ms. Marika Kase, Director, Strategic Initiatives Reproductive Health at PerkinElmer, stated that the donation forms part of her outfit's commitment to working with various governments, institutions and stakeholders around the world to address the mother-child health priorities such as screening pregnant

women and new-born babies against sickle cell disease.

“Screening is the best possible preventive health care measure. With early diagnosis, children with sickle cell disease can be given timely and affordable interventions. Again, with effective screening and management of sickle cell patients, governments could save so many patients' lives”, Ms. Marika Kase stated.

Prof. Dziejdom de Souza, Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology explained that the donation comes at a very good time. Adding that “the Institute has contributed significantly to the screening of sickle cell disease within the country and other countries like Liberia and Nigeria. The equipment being the latest of its kind, will facilitate our work to process samples faster”.



*A group photograph at the presentation*



## The NIC Team at the OPTIONS XI and 12th International RSV Symposium

Three members of the National Influenza Centre (NIC) Team have participated in the OPTIONS XI and the 12th International RSV Symposium 2022.

Options is a global scientific meeting with a focus on latest research developments for the control of influenza. Options XI, the 11th in the series was held last year at the ICC Belfast from 26th to 29th September 2022. The NIC submitted 3 abstracts at the conference. All three abstracts were accepted for both oral and poster presentations. The presentations were focused on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on influenza surveillance in Ghana. The team also won travel grants, sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the conference which included air travel tickets, conference registration and accommodation.

Prior to the Options meeting, the NIC Team and its GHS Epidemiology colleagues attended the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) meeting, organized by the WHO, which was held at the Queens University in Belfast from 24th to 25th September



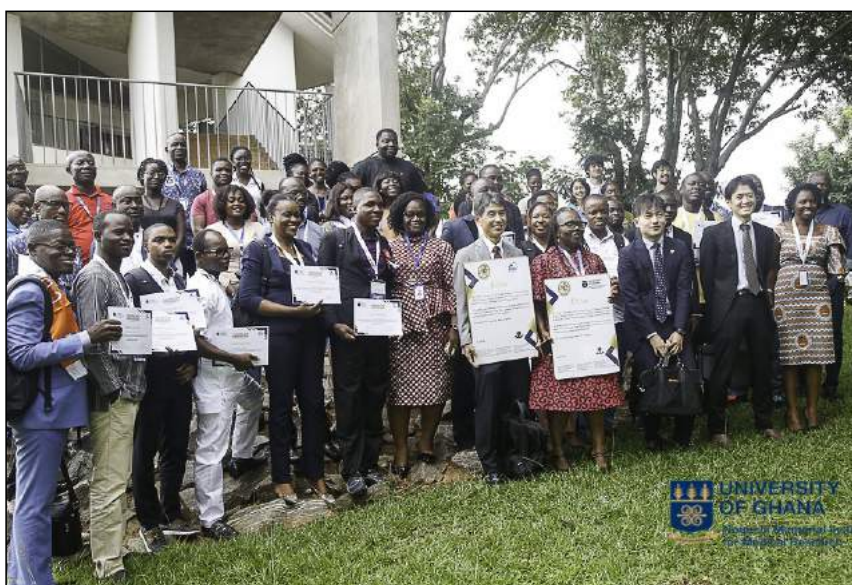
*The NIC Team in a group photograph*

2022. Additionally, one of the team members had sponsorship for the 12th International Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Symposium at ICC Belfast from 29th September to 2nd October, 2022. The 12th symposium aimed at promoting and supporting excellence in research, scholarship, clinical practice and development of interventions to prevent disease caused by RSV.

The Institute continues to share in the major strides of the NIC Team.



## NMIMR and JICA Conducts the 4<sup>th</sup> in A Series of Trainings for West and Central African National Laboratories to Combat Infectious Diseases



*A group photograph of the participants*

The fourth in a series of the trainings for healthcare professionals came to an exciting conclusion on 30th September 2022, at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), following eight weeks of intensive training in contemporary diagnostic techniques to battle emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in the African region. The course, named the 'Third Country Training', which was designed to improve the skills of fifteen healthcare professionals from 10 West and Central African countries in battling infectious

diseases, ensured that the biomedical scientists gained greater understanding in the diagnosis of infectious diseases. To improve their laboratory skills, the trainees also underwent rigorous laboratory work in the Institute's advanced laboratories.

At the closing ceremony, the 15 trainees testified to the excellent work of the facilitators at the NMIMR. They expressed confidence that the skills they had acquired would help them better manage potentially fatal public health outbreaks in their home countries by putting what they had learned into practice and passing on what they had learned to other colleagues in their respective institutions to help prevent public health outbreaks on our continent. The trainees were from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and The Democratic Republic of Congo. The Director of the Institute, Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, hosted the closing ceremony, which was also attended by the Chief Representative of the Japanese Embassy in Ghana, Mr. Tetsuya Imaoka; Mr. Akihisa Katsumura, the First Secretary in charge of Development Cooperation at JICA, Mr. Monita Yasuaki, a Deputy Representative from JICA, and staff from the JICA Ghana Office.



*Mrs. Manwana Marguerite, the trainee from the DRC, presenting a gift to the Institute on behalf of the participants*

The eight-week training programme was a great success, and the Institute and JICA are looking forward to hearing about the achievement of the participants when they return to their respective countries.

The Institute appreciates the support it receives from JICA and the Japan Embassy in Ghana, as well as the commitment both organizations have demonstrated to this programme. We value our friendship and look forward to working with all the countries that took part in this training programme, as we continue the fight against infectious diseases on the African continent.



*Mrs. Deborah Effiong, the trainee from Nigeria, presenting a gift to JICA on behalf of the participants*



*Noguchi staff and students at the closing ceremony*



The Health Sciences Investigations Journal (HSIJ), a research initiative of the College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana has gained momentous recognition for indexation in SCOPUS. The HSI Journal which commenced in 2019 endured series of strict scrutiny by reviewers and vigorous indexation process to achieve this great feat. The indexation process was initiated in 2022 when the Journal had swiftly and strategically met all relevant requirements within three (3) years of its inception. The journal received impressive feedback from expert reviewers for the quality of its published manuscripts, all inclusive processes and adoption of standard procedures.

The HSI Journal was indexed in African Online Journals (AJOL) in 2022 and is currently being processed for PubMed indexation.

The College of Health Sciences says a big AYEKOO to all and sundry for their contribution to the growth of the Journal. Worthy of mention are:

- Rev Prof Patrick Ferdinand Ayeh-Kumi (immediate past Provost, College of Health Science) who conceptualized the idea of a College Journal and provided practical support for its takeoff and sustainability.
- Prof Julius Fobil (Provost, College of Health Science) for his commitment and contributions to the success of the Journal since assuming office.
- The HSIJ Editorial team headed by Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei (Editor-In-Chief) for working assiduously and conscientiously to commence and grow the Journal to its present status.



- Authors who believed in the Journal and boldly submitted their valuable and stimulating manuscripts to the HIS Journal for consideration.
- Academic experts who have graciously served as reviewers for the Journal.
- The Journal's proofreaders (Professor Frederick Kwaku Addai and Professor Mercy Jemima Newman) who have done a yeoman job.
- Members of the Advisory Board who have been a solid backbone for the Journal.



# School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBAHS) Senior Members' Retreat



*Senior Members' present at the retreat*

The School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBAHS) Senior Members' retreat was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at the Forest View Hotel in Dodowa. Under the leadership of the new Dean of SBAHS, Professor Samuel Antwi-Baffour, there were activities, presentations and workshops over the 3-day retreat. Following initial welcome pleasantries and the meeting's agenda by the Dean of SBAHS, presentations were delivered by the Health Professions Education Unit, and Dr. William Antwi on Business Venture Updates for each department.

The Heads of Department (HOD) for Respiratory Therapy (RT), Radiography, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy (OT), Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS), Dietetics and Audiology, Speech & Language Therapy (ASLT), had a preliminary meeting with the Dean to discuss and review programme curriculum, and also brainstormed on business ventures to generate revenue for the School.

Other senior members of SBAHS were in attendance on the following day of the retreat and each department had a breakout session to conduct departmental meetings. The HODs reported back to the whole group; Dr. Esther Brobbey for RT, Dr. William Antwi for Radiography, Dr. Gifty

Nyante for Physiotherapy, Dr. Peter Ndaa for OT, Dr Akua Forson for MLS, Dr. Freda Intiful for Dietetics and Dr. Ewurama Ampadu Owusu for ASLT.

Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Secretary, delivered a detailed presentation on "Review of University of Ghana by-laws", to highlight and remind members of the protocols under which the College and School is governed. There were also presentations by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), represented by Professor George Asare, to explain the importance of the animal study protocol. Dr. Ewurama Ampadu Owusu, chair of the SBAHS Accreditation Committee, delivered an update on the accreditation status for all programmes at SBAHS.

On the final day of the retreat, The Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius Fobil, graced the occasion with his presence and delivered a speech to motivate all members. He entreated colleagues to work hard and for departments to collaborate with each other. The SBAHS retreat was a very fruitful event and provided opportunities for senior members to bond and have renewed energy, enthusiasm and ideas for better performance and to ultimately move the School forward!



Mrs. Hannah Tawiah Agbodza was born on 31st October 1985 in Accra to Mr. Emmanuel Owiredu Addo of blessed memory and Madam Mary Akpalu. Mrs. Agbodza hails from Larteh Akwapem in the Eastern Region. She holds an MBA in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor's degree in Management Studies both from the University of Cape Coast in the Central Region. Mrs. Agbodza also has an HND in Secretaryship and Management Studies from the Accra Polytechnic (now Accra Technical University). She had her secondary and basic education at the Wesley Grammar Secondary School and Ann's Preparatory School both in Accra. She was posted to the University of Ghana, School of Public Health as a National Service person attached to the General Office in 2007.

By dint of hard work, she was employed as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Biological, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the School of Public Health. She was promoted to the rank of Senior Administrative Assistant in 2014 and got transferred back to the General Office in July 2015 and later to the Dean's Office in October 2019. She is currently the Principal Administrative Assistant at the Dean's Office.

She has a good human and inter-personal relationship with staff and students of the School. She treats faculty, staff and colleagues with maximum respect. Her doors are always open for both staff and student's concerns. She is versatile and can work under challenging circumstances to achieve results.

Her exceptional performance, determination, hard work, resilience and adaptive attitude won her the best worker (Senior Staff Category) at the School of



**Mrs. Hannah Tawiah Agbodza**

Public Health for the 2021/2022 academic year. Mrs. Agbodza is poised to continue working with her colleagues to contribute her quota in achieving the objectives of the School, the College and the University at large.

Mrs. Agbodza also doubles as the Secretary of the School's Welfare Association, a position she handles with passion, dedication, enthusiasm and excellent customer service. She urges all staff to be proactive, innovative and committed to whatever task they have been assigned to and embrace every opportunity that comes their way.

She is married with 3 children and a member of the Holy Church of God, Dome.







**Ms. Cynthia Asibi**

Ms. Cynthia Asibi was born on 2nd October 1973, at the Asandema Hospital to Mr. Adaamiyin Amak and Madam Ayaaminyeka Adaamiyin of blessed memory. Ms. Cynthia Asibi hails from Bilinsa in the Upper East Region. She has two (2) children with her husband, Mr. Akanpoli of blessed memory. As a single mother, her primary source of income was petty banana trading and cleaning individual homes. Ms. Asibi did this work for some time before joining

the University of Ghana on 26th May 2009, when she was given a one-year temporary appointment as a cleaner at the School of Public Health.

After the temporary appointment had expired, she was given a two-year fixed appointment as a cleaner at the School from 1st December 2010 to 31st December 2011. She worked in this capacity until she was given a permanent appointment on 1st December 2012. Through her hard work, she was promoted to the rank of Senior Cleaner-Messenger on 1st December 2017.

Ms. Asibi is an exceptional staff member whose performance and dedication have won the admiration of her colleagues, staff, and students. She is committed and willing to go the extra mile to achieve results. She is often seen eagerly working to get facilities and washrooms in shape for academics and other activities. Ms. Asibi's relentless dedication to her job is driven by her passion and the blessings she enjoys from the Almighty God through her service. According to her, what she does is her little contribution to humanity, so she does her work with joy.

She is a member of the Messiah Presbyterian Church, Mpeasem. Well done, Asibi!





*A section of participants in a discussion*

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) rolled out a two-week training workshop titled “Next Generation Sequencing for Genomic Surveillance”. The training which was organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), AfroScreen, and the Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) brought together ten (10) participants from eight (8) African countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The training was in line with the WHO’s aim of prioritizing global surveillance and research activities to guide the responses to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and provided the participants with hands-on training in genomic sequencing to build their capacity in understanding the different sequencing techniques and in particular, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) techniques to know the different steps from sampling to generation and analysis of SARS-CoV-2 sequences.

Addressing the participants at the opening ceremony, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Director, NMIMR, noted that as part of executing its core mandate the Institute has for the past years been conducting and supporting various disease programmes of public health importance for different countries. Adding that at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic the Institute was the first in-country to diagnose COVID-19. “We started by setting up the COVID-19 diagnostic centre. Genomic

sequencing within the COVID-19 era was crucial because through that we were able to evaluate the interventions that our various programmes had setup, including even the vaccination. The virus is changing and we need to be ahead of the virus in order to design and prepare good tools that can be used to control the disease”, she said.



*Prof. Yeboah-Manu, Director, NMIMR*

Prof. Yeboah-Manu further explained that genomic sequencing is the crosscutting expertise which is not only for one pathogen. Adding that “when we are equipped with this, we can use it for other important diseases which are identified within the sub-region and we are very thankful to WHO for funding this training to equip the participating countries with the required skills to conduct sequencing in their own countries rather than bringing samples to Noguchi to be worked on”.

Dr. Francis Chisaka Kasolo, WHO Country Representative indicated that the genomic sequencing training is happening at an opportune time when the entire world is still dealing with COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of different variants of concern. He added that “genomic surveillance is also an important tool beyond COVID-19 as it has gained a central role in the detection of various variants, some of which have been shown to affect disease transmission severity and even a decrease in the effectiveness of some of our public healthy control tools”.

Dr. Kasolo further noted that the pandemic has equally revealed the gaps in the health systems across the sub-region and in particular laboratory capacity to effectively and timely guide the different public health actions.

“The WHO through the Regional Office for the Africa Region (WHO AFRO) has instituted different programmes and activities over the period to improve the capacity for laboratory detection and surveillance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specially, for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance, the

WHO/AFRO with support from the Africa CDC has set up a network of reference laboratories together with NMIMR to support in gene sequencing for countries without existing capacity”, he added.

The NMIMR continues to play a leading role in biomedical research in the sub-region and serves as WHO's regional reference laboratory for surveillance of some infectious diseases. The Institute also continues to play an important role in Ghana's ongoing response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Some of the trainees

## BOOK DONATION

The Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius N. Fobil has donated 24 copies of a book by Bill Gates entitled “How to Prevent the Next Pandemic” to the College Library. The College Secretary, Mr. Michael Opare Atuah made the presentation on behalf of the Provost on Tuesday, 4th April 2023.

Making the presentation, he stated that the Provost had initially wanted to purchase three (3) copies of the book at a conference he attended. However, when he contacted the Gates Foundation in that regard, they rather decided to donate more copies of the book to the College. Some of the copies had been sent to other libraries on Legon campus, while 24 copies were sent to the Emmanuel Quaye Archampong Library on the Korle Bu campus.



Mr. Michael Opare Atuah presents a copy of the book to Mr. Samuel Ankamah

Receiving the books, the Acting College Librarian, Mr. Samuel Ankamah stated that the Library staff were very appreciative of the donation and remarked that the book was a 2022 edition with limited copies available on the open market. On behalf of the University Librarian, he thanked the Provost and the Gates Foundation for this kind gesture, noting that it is a useful addition to their collection, which would be put to good use.



## MS. DOROTHY HONNY RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) International Fellowship programme has given health care professionals from around the world, an opportunity to visit the United States and observe Respiratory Care Practices. In 2022, six (6) fellows were recognised from five (5) different countries: Ghana, Singapore, India, Honduras and Egypt. Ms. Dorothy Honny emerged as the first Respiratory Therapist trained in Ghana to receive this fellowship award. She is a Registered Respiratory Therapist in the Department of Respiratory Therapy, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBAHS), College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana. She was selected to visit the United States to observe Respiratory Care Practices where she received the International Fellowship award by the American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF).



*Ms. Dorothy Honny receiving the award*

Ms. Dorothy Honny was employed in 2009 as a Laboratory Technician and she rose to the rank of Senior Laboratory Technician in the Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Ghana Medical School. She then pursued the BSc. Respiratory Therapy programme in 2015 when it was first introduced to the University of Ghana by Professor Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi who was then the Dean of SBAHS. She became the Representative of her class and then became the President of the University of Ghana Association for Respiratory Therapy Students (UGARTS). She completed her Bachelor's Degree in 2019. Ms. Honny is currently making an impact in the Department of Respiratory Therapy, through her knowledge and skills in Respiratory Therapy and clinical simulations and research.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, she mobilised her colleagues to form the Ghana Association for Respiratory Care (GARC) through the support of the Allied Health Professions Council and the Ministry of Health. GARC seeks to enhance and promote Respiratory Care in Ghana and Africa.

Ms. Dorothy Honny is currently the President of Ghana Association for Respiratory Care. Dorothy, Ayekoo!



*A group photograph of awardees*



*Dorothy and her Head of Dept, Dr. Esther Brobbey at the Award Ceremony*



*Ms. Dorothy Honny with students having clinical simulation in Respiratory Care*



# NMIMR-WHO Rolls Out WGS and Surveillance Training Workshop

In partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) organized a 5-day Workshop on 'Whole Genome Sequencing and Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Bacteria, to build capacity for genomic AMR surveillance. Workshop participants were representatives from the Ghana Tricycle project, biomedical scientists, and microbiology students from various institutions including: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's Water Research Institute, National Food Safety Laboratory for Animal Health – Veterinary Services Division, St Patrick's Hospital, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, LEKMA Hospital, Medical Microbiology Department (UGMS), West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens, University of Energy & Natural Resources – Ghana, and NMIMR.

Surveillance of bacteria species that are resistant to a wide range of antibiotics is key in tackling the menace of AMR, a situation that is known to lead to limited therapeutic options and huge economic cost to infected patients. Knowing the entire genetic makeup (blueprint) of AMR bacteria by using a method or process known as 'whole genome sequencing' (WGS) helps to understand the 'wicked' pathogens better, and enable scientists to develop more effective surveillance strategies, novel diagnostic tools, and vaccines to deal with the threat of AMR.

WGS is scarcely used in investigating AMR in low-income countries (unlike in developed countries). This is because only few laboratory staff on the African continent (including Ghana) have the requisite knowledge and skills to utilize WGS for AMR surveillance.

Trainees were equipped with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills for: a) DNA extraction, purification and quantification, b) DNA library preparation and quantification, c)



*Participants at a laboratory session*

Loading of DNA libraries and sequencing on Miseq and MinIoN platforms, d) Prediction of bacteria species, detection of clones, AMR genes/virulence genes, and phylogenetic analysis of genomes using free online tools/platforms.

Feedback received from participants was positive, and the participants are all looking forward to applying the knowledge and skills gained, in their ongoing and future projects, to support AMR surveillance.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Beverly Egyir, Dr. Bright Adu, Mr. Christian Nyantakyi, Mr. Grebstad Rabbi-Amuasi, Miss Quaneeta Mohktar, Miss Felicia Owusu, Mr. Bright Agbodzi, Blessing Kofi Adu Tabi, and Mrs. Angela Appiah-Kubi.



*Participants being introduced to Next Generation Sequencing*



## School of Pharmacy Holds Maiden Graduation Ceremony of PharmD Students (PharmD Top-Up Programme)



The University of Ghana School of Pharmacy graduated 64 students from its PharmD Top Up programme, leading to the award of Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. This was part of the 2023 Congregation Ceremony of the College of Health Sciences held on 23rd March 2023 at the Cedi Conference Center, University of Ghana. This marks a significant milestone in the School of Pharmacy and the country's healthcare education sector. This batch of graduates is the first to complete the two-year top up programme, which includes one year of online teaching and learning, followed by a year of experiential training under the guidance of seasoned faculty members and experienced preceptors.

The graduation ceremony was a momentous occasion, attended by university officials, faculty members, family, and friends of the graduates. The ceremony was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the graduates in pursuing excellence in the field of pharmacy. The PharmD Top Up programme significantly improves Ghana's healthcare education system, designed to equip practicing pharmacists with advanced knowledge and skills to provide high-

quality pharmaceutical care to patients. The programme is also intended to ensure that pharmacists have the necessary expertise to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare system.

The graduation of the first batch of the PharmD Top Up programme is a significant achievement for the University of Ghana School of Pharmacy and the country. This programme provides the much-needed boost to the quality of pharmaceutical care in Ghana. The programme also facilitates the ongoing professional development of pharmacists in Ghana, ensuring they remain at the forefront of the healthcare industry.





The Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Ghana Medical School, College of Health Sciences has held the second edition of the Conference on Microbial Genomics and Drug Resistance. The Conference, which was on the Theme: "Perspective of Antimicrobial Resistance in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era", took place at the Holiday Inn Hotel on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Speaking at the Conference, the Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology, Professor Eric Sampane-Donkor gave a brief background of the department and elaborated on its vision and academic programmes, which included Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), in addition to the training of medical students. He highlighted a few notable alumni of the department and shared some of their success stories. He also emphasize the purpose of the Conference, which was to launch four newly funded projects awarded in 2022 to faculty members of the department as principal investigators. These projects include: The Centre for Microbial Drug Resistance and Therapeutics funded by the African Development Bank; West Africa Mathematical Modeling Capacity Development funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Targeted Removal of Antibiotic Resistance Genes and Facultative Pathogenic Bacteria in Waste Water funded by the international Centre for Antibiotic Resistance Solutions; and the Invasive Pneumococcal Disease and Carriage Among Children with Sickle Cell Disease in Ghana, a post-vaccination study funded by the National Institutes of Health, USA. The Head of Department briefly touched on the number of publications from faculty and announced that the department has 35 collaborators, including the Fleming Fund - UK, Danida - Denmark, Gates Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Pfizer, World Health Organisation and several others. He added that the department has three centres which include the National AMR Reference Laboratory, Centre for Microbial Drug Resistance and Therapeutics and Centre for Vector Borne

Diseases Research; he also indicated that it was the department's vision to set up a Clinical Centre of Excellence for Discovery. He also introduced the long awaited revamped Website of the Department.

The Dean of the Medical School, Professor Alfred E. Yawson and the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Julius N. Fobil took turns to congratulate the department for this great feat and academic successes. Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng (Chairman, Presidential Committee on Vaccine Development and Production) spoke on bacteriophages and its application to the food industry and in COVID-19, highlighting the use of bacteriophages to reduce or slow down bacteria growth.

Opening the Conference, the Vice- Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo congratulated and commended the Department for this great achievement. She later launched the four funded projects and introduced the four Principal Investigators as follows: Rev. Fr. Professor Kwamena W. C. Sagoe, Professor Yaw A. Afrane, Professor Japheth A. Opintan and Professor Eric Sampane-Donkor. After the launch, the rest of the Conference activities were grouped into five sessions with various speakers on different topics as follows: The First Session which featured keynote addresses was Chaired by Professor Mercy J. Newman. The speakers and topics treated were:

- i. Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe: Update on Ghana's COVID-19 Situation and Strategies.
- ii. Dr. Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt (former Director, Technical Coordination, Ministry of Health and Chief Pharmacist of Ghana): Antimicrobial Resistance in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- iii. Pharmacist Akua Konadu-Dapaah (Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Ghana): Preventing Pneumococcal Disease in High-Risk Population.

The Second Session was on Antibiotic use and Resistance. The speakers and topics treated were:

- i. Professor Iruka Okeke (Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, University of Ibadan): Insights from the Genomes of Salmonella Isolated in Nigeria's Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System.
- ii. Professor Richard Stabler (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine): A Genomic Approach to Tracking AMR Pathogens Through the Food Chain.
- iii. Professor Japheth A Opintan: Surveillance of Antibiotic Resistance in Blood Stream Infections in Ghana.
- iv. Dr. Alex Owusu-Ofori (Department of Clinical Microbiology, KNUST): Urinary Tract Infections Diagnosis in KATH.

The Third Session was on Viral Parasitic and Insecticides. The speakers and topics treated were:

- i. Dr. Evelyn Yayra Bonney (Department of Virology, NMIMR): Current HIV Status, HIV Structure, Replication Cycle, Antiretroviral Drugs and Implications of HIV Drug Resistance.
- ii. Professor George Obeng Adjei: Molecular Basis and Evolution of Chloroquine Resistance in Ghana.

The Fourth Session focused on COVID-19, the speakers and topics treated were:

- i. Dr. Mildred Adusei-Poku: Genomic Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in Ghana; Leveraging an Integrated National Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Platform.
- ii. Professor Kwabena Duedu (Department of Biomedical Sciences): Community Mobilization to Leapfrog Diagnostics and Research Capabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- iii. Ms. Isabella Asamoah (a Research Assistant): COVID-19 in Patients Presenting with Malaria-like Symptoms at the Korle Bu Polyclinic, Accra.
- iv. Rev. Fr. Professor Kwamena Sagoe presented on behalf of Emeritus Professor Seth Aryeetey of the Department of Anatomy, UGMS on the research study on Hydrogen Peroxide Antisepsis and COVID-19 Cases Among Healthcare Workers and Inpatients.

The Final Session was a panel discussion on Preparing for a New Pandemic chaired by Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Director of NMIMR. The panellists included Professor Florence Naab (Acting Dean, SoNM, UG); Dr. Laud A. W. Basing (Diagnostics Expert, Incas Diagnostics); and Professor Kwabena Duedu (Head of UHAS COVID-19 Centre). During the discussion, the need for more training in infection, prevention, and control was identified as one approach to prepare for a new pandemic. Hospitals should have negative pressure rooms, hygiene instruction should be provided in schools, and there should be more orientation.





# Whole Genome Sequencing for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacteria



*A group photograph of the participants*

The 10-day theory and hands-on workshop on whole genome sequencing for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria was held from 3rd October 2022 to 14th October 2022 at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) with participants from 11 African countries: Cameroon, Benin, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Eswatini, Sudan, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Benin.

On the first day of training, participants were warmly welcomed by the Director of NMIMR, the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, the technical lead for SeqAfrica project and the facilitators. The participants were encouraged to make the best use of the training to equip themselves to help with the fight against the menace of antimicrobial resistance. Group photos were then taken followed by a tour of the NMIMR Advanced Research Laboratories and the lectures for the day.

During the first week (day 1-day 5) of the training, participants had theory and hands-on experience with various laboratory experiments/procedures for extracting and purifying DNA from bacterial isolates for sequencing. They also quantified the extracted DNA using the fluorometric and spectrophotometric methods. In the subsequent days in the week participants explored the Oxford Nanopore Technology and Illumina sequencing platforms; they prepared libraries; quality checked the libraries using

the Bioanalyzer and qPCR machines, pooled the libraries and loaded on the Minion for ONT and Miseq for Illumina. Participants were also introduced to Linux and use of the command lines to analyze the sequenced data.

The second week of the workshop (day 6- day10) was mainly bioinformatics training. Participants were introduced to various platforms (CGE, NCBI among others) and tools for analyzing sequenced data. Participants also worked in groups to discuss the assignment given during the programme and made group presentations on the assignment on the last day of the workshop. In the presentations, participants shared individual experiences on knowledge gained and how they intend to apply the knowledge acquired. The workshop came to an end successfully with sharing of certificates, taking of group photos and networking.

The training was funded by SeqAfrica/Fleming Fund and facilitated by Dr. Beverly Egyir, Dr Marinus van Zwetselaar, Dr. Bright Adu, Dr. Daniel Amoako, Mr. Erkison Ewomazino Odih, Mr. Christian Owusu-Nyantakyi, Mr. Grebstad Amuasi, Miss Felicia Owusu, Mr. William Boateng and Mr. Bright Agbodzi.

Congratulations to all the participants!!!





## Research Jamboree Organised by the Academic Young Surgeons Club of Department of Surgery



*A group photograph of the participants*

The Academic Young Surgeons Club (AYSC) was formed to scale up research output of residents and junior faculty in the Department of Surgery, University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) and Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH). The club adopts the mentee-mentee and mentor-mentee approaches to capacity building as explained by its motto: "Together We Become". Its members are Residents, Senior Residents, Consultants and Faculty of the Department of Surgery. It relies on the unit-based animator approach to engineer research activities and foster collaboration. Activities of the club include regular research jamborees; a forum to share research ideas, learn about different aspects of research, and exhibit research works at various stages through oral and poster presentations.

The first research jamboree was organised by members of the AYSC at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Conference Hall, KBTH on Saturday, 1st April 2023 under the theme "Understanding Opportunities in Surgical Research". Sub-themes discussed during the half-day event were included: The Role of Research in Quality Health Care Delivery in the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital; Critical Appraisal of a Scientific Paper; Writing for Impact; and Conducting an Audit as a Surgeon. Respective Key speakers were Prof. J. E. Mensah, Dr. Joachim Amoako, Prof. Andrew Adjei and Prof. Joe-Nat Clegg-Lampsey.

In attendance was the Dean of the University of Ghana Medical School, Prof. Alfred E Yawson, the Head of Department of Radiology, KBTH, Dr Klenam Dzefi-Tettey, Prof. J. C. N. Dakubo, Prof. Matthew Kyei, Dr. A. A. A. Bediako-Bowan and Dr. Josephine Nsaful of the

Department of Surgery, Dr. E. Entsua-Mensah of the National Cardiothoracic Centre, Dr. Boafo of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Dr Levi Nii-Ayi Ankrah of the National Reconstructive Plastic Surgery and Burns Centre, KBTH. Residents and Senior Residents from the Departments of Surgery and Radiology, KBTH, and from the Greater Accra Regional Hospital, Ridge, Accra, as well as a medical officer from Ho Teaching Hospital attended.

In his welcome address, the Chairman for the occasion, Prof. M. Y. Tettey, Head of the Department of Surgery, UGMS, expressed his happiness about the AYSC and encouraged its members to see the Club and its activities as a unique opportunity to become relevant surgeons in the world where involvement in research is fundamental. He was hopeful that this will lead to increase in the academic output of faculty and residents of the department. In his



*The Dean interacting with some participants during the poster presentation session*

brief remarks, Prof. Alfred E. Yawson took opportunity to underscore the importance of research for climbing up the academic ladder. He suggested that the Club members work hard to achieve its laudable objectives.

Topics for research work selected for oral presentations were: Evaluating the Concordance Between Clinical Diagnosis and Imaging in Acute Abdomen, Visual Outcomes After Cataract Surgery in an Urban Setting, Utilization of Safety Measures by Road Users Involved in Motorcycle and Car Accidents in Accra, and Effect of Intra-Abdominal Hypertension on Treatment Outcomes in

Severe Burns within the First Week of Injury. Posters were also exhibited for 11 additional abstracts accepted for presentation.

Participants were grateful for the Jamboree and Senior Members present encouraged the AYSC to consider participation by Residents, Consultants and Faculty from other departments.

The sub-theme for the next Jamboree will be on Audit in Surgical Practice.



## Handing Over of DANFA Conference Room to University of Ghana Medical School by Class of 1972



The University of Ghana Medical School and Management of Danfa Health Center witnessed an impressive handing over ceremony from the Class of 1972 headed by Professor Gladys Amponsah on 25th January 2023, at the newly refurbished Conference Room.

Professor Gladys Amponsah in her remarks mentioned that all assets need to be maintained in a planned and preventive manner. She requested that management of the facility do routine inspection to ensure that the Conference Room is of a high standard and she expects the Medical School to keep it better shape than it is being handed over. She

added that others would be willing to contribute more if the little they have contributed is well maintained.

The Dean, Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson on behalf of Management, thank the former Dean, Professor Margaret Larrey for her initiative in bringing the alumni together and the Class of 1972, especially Professor Gladys Amponsah for their contribution to their alma mater, and the University of Ghana Medical School is grateful. The Dean expressed his appreciation to other alumni groups who have contributed over the years towards a better Medical School.

This year has been very eventful for the College Chaplaincy Board. The monthly Lunch Hour programme has been held successfully with different speakers. The speaker for the January Lunch hour meeting was Rev Dr. Samuel Somuah Asante, Senior Pastor of Jesus Witness Ministry, while the February speaker was Bishop Abraham Nortey, President of the Look Beyond Ministries. In March there was no Lunch Hour programme because of the Easter Service in early April.



*Rev. Dr. Tom Akuetteh Ndanu,*

The Easter programme was held on Wednesday, 5th April 2023. This was well attended by various choirs and singing groups, including: Noble Ladies, the Noguchi Choir, the Dental School Choir, and the KCN Choir to minister to the congregation. The speaker for this year's Easter programme was Rev. Dr. Tom Akuetteh Ndanu, the Chairman of the College Chaplaincy Board. The theme for the Easter Programme was "The message of the Cross" In his brief sermon he narrated the twelve painful treatment that Jesus had to endure throughout His passion. He summarised them as follows:

1. Jesus was betrayed by one of his own Apostles.
2. He was then betrayed with a kiss.
3. His own Senior Apostle denied Him in public.
4. He was then tried and falsely accused.
5. At the end of His sham trial, He was unjustifiably condemned to die by crucifixion.
6. Before He was crucified, they whipped Him, crowned Him with thorns, dressed Him up for mockery and handed Him a cross to walk up a hill.
7. Then His hands and feet were nailed to the cross.
8. While hanging up there, He was mocked and ridiculed.
9. After losing so much blood and fluid, He became

thirsty and when He asked for water, He was given an acid to drink.

10. While hanging on the cross carrying the burden of man's sin, the Father forsook Him.
11. Finally, He gave up His spirit and died.
12. Even after His physical death, His body was pierced with a spear and blood and water oozed out of His side.

In the midst of all these events, He was still performing miracles for the benefit of others:

1. The one whose ear was cut off in the garden during His arrest, was restored by Jesus.
2. A criminal was released from jail to be replaced by Jesus
3. Two leaders who were arch enemies, reconciled and became friends at His trial.
4. Those who were killing Him were forgiven for what they did to Jesus Christ.
5. The criminal who was hanging beside His cross, received salvation at the last moments of his life on earth before his death.

The crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought hope of reconciliation of mankind to his God and restoration of sonship to his heavenly Father. On the cross, the price for our forgiveness was paid in full. The tearing of the veil in the temple from top to bottom opened up direct access to our Holy God to all who will believe and come to Him, through His Son, Jesus Christ. In conclusion he stated that the Message of the Cross is that, Salvation is made available by grace through faith in Him who conquered death on the cross, Jesus Christ!



*A choir performance at the service*

Attendance at the Easter programme was very good. The Provost, the Dean of the Medical School, Prof. Alfred Yawson, the Dean of SBAHS, Prof. Samuel Antwi-Baffour. The Acting Dean of SONM was represented by Dr. Mrs. Josephine Kyei, and they were all readers of the Bible verses presented during the service. Other dignitaries at the service included Prof. Andrew Anthony Adjei and the Chairman of FUSSAG, Mr. Haruna Rafik. In attendance were three retired former members of the College Chaplaincy Board in the persons of Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tsegah, Rev. Prosper Amegashie (the immediate past

Secretary to the Board) and Rev. Stanley Amankwa (former Head of Medical Illustrations Unit of the College).

Prayer for CHS and the University was led by Rev. Stanley Amankwa. The Provost gave us some words of admonitions after the sermonette. He was very happy to be part of the annual Easter programme. The programme started at 1:15 pm and ended at 3.00 pm.

We thank God for the full participation of members of the College and we are grateful to God for its success.



Some pictures taken at the programme



## BRIEF REPORT ON DR. GEORGE BAFFOUR-AWUAH ENDOWMENT FUND

The University of Ghana Medical School as part of its efforts and contribution to the University's strategic plan and objectives of creating a financial space and support system to both faculty and students, has over the years made significant and sustained impact through its alumni. One of such contributions is the creation of Dr. George Baffour-Awuah Endowment Fund. This Fund has been set up by the Medical School in collaboration with the children of the late Dr. George Baffour-Awuah to honor him for his purpose and passion for healing the sick.

The late Dr. George Baffour-Awuah was an alumnus of University of Ghana Medical School, Class of 1976. After his training at the Medical School and public service, he went on to establish Mt. Sinai Clinic in Accra, where he dedicated decades of his life to bringing healing to patients until he passed on 13 years ago at Korle Bu (January 2008). In memory and recognition of his contribution to the health of humanity, his children through the support of the Medical School, discussed and finalized the need to set up an Endowment Fund to support needy but brilliant medical students.

The Fund is an annual donation of USD 1500 from his children, to be spread out as a token to selected brilliant but needy Ghanaian medical students at the University of Ghana Medical School. In collaboration with the Students Financial Aid Office, the University of Ghana Medical School will open application every year for qualified students to apply. At the outset, the family has donated USD 1,500.00 as a commitment for this year. As an opening to kick start the operationalization of the Fund, 10 needy medical students who qualified for the award were selected.

On Tuesday, 21st March 2023, a short ceremony was organized to award qualified and deserving students with an amount of GHC 1,500.00 each. Present at the ceremony were the Dean of Medical School, Prof, Alfred Yawson, the Chairman of the Medical Students Welfare Association, Dr. John Ahenkorah, the school Administrator, Mr. Ishmael Ato Essien, the Assistant Registrar, Mr. Ralph Asubonteng, the School Accountant, Mrs. Juliana Agyapong Lartey and some students executives.





# UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF PHARMACY INTRODUCES PHARMDET LIQUID SOAP®

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5	Retail single	4 Liter Gallon	GHC140.00
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## Programmes that were held during the first semester of the 2022/2023 academic year.

### AEROBICS AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

On 18th February 2023, at 7:00am, aerobics session was organised at the car park of SBAHS Hostel. This fitness session was held to welcome students back to school, to facilitate socialization and most importantly students in shape. Attendance was quite impressive. The attendees included residents in the SBAHS Hostel with majority being the final year students and a few Level 300s.



*Photographs of the participants at aerobics and physical fitness session*



# RARE DISEASE DAY CAMPAIGN PROGRAMME

On 28th February 2023, students celebrated Rare Disease Day, in collaboration with Rare Disease Ghana Initiative. The theme for the day was "Show Your Colours". Rare Disease affects about 5% of the world's population, however, there is little awareness about it. On that day, some students selected by the Health Committee of UGAHSA-JCR, organized an awareness campaign about Rare Diseases.



Some of the participants of the Rare Disease Campaign Programme displaying their placards

## Donation at St. Mary's Girls' High School, Korle-Gonno.

The Women's Commission of UGAHSA-JCR made a donation of sanitary towels on 24th March 2023 to the St. Mary's Girls' High School, located in Korle-Gonno. Aside the donation, which was the main activity, there was also a talk by the Women's Commission concerning menstrual hygiene. It was an impactful and exciting session, especially for the students of the School.

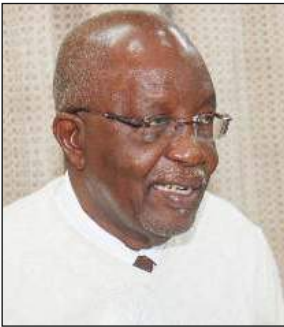


A group picture with some of the students after the presentation



A group photograph with the Headmistress

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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Prof. Mark M. Tettey



Prof. Collins S. K. Ahorlu



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#### Editors' Choice

Daytime sleepiness reflects depression, anxiety, and stress among University of Ghana Medical School students Taylor et al., 2023. Pages 360-364  
<https://doi.org/10.46829/hsijournal.2023.6.4.1.atp1-8>

#### About the cover portrait "the Maestro"

The painting is motivated by the inspired roles of the female gender. This painting is fundamentally captured with two main colour schemes as the backdrop. The red scheme to the left is to buttress the strong character of the female subject (the female has the coloured lips)..... Read more about the artist's perspective and the editor's view on Page 348.  
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