

INFOCUS

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Volume 6



University of Ghana Dental School
(New Clinic Building)

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Cover Page

University of Ghana Dental School (New Clinic Building)

The University of Ghana Dental School started as a department under the Medical School in 1992. Few years later, they were granted a full school status separated from the Medical School in the year 1999 when it moved to its present facility near the Charles Easmon Building complex, which houses the College of Health Sciences Administration.

With the increase in the number of dental students being trained at the Schools, it became clear that the number of chairs and other equipment for training were woefully inadequate so a new facility was needed. Construction of the new building which started in 2001, was intended to have spaces and facilities for all the various specialties in dentistry.

Under the leadership of the foundation Dean of the School, Prof. Nii Otu Nartey, the foundation was laid a four storey building, the first floor of which was completed on time to accommodate expanded services and increased the number of chairs for the training of dental surgeons.

Successive Deans since then have worked tirelessly to have the building fully completed until the tenure of the current Acting Dean, who received immense support from the immediate past Vice-Chancellor and the immediate past Provost, to bring the building to its present state.

The extension of the University of Ghana Dental School building was commissioned by the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, supported by the immediate past Provost, Rev. Professor Patrick Ferdinand Ayeh-Kumi and Acting Dean, Professor Ebenezer Anno Nyako on 29th July 2021.

What are left to make it fully functional are the equipment, tools and a lift to be installed. This will help to achieve the dreams of the University of Ghana Dental School under the College of Health Sciences.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST



Professor Julius Fobil
Provost CHS

As always, it is a pleasure to once again come your way with the December edition of the College of Health Sciences Newsletter "INFOCUS" for 2022. It has been a long, eventful and an engaging year, full of activities. Much as it has been fulfilling, it has equally been challenging in terms of raising funds for our operations in the midst of the global economic hardships, occasioned by several converging factors both on the local and international scenes. In spite of all the challenges, faculty, staff and students have braved the odds by working hard to once again achieve the objective of producing medical and other health professionals/scientists through teaching, learning and impactful research.

Let me seize this opportunity on behalf of management of the College and on my own behalf to express my sincere appreciation to the Deans and Director, Heads of Department/Unit, Coordinators, Faculty, Administrative and Support Staff at all levels and students for the continued support and efforts to make things work, thus far.

I will also like to sincerely thank our colleague

Deans, Heads of Department and other officers of the College whose terms of offices came to an end at the end of the academic year on 31st July, 2022. I make particular mention of Professor Margaret Lartey, former Dean, University of Ghana Medical School, Professor Solomon Fiifi Ofori-Acquah, former Dean, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences and Professor Lydia Aziato, former Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery who has since assumed the role of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho. I wish them all the very best in their new roles and future endeavours.

In the same vein, I welcome to their respective seats and new roles, all Heads of Department and in particular, Professor Emmanuel Kwasi Torpey, Dean, School of Public Health, Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson, Dean, University of Ghana Medical School, Professor Samuel Antwi Baffour, Dean, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences and Professor Florence Naab, Ag. Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery. While wishing them well in their respective new roles, I urge them to bring their experiences and expertise to bear on the activities and programmes of their Schools, the College and the University as a whole.

As the year draws to a close, I will like to urge us all to finish hard with a resolve not to relent but to end the year on a high note and return in the New Year with renewed energy and ideas to perform even better in 2023. May we enjoy the yuletide and may the essence and the spirit of Christmas and the New Year not be lost on us, but invigorate us to give off our best for humanity as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ did for us. Seasons' greetings to you all.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!! Happy reading!!!



Professor Lydia Aziato Appointed As The New Vice-Chancellor of University of Health and Allied Sciences

The College of Health Sciences extends its heartiest congratulations to Professor Lydia Aziato on her appointment as the first female Vice Chancellor of the University of Health and Allied Sciences.

Prior to this elevation, administratively, Professor Lydia Aziato was the first substantive Dean to be appointed to head the School of Nursing and Midwifery, CHS and she served her full term to July 2022 having been in an acting position from 2017 to 2019. She was the Head of Department for Adult Health at the School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2016 to 2018.

She is a fellow of the Africa Science Leadership Programme, Pretoria, South Africa (2015/2016 - the only nurse in the inaugural cohort), Ghana Young Academy – 2015 to date, the West African College of

Nursing - March, 2005 to date and the first professor in the Nursing profession in Ghana. She is an Alumna of Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies International Deans' Course, Africa, 2019/ 2020 cohort and the Founder of Research Mentorship Alliance, an NGO that gave her the platform to develop the research skills of nurses and midwives in Ghana. She is also the President of Chi Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the second largest Nursing Organization globally.

The College is proud of the achievements of Professor Lydia Aziato and wishes her the very best in all her future endeavours.

Ayekoo!

Professor Lydia Aziato Delivers Her Inaugural Lecture



Prof. Lydia Aziato

Professor Lydia Aziato, former Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana has noted that Ghanaian women identify breast lesions accidentally or purposively through regular breast self-examination. She made

this remark as she delivered her inaugural lecture on the topic, "The Intersection of Subjectivism and Patient Centered Nursing for Breast Cancer Care and Pain Management."

Professor Aziato revealed that there are over 2.3 million women diagnosed with breast cancer and 685,000 deaths which indicates that there are breast cancer survivors who require care, support, and treatment. She added that in Africa, breast cancer ranked first in both incidence and mortality in 2020 with 16.8% new cases and 12.1% deaths. She also noted that in Ghana, breast cancer ranked first in incidence and second in mortality with 18.7% and 13.0% respectively.

Citing predisposing factors such as family history, early menstruation, late menopause, and no full-term pregnancies, Professor Aziato noted that the disease emanates from uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells. She identified the signs of breast cancer as lumps, changes in the size or shape of the breast, nipple and skin, and pain which is a late sign. Professor Aziato disclosed that the treatment choices included surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and immunotherapy or could be hormonal depending on the stage and type of breast cancer.

Sharing key findings related to breast cancer diagnosis, reaction to diagnosis and factors influencing care-seeking decisions, Professor Aziato mentioned that early diagnosis can save a life; but diagnosis was sometimes delayed because of emotional reactions such as shock and sadness due to the fear of death associated with breast cancer. She asserted that women who were reliant on their spouses financially were more prone to delayed treatment and encouraged them to be self-reliant. "It is important for women to endeavor to work and manage their finances to be economically independent, to take control and contribute to their healthcare needs", she stated.

Professor Aziato disclosed that faith had been a major finding in research, and this was congruent with the evidence that most Ghanaians were religious. She said "The women with breast cancer entrusted their treatment to God. These women prayed and offered sacrifices to invoke the power of God for healing and financial support for treatment due to financial challenges". She added that unfortunately, the many months of prayer did not cure the breast cancer but rather contributed to the spread of the cancer cells.

Professor Aziato cited concerns with privacy and confidentiality due to public stigma, and challenges with breast prosthesis, pain management and wound care as challenges associated with breast cancer surgery. She further noted that the high cost of silicon prosthesis lead to some women using other materials such as cloth, and customised Plaster of Paris for artificial breast which prove uncomfortable. Furthermore, the lecturer defined mastectomy as the removal of the breast and disclosed that the process affect the body image, grooming and intimacy of women. She said "pain after breast surgery also impede rest and sleep as well as exercising the arm which result in swollen arm also known as lymphoedema. The discomfort associated with the lymphoedema lead to poor quality of life". Professor Aziato added that women who are single with mastectomy are more inclined to hide their mastectomy status because they are not sure any man would accept them without breasts. She also cited hair loss, change of skin color, diarrhoea, vomiting, weakness and sore mouth as severe side

effects women experienced due to chemotherapy. Professor Aziato revealed that a dominant finding was secrecy because disclosure results in stigmatisation and there are several misconceptions about breast cancer and its treatment, especially death associated with breast surgery. She noted that the negative misconceptions heightened the stigma; as a result, women avoided this by keeping their breast cancer diagnosis and loss of breast to themselves and only informed those they trusted.

Regarding social support, Professor Aziato said, "It was consistently evident that women with breast cancer receive support from family, friends, health professionals and other bodies such as the church and NGOs. The support received were physical, emotional, financial, spiritual and social". She noted that although the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) covered surgery and chemotherapy, it was not always reliable since some women pay out of pocket due to the unavailability of drugs and the cost of laboratory investigations which is not covered by the NHIS.

Touching on pain management, Professor Aziato noted that this is regarded as the 5th vital sign in addition to temperature, pulse, respiration and blood pressure; thus, health professionals assess pain regularly especially in units where pain is common. She added, however, that pain is highly subjective since it could be expressed verbally or non-verbally and could be influenced by socialisation. She stressed that inadequate pain management is common and leads to prolonged hospitalisation and complications.

Professor Aziato opined that although there is inadequate training across the levels of the healthcare system, some nurses and midwives make personal efforts to update their knowledge and skills. "With this high level of trust patients have in healthcare professionals, we owe it to them to keep our knowledge and skills at the highest level so we can meet this requirement of 'knowing best'.

Those of us who train health professionals must also endeavor to ensure quality training," she said.

Professor Aziato disclosed that patients do not often ask questions about their medications or treatment options since they assume that the health professionals know the medications to give them.



She encouraged patients and their families to make efforts to understand their health challenges and ask questions as much as possible so they can contribute to their care decisions.

On the four main principles to improve pain management, Professor Aziato mentioned that patient and family require adequate information and education on pain management, effective teamwork is required between nurses, doctors, and other health team members regarding pain management, input and monitoring from hospital management and departmental leadership is required to achieve

effective pain management, and contemporary evidence-based recommendations for pain management should be utilised.

In her concluding remarks, Professor Lydia Aziato recommended that patients with breast cancer should be supported holistically. She called on the Government, NGOs and philanthropists to contribute to making treatment available to women, while public education on breast cancer is intensified to address the stigma associated with the disease. She also suggested that effective management of pain must be upheld as a core mandate of nursing and midwifery practice and advocated a sustainable collaboration between religious bodies, prayer camps, spiritualists, traditionalists & health care professionals in relation to breast cancer patient care. In her closing remarks, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor and Chair for the occasion congratulated Professor Lydia Aziato on the insightful lecture and encouraged members present to take cues from the lecture and inquire about medications and drugs prescribed for them. She appealed to healthcare professionals to ensure patients enjoy a comfortable atmosphere by making them feel at ease.

Transfer of Leadership at the School of Nursing and Midwifery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has a new leadership effective, 1st August 2022. The former Dean, Professor Lydia Aziato was appointed the acting Dean of the School between 2017 to 2019. She was subsequently appointed as the first substantive Dean of the School in August 2019 and she served her full term to July 2022. Under Professor Aziato's leadership as the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the School saw a significant growth in areas such as introduction of new programmes. For example, M'Phil and MSc in Midwifery and a PhD programme in Nursing were introduced in 2020 and these programmes were the first of a kind in Ghana. She also led the School to introduce sandwich masters' programmes in Nursing. Professor Lydia Aziato also facilitated an exponential growth of faculty numbers and research output.

In June 2022, Professor Lydia Aziato was appointed the first female Vice Chancellor of the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho. The School received the news with joy and excitement as she happened to be the first nurse professor in the country and also to be elevated to the position of Vice Chancellor. Congratulations to Professor Lydia Aziato.

Moving forward, Professor Florence Naab, the Head of Maternal and Child Health Department, has been appointed the acting Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery effective August 1st, 2022. On Friday June 24th, 2022, Professor Aziato presented her final report on the School to the School Management Committee and subsequently handed over the School to Professor Florence Naab. The transitioning process was smooth and successful.

Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson Delivers His Inaugural Lecture



Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson

Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson delivered his Inaugural Lecture on Thursday, 16th June, 2022 at the Great Hall, University of Ghana, Legon. The topic of his Inaugural Lecture was "In the eyes of the beholder: dissecting Ghana's Health System towards 2030 and beyond".

Touching on governance and key leadership, the lecturer highlighted the Ghanaian health system's resilience for its capability to function and provide vital services in the face of shock such as COVID-19, without any impediment. He cited those essential services as immunisation, antenatal attendances, deliveries and basic services at the end of 2020 did not show any difference when compared to 2018 and 2019, implying that the outstanding systems put in place worked perfectly. He enumerated numerous agencies where health system planning and budgeting tools were used to develop strategic and operational plans from the low levels of the health system. However, there are challenges in translating national policies into implementable actions at sub-national levels. An example is the lack of awareness at some healthcare facilities.

Speaking on human resource for health, Prof. Yawson indicated that the health system can train most of the specialists and the health care staff needed through the establishment of postgraduate colleges. Prof. Yawson

also cited and acknowledged agencies such as Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana as strong regulatory agencies in Sub-Saharan Africa. He disclosed that Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital was accredited by the Health Facilities Regulatory Authority as a facility that can provide services to the citizenry in 2019, showing that even the renowned health institutions are being monitored.

Moving towards 2030, the lecturer signaled the need for examination of health systems to ensure the provision and expansion of essential health services, tertiary level care and capital infrastructure.

Drawing attention to health service delivery and access, Professor Yawson indicated that government provides approximately 60% of outpatient services, whilst the Private sectors including faith-based organisations contribute close to 40%. He urged the nation to pay attention to contributions of the private sector to the improvement of the health system. Professor Yawson further recommended that the potential of the private sector be harnessed to boost the health system.

Additionally, the lecturer pointed to obesity and overweight as risk factors for most of the non-communicable diseases, especially the cardiovascular related conditions. He emphasised that between 2007 and 2014, there was an increase in obesity and overweight of 3% at the population level. He cited females, urban residents, older persons, those with higher education and those with higher incomes as groups with higher risks of obesity.

Professor Alfred Yawson stated that a population level survey conducted in 2007 revealed that 71% of older persons who wanted access to health care received it, however, 2014 saw a reduction of

42.3% older persons receiving care. He pointed out that plans are underway to collect data in the current year to reveal the latest trends. Highlighting population level risks, he said "Ghana's ageing population rate of 60 and above is rising and Ghana in terms of proportion has one of the highest proportions of the aged in Sub-Saharan Africa. As people age, chronic degenerative conditions will increase". He disclosed that the population of the aged in Ghana is projected to increase from 6.5% in 2010 to 11.9% in 2050. Therefore, Ghana must prepare itself for geriatric and palliative care through training.

He reiterated that high risk of ageing and non-communicable diseases were increasing and health and social policies were adequately needed to address the issue. Professor Yawson observed that rural residents have challenges accessing health care; urban residents suffer more chronic health conditions and older women who are poorer suffer more chronic health conditions and usually have lower health score. Professor Yawson advocated interventions for areas and population groups that

are at most risk and need assistance.

He commended the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Services for developing the Universal Health Coverage roadmap and called on policymakers to operationalise it to strengthen the primary healthcare system since it targets areas and population groups that are in the most need.

Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson also advocated the restructuring of the package of health services at the lower level to improve access for the ordinary Ghanaian; increase in domestic funding for the health sector to ensure health reliance; demand-driven training of specialist physicians, nurses in areas of special need, and inclusion of the private sector, academia and civil society in the planning process to generate the awareness of change.

He indicated that within the context of economic constraints, there was a need to make the Ghana Beyond Aid programme count since it was needed to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

In her closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor and Chairperson of the occasion, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, commended and congratulated



A cross-section of participants at the lecture

Professor Yawson on his insightful delivery. She lauded his collaborations with policymakers and acknowledged the impact of the lecturer's mentors in shaping him into a brilliant academic. Professor Amfo succinctly summarized the lecture and expressed anticipation of the lecture generating good discussions, leading to the successful implementation of Professor Yawson's recommendations.

Prior to the lecture, the Registrar, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, welcomed all present and said, "Inaugural lectures form an essential component of the University's programme for an academic year and every academic who rises to the rank of a professor in his or her career in the University of Ghana is expected to deliver an inaugural lecture". Mrs. Agyei-Mensah added that inaugural lectures offer the University an opportunity to recognise and showcase the achievements of faculty as they share their research with colleagues within and outside the University.

The Ghana Dance Ensemble graced the occasion with cultural performances as well as seperewa appellation to herald the lecturer.

Several presentations were made to Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson to congratulate him on his achievement.

As a prelude to Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson's inaugural lecture, a week-long exhibition of his scholarly works was held at the Balme Library. His research has focused on health systems, health policy, planning and financing, ageing and chronic non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS.

In attendance were Professor Clifford Nii-Boi Tagoe, former Vice-Chancellor; Mr. Edward Omane Boamah, former Minister for Communications; Dr. Asamoah Baah, former Deputy Director, World Health Organization; Dr. Stephen Ayisi Addo, Programme Manager, National AIDS/STI Control Programme; Professor Richard Adanu, Rector, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and former Dean of the School of Public Health, UG; Dr. Koku Awoonor-Williams, Former Director, Policy, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation ; and Dr. Divine Banyubala, Registrar, Medical and Dental Council of Ghana.

The lecture was also attended by members of the University community, the media fraternity and the general public.



Professor Yawson at the opening of an exhibition of his scholarly works at the Balme Library

Profile of Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu

Director, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research



Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu

Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu is the first female Director of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana, and she is a Professor of Medical Microbiology. Prof. Yeboah-Manu had her tertiary education at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and finished with First Class, BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry. While working as a Research Assistant at the NMIMR, she studied at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for her

Masters and at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, obtaining a PhD in Microbiology in 2006.

Professor Yeboah-Manu is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, the WHO Global Network of Laboratories Confirming Buruli Ulcer, executive member of the Federation of African Immunological Societies, and Steering Committee member for the National Buruli Ulcer Control Programme.

She is also the Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme. She is a Senior Fellow of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership and a board member for African Research Academies for Women, Ghana and a Fellow of the Wellcome Trust. She won the Royal Society Africa Prize in 2018 in recognition of her innovative contributions to the understanding of the microbiology, genetics and molecular epidemiology of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* and *Mycobacterium africanum*.

Professor Yeboah-Manu is married to Mr. Victor Yeboah-Manu, and they are blessed with two beautiful ladies and a handsome gentleman.

Profile of Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson

Dean, University of Ghana Medical School



Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson

Professor Alfred E. Yawson has over nineteen years of medical practice and research experience. He had his medical training from the University of Ghana Medical School. He has MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing and Public Health from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians (Community Health), Fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians (Public Health), a post-doctoral from University of Michigan, and currently the principal investigator for the WHO World Health Survey Plus in Ghana.

He is an honorary Associate Professor of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a Professor of the University of Ghana.

Professor Yawson is a physician, public health practitioner, academic and researcher, and combines these skills to support, develop and strengthen national and international health systems. He has worked as national and international consultant for many international organizations, the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service in Health Policy, Planning, Health Financing, HIV and AIDS services, New-born Care, Immunization, and Institutional Care. He has over 130 peer-reviewed scientific publications, teaches both undergraduate and graduate students, and has supervised over 40 PhDs, Masters and Physician Fellowships.

He has been actively involved in providing clinical and public health services, research support and mentoring at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital since 2004. He is a senior specialist public health physician of the Public Health Unit, and the immediate past Head, Department of Community Health, University of Ghana Medical School.

Professor Alfred Yawson is the Vice-President and Chairman of the West African College of Physicians, Ghana Chapter and currently the Dean of the UGMS. His appointment as Dean took effect from 1st August, 2022.

He has a lovely wife (Mrs. Anita Yawson) and four wonderful children (David, Jeffrey, Anna Vera and Jesse). He has been married for 17 years.

Profile of Professor Samuel Antwi-Baffour

Dean, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences



Professor Samuel Antwi-Baffour

Professor Antwi-Baffour is the newly appointed Dean of the School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences (SBHAS), College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana. His appointment as Dean took effect from the 1st August, 2022.

He is a Professor of Biomedical Sciences and the former Head of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, SBHAS with over 24 years of Medical Laboratory practice and teaching experience. He holds a BSc (Hons) and MSc in Biomedical Science and a PhD in Immunology all from London Metropolitan University, London, UK.

From 2007 – 2011, he worked as a Specialist Biomedical Scientist at the Northwick Park

Hospital in Harrow, UK where he performed various laboratory analyses in Haematology and Blood Transfusion Sciences. He also served as a lecturer at London Metropolitan University during his PhD studies. In November, 2013, he was a visiting researcher at the Centre for Medical Parasitology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark under the Building Stronger Universities initiative. He was also a visiting Scholar/Researcher at the Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA under the Indiana University / University of Ghana Research Fellowship Grant.

Professor Antwi-Baffour is an adjunct lecturer at different universities both in Ghana and internationally, he is a member of various scientific associations including the American Association of Immunologists and serves as a reviewer for different peer reviewed journals. As Dean of School of Biological and Allied Health Sciences, he believes that he has the vision and the drive to make a difference and to grow and develop the School to ensure it achieves the highest possible standards of excellence in all its activities.

Congratulations Prof. Antwi-Baffour on your new appointment!

Profile of Professor Kwasi Torpey

Dean, School of Public Health



Professor Kwasi Torpey

Professor Kwasi Torpey is the current Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. His appointment as Dean took effect from the 1st August, 2022.

Professor Kwasi Torpey is a Professor of Family Health, and a Public Health Physician, Programme Manager and Researcher with extensive experience in implementation of public health programmes in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and several other countries.

Prior to joining the University of Ghana, he had a

distinguished career with Family Health International, a US based international NGO serving in a variety of roles including Deputy Chief of Party, Technical for Nigeria, Director of Technical Services for Zambia, and Regional Senior Technical Advisor for the Africa Region. He is a Senior Visiting Fellow of the Amsterdam Institute of Global Health and Development, Academic Medical Centre in University of Amsterdam and Honorary Associate Professor of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London. He is also the Scientific Chair of International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research in Resource-limited Settings. Professor Torpey has authored over 100 scientific publications and a member several technical working groups at the national and international levels. He is the principal investigator of several research studies on HIV, other infectious and non-communicable diseases.

He received his education at the University of Ghana Medical School and Netherlands School of Public Health. He has a PhD from the Institute of Tropical Medicine from the University of Antwerp in Belgium. He is a fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and West Africa College of Physicians.

The official opening of the New Office Complex for the Department of Pathology



New Office Complex for the Department of Pathology

On Thursday, July 14, 2022 the new office for the Department of Pathology with faculty offices was officially opened. The ceremony was attended by Management of the Medical School, Faculty of the Department of Pathology, the Contractor-TDK Atlantics and the Consultant Engineer Talk Consultants. After almost two years with finances from internally generated funds, the department of Pathology has expanded their office facility.

On this occasion, the Dean, Professor Margaret Lartey thank the Head of Department and all faculty for their commitment towards the successful completion of the project. The Dean in her address, acknowledged the contribution of the Department to the Medical School, as one worth mentioning, just

as the Anatomy mortuary. The Dean requested that the department should continue to support other departments that are weak financially, so that all the departments will grow together.

The Head of Department, Dr. Afua Abrahams thanked the Dean for her willingness to push through with the Project. She mentioned that the vision to have extra office for faculty was birthed by her predecessors but due to some challenges, it was shelved. However, when she revisited it, all the faculty were ready to move resources to see to the successful completion of the new office complex.

There was a tour of the facility after the official opening.

Herbal Medicine Stakeholder's Workshop

The Department of Pharmacognosy and Herbal Medicine of the School of Pharmacy, CHS, University of Ghana hosted an inception workshop on a project titled Drug Development from Ghanaian Medicinal Plants for the Management of Epilepsy. This event was held on 22nd March 2022 at the ISSER Seminar Room and was funded by the West African Green Medicine Initiative, an international consortium aimed at the valorisation of West African traditional herbal medicines.

This project sought to engage critical stakeholders in the area of epilepsy treatment to harness traditional herbal knowledge in epilepsy treatment in Ghana. Key researchers on the project were drawn from the University of Ghana and University of Cape Coast, included Professor Patrick Amoateng, Professor Patrick Adjei, Professor Alex Asase, Dr. Awo Afi Kwapong and Dr. Kwesi Thomford. The Project Lead, Dr. Oppong Bekoe was of the firm believe there is a sophisticated traditional nature-based medical system in West Africa which represents a major socio-cultural heritage and features valuable and unique ethnomedicinal information for drug development which needs to be explored.

The Chairperson for the event, Professor Isaac Asiedu-Gyekye, who is also the Dean of the School of

Pharmacy expressed his satisfaction at the level of consultation which he believes ensures all gaps are adequately covered to bring an acceptable solutions unto the Ghanaian market. Dr. Cica Vissiennon from the University of Leipzig and project Co-director gave a goodwill message and expressed hope that this collaboration will further strengthen academic collaboration between the University of Ghana and University of Leipzig.

The event saw stakeholders from different spectrum of herbal medicine practice including the Food and Drugs Authority, Pharmacy Council, Traditional and Alternative Medicines Directorate, Ministry of Health, National Folklore Board, Ghana Federation of Herbal Medicine Practitioners, Center for Plant Medicine Research, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and, researchers from the University of Ghana and University of Cape Coast.

Representatives from the Office of Research, Innovation and Development and the Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology took participants through the Intellectual Property and Technology transfer implications of the project and how they could support.



Participants at the stakeholder workshop



The UG mass Choir in action



The Noble Ladies in action



Rev. Dr. Tom Ndanu on the guitar



Snippet of the sketch by KCN



The picture with the Singing Groups and Board Members.

Chaplaincy Board News

The activities of the Chaplaincy Board of the College activities were conducted this Academic year as usual. The monthly Lunch Hour Fellowship programmes were organized. This semester we had three invited guests to speak at our monthly programmes.

The speakers for the monthly meetings included the Chairman, Rev Dr. Tom A. Ndanu, on January 26th 2022. This was followed by Prof. Eric Sampene Donkor on 23rd February 2022. Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei was also invited to speak at the programme on the 30th March 2022. The Lunch Hour for the month of April took place on the 27th 2022. The speaker was Rev. Dr Emmanuel K. Tsegah.

The major activity of the Board was the Easter Service organised on the 12th of April. The theme of the Programme was "THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS".

In attendance was the Provost, Prof. Julius Fobil, the College Secretary, Mr. Michael Opare Atuah and

most of the Board members.

The UG-Legon Mass Choir was in attendance to render wonderful choral music. The Noble Ladies singing duo were also in attendance to inspire the attendees with their sweet voices. The Korle Bu Christian Network KCN also attended to give us an Easter sketch. The Chairman, Rev Dr. Tom A. Ndanu also had his turn to sing on his guitar on the day.

The Sermon on the day was delivered by the Secretary to the Board, Rev. Prosper Amegashe. His main scripture was taken from Colosians 2:14 -15. He stated according to the scriptures that if the rulers and elders had known the ultimate plan of God in the crucifixion of Christ they would not have crucified the Lord. (1 Corinthians 2:8) *None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory, which has brought us victory today.*

The programme was well attended having about 150 members of the College community present.



The Provost (right) seated with some members of the Chaplaincy Board

STAFF IN FOCUS (Senior Staff)

Interview with Rev. Stanley Marcus Amankwa



Rev. Stanley Marcus Amankwa

INF: *The constituent units of College of Health Sciences have recognized your immense contribution to the development of the medical illustration, art and the publicity unit of the College and wishes to acknowledge your great works. The College intends to feature you as the special staff in the next issue of the In-Focus Newsletter.*

Thank you for the time for this interview. Everyone who has reached the pinnacle of his achievements started from somewhere. Can you tell us about your background and up bringing?

SA: I was born on November 25, 1961 in Keta but my formative years were spent in Peki Avetile, my hometown. My dad was a tutor at the Peki Training College at that time. I lived with my parents on the College compound for at least twenty years. The school was a specialist training school in arts and I think that was where I developed my artistic talent and skills. My mother was a seamstress, what we call today fashion designers, I think from her I picked my artistic gift. In the School I used to draw, sing and even learned how to play the trumpet. I wasn't very good at reading but very proficient in the use of my hands. I interacted with some of the art teachers who introduced me to some of the models, carvings and

ceramic artistic works. Thus from an early age I was exposed to artistic works which triggered and helped develop my interest in works of art.

INF: *Where did you have your education and training into this profession?*

SA: I started school at the Evangelical Presbyterian Primary School and continued at the Middle School. In 1974, my Dad sent me and my junior brother to Akropong Presbyterian Boys Boarding School. From there I passed the Common Entrance Exams and went to Mawuli Secondary School in the Volta Region in the year 1975.

I actually pursued science courses in secondary school at the O-level offering Physics, Chemistry and Biology in addition to arts and completed in 1980. At the A-level I turned down the science courses offered me and choose Mathematics, Geography and Art and completed in 1983. When I went to the university at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, I pursued graphic arts, which is now called communication design. This course included Photography, Illustrations, Calligraphy and Typography (how to arrange characters). I had my BA (Hons) Art, Major in Graphic Art in November 1989. I also had my postgraduate degree in Master of Public Administration (MPA) in November 2010.

INF: *When did you first join the Medical School and what capacities have you worked in and how long have you been with the University?*

SA: After my university education, I did my national service with the Ghana Education Service. Due to my performance at KNUST, a request was made to the University by the Medical School for someone to come and help with Medical Illustrations. Some of my lecturers at KNUST then recommended me to the Medical School and I was contacted. I reported to Mr. Quao who was then the head of the unit at the Medical School. That was when I first joined to Medical school.

So, I joined the University of Ghana Medical School in 1990 and have been around till this year 2022, that is thirty-two (32) years. In course of these years, I have served at different levels of appointment. I was appointed Senior Medical Artist from 1990 to 1999.

Between 1999 and 2010 I was appointed Principal Medical Artist. From 2010 till date, I became the Chief Artist and Head of the Medical Illustration Unit.

IFT: *You seem to be engaged in many committee work, Can you mention some of them and the roles you played on those committees and Boards?*

SA: My responsibility started with participating in the organization of congregation at the Medical School. The School used to hold its own congregations until this was changed by the University of Ghana. My boss usually sends me to represent him on the Congregation organizing committee and he later made me a permanent member of the Committee after he retired. I also served as the photographer on the team. Photography was a business I picked up while I was a student on the KNUST campus. My major responsibility was to take photographs during congregation of the Medical school.

I was made to join the Audiovisual and the Reprographic Committee. This was an attempt to set up an audio-visual center for the College and I was drafted to be part of the committee. We developed a paper to be used to start the center in 2006 but it couldn't materialize.

In 2007, the Annual Scientific Conference started and I was brought in to be part of the organizing committee. The Conference was later changed into a Biennial event interspersed with a Public Lecture. This continued until my retirement.

I have been a member of the E-learning Committee of the UGMS, in 2010. I joined the Biennial Public Lecture in 2014. I have served as a member of the various Anniversary Organizing Committees, the UGMS @ 50 in 2012, CHS @10 in 2013, School of Pharmacy @ 10 in 2016, and UGMS @ 60 Planning Committee in 2022.

I have been a member of other Newsletter Committees such as UGMS Research Newsletter in 2013 till date and the InFocus Newsletter Committee from 2018 till date. I also joined the College of Health Sciences Chaplaincy Board from 2016 until my retirement.

My major tasks on these committees included, helping to advertise the programmes and events by producing relevant artworks for print and online communications, (newspaper ads, banners, flyers, posters etc.). I also produced conference materials such as name tags, book of abstract, certificates, presentation posters and calligraphic services. I have been the one who has been designing all the CHS and UGMS official anniversary logos and cloth designs. I have participated fully in the planning and

implementation of conferences, public lectures, and the anniversary celebration events.

INF: *In your personal capacity in this unit, what would you consider are some of your achievements in advancing your work in the University and the College of Health Sciences?*

SA: When I first joined the Unit, everything was done manually. There was very little or no digitalization and just few computers and nothing was online. When most activities went online with the introduction of computers, most of the lecturers went online to look for materials so our services were no more patronized as before. Thus, we were no more going to the theatres to take live pictures of cases.

From there on, I decided to shift our focus to the visual communication aspect of our duties. We then positioned ourselves in the Unit to serve the College in the area of printing of relevant materials, designing documents or graphic design for the Schools and the College. With that shift to serve our clients in the College our Unit has become a hot bed for printing and designing of different materials for individuals as well as Schools under the College.

INF: *What were some of the challenges or difficulties you had as an artist working with Scientists?*

SA: An Artist's main goal is to communicate ideas into visual images that will convey the true intent of the message being shared. So, the Artist can be very flexible in the way he wants to present that message. But with the scientists, it is facts and figures so it can sometimes be rigid in the way they want the image to be communicated or presented. The artist wants to introduce creativity and innovations at every stage to ensure the message being communicated from the image is well understood. Sometimes what may look like a mistake might rather introduce another creative feature to help convey the message of the artwork. This type of creativity is limited when dealing with scientific materials. But with time I learned to adapt to their way of doing things and helped produce the most appropriate image fit for purpose.

INF: *Along the journey there were special individuals who mentored, inspired and motivated you to reach this height of achievements? Who were they?*

SA: There are some few people who have mentored me over the years. The late N.O. Quao my former

boss. Prof. Gladys Amposah, formerly of Dept. of Anaesthesia, UGMS. Prof Andrew Anthony Adjei, the man who brings me along if there is any work to be done and ensures I improve on my output every time. In Gospel Ministry, I have been greatly influenced by Bishop Joseph Antwi and Archbishop Nickolas Duncan- Williams all of Action Chapel International.

INF: *Apart from your work at the University, are there other engagement you have been involved in?*

SA: I have been a member of a Community Base Organization (CBO) that is involved in the development of rural education in the South Dayi District of the Volta Region. The CBO is involved in providing teaching and learning materials for basic schools in the District. It is also involved in providing scholarship to brilliant but needy pupils. We also organized free extra classes for selected pupils in some of the rural communities. The CBO also engages in educating parents and other stakeholders to support the education of their children.

INF: *Now you are also a Reverend Minister, how are you able to balance your office work, committee work, family commitment as well as your ministerial duties?*

SA: I first started as a Counsellor in the Action Chapel International, at the Spintex Road Accra from 2005. I used to teach New Converts Bible Class. In 2015, I was licensed as a Minister and in 2018, I was fully ordained as a minister in the Church.

Combining ministry work and official duties in the College can be very challenging, but once you can find the time and energy for your own work, there is no reason why you shouldn't find time and the energy to do God's work as well.

I ensured that when it is time for official work, I am in the office to coordinate the activities of my Unit and I reserve ministry work for the weekend. Some of my ministry activities are done in the evening so I am able to effectively combine both duties.

The word of God is the driving force in whatever you do. If you are committed to God's work it gives you the focus in life to be able to dedicate yourself to any other responsibilities. By the nature of my work, I have learned to work under extreme pressure. Sometimes you might have spent a whole day to develop one printing project and as you are convinced it is great, a new and a better idea just comes into your mind. This then means you have to discard all that you have done and start all over again, pursuing the new ideas you have just developed. You will have to finish the new work on time for the client. This can put so much

pressure on you and this has enabled me to operate under extreme pressure.

Once you are motivated to work for God it gives you the drive to get every task finished on time. In addition, I must indicate also that God's grace is always available to carry me beyond my own strength. So far, I have been able to balance every facet of my life very well, ensuring official work and ministerial duties do not clash.

INF: *We are aware you are also a member of the Chaplaincy Board, what are some of your contributions to building up this Board for the College?*

SA: I joined as a member of the Chaplaincy Board when it was first established to cater for the spiritual needs of members of the College, especially on the Korle Bu Campus. I have played important roles in the planning and organization of the Monthly Lunch-Hour programme for the College.

INF: *Soon you will be retiring from service, what provision have you made for us to have someone who can easily fit into your shoes so that the College does not suffer unduly from your absence?*

SA: I have people working under me who are equally competent who can do most of the things I have been doing for the College so far. My assistants and team of workers in the Unit are equipped enough to handle every task that will be sent to them. I think there are enough people to easily fit into my shoes while I am gone. The system is now equipped with the right personnel and tools to discharge their duties just as I was with them.

INF: *What are some of your plans after retirement? We know that it is said that, if you rest you will rust and we don't think you would like to go and rust?*

SA: I have been a partner with some friends who have a printing house to run some printing business and I hope to pursue that when I finally leave the College. As a Reverend Minister, my Church work will continue as usual. I have started farming and hope to engage in it to occupy my time in my hometown.

INF: *The College is indeed grateful for your work and services provided to ensure improvement in the advertising and running of our Scientific Conferences and our Public Lectures. You will always be remembered for the high quality outputs of your artworks on behalf of the College. We wish you a very fruitful and a restful retirement. God bless you.*

STAFF IN FOCUS (Junior Staff)

Ms. Eva Sosu



Ms. Eva Sosu was born on 26th May, 1981 in Accra to Rev. Emmanuel Sosu and Madam Bertha Hadzah of blessed memory. Ms. Sosu hails from Anloga in the Volta Region. She had her basic education in Alakple R/C JHS in the Volta Region. She started petty trading after completing her basic education and later joined a savings and loans company as a cleaner where

she worked for 6 months before joining the University of Ghana Medical School in October 2011 as a Messenger Cleaner. By dint of hard work, she was promoted to the rank of a Head Cleaner in 2018.

Ms. Sosu is an exceptional staff whose performance and dedication has won the admiration of her colleagues, staff and students. She is committed and willing to go the extra mile to achieve results. She can often be found around the New Examination Hall, working frantically to get the facility and washrooms in shape for academic and other activities. Ms. Sosu is driven by her passion for the work and the benefits she enjoys as a staff of the College. According to her, what she does is her little contribution to humanity, so she does her work with joy and believes that the maintenance of the facilities in the College is a collective effort of all. She therefore, urges both staff and students to take good and proper care of the limited facilities available.

She is married with 5 children and a member of the Apostle Revelations Society (ARS). Well done Ms. Sosu and keep up the good work.

Ayekoo!

University of Ghana Medical School Holds A Send-off Party for Professor Margaret Lartey

It is worth noting that everything that has a beginning, has an end. Professor Margaret Lartey, immediate past Dean of the University of Ghana Medical School held a send-off party after serving two terms in office. She was the second longest serving Dean after the late Professor E. Q. Archampong, from 1st August 2016 to 31st July, 2022.

Professor Lartey is an astute clinician, researcher and a respected administrator who dedicated more than 6 years of service to the University and the Korle-Bu Community. With her leadership and vision, Professor Lartey built a culture of inclusivity, creativity, collegiality, and transparency during her tenure. She spearheaded major projects through the support of alumni and management.

Giving a brief speech, Professor Lartey expressed her heartfelt appreciation to all staff who contributed in diverse ways during her tenure. She took the opportunity to award some members of staff who distinguished themselves during her period as Dean.

The occasion was graced by the Provost, current and former Deans, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni of the College.



Professor Margaret Lartey (Former Dean, UGMS)



Prof. Welbeck, Prof. Lartey and Prof. Nyako (Ag. Dean, Dental School)



Professor Margaret Lartey with family



Professor Margaret Lartey with Administrative Staff



Professor Margaret Lartey Presenting Citation to Ida Yeboah Otoo (Skills Lab)



Professor Margaret Lartey with Current Dean, Professor Alfred Edwin Yawson and Dental School Administrator, Mrs. Selie Baiden

Retirement Party at the University of Ghana Dental School

On the 16th of September 2022, the Dental School organized a party for the retirees of the school to express its gratitude and appreciation for the retired colleagues of the School. A total of seven members of staff who have retired since 2020 were honored. The list of retirees and their years of service to the School has listed in the table below.

	Date of First Appointment	Number of years served	Year retired
Senior Members			
Dr. Neils Johannes Quartey-Papafio	Temporary, 2002 February, 2003	17 years	2020
Rev. Dr. Thomas Akuetteh Ndanu	PT 2002, FT - July, 2007	PT -5, FT - 14 Total - 19 years	2021
Senior Staff			
Mrs. Charlotte Annie Quartey	January, 1994	28 years, 5 months	2022
Ms. Sarah Johnson	September, 1995	26 years, 10 months	2022
Mr. Patrick Arkorful	October, 1961	22 years, 10 months	2022
Junior Staff			
Mr. Patrick Hammond	February, 2001	20 years	2022
Mr. John K. Owusu	August, 2002	19 years, 11 months	2022
Mr. Anthony Nketia	February, 2002	20 years, 5 months	2022



Those seated are the retirees with the acting Dean in the Middle



Students' Corner

University of Ghana Allied Health Students' Association (UGAHS) in collaboration with Probity Leadership Council organised a one-day Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy summit dubbed 'Beyond The Ward' for students of the University of Ghana College of Health Sciences. The summit which was themed **"Health, Entrepreneurship & Leadership: A Triad for National and Global Development"**, took place on Saturday, 23rd July, 2022 in the Examination Hall at the Charles Easmon Building, Korle Bu and supported by DataBank Group, CEO Network Ghana and New Crystal Health Services together with GhOne as media partner.

Scores of students from the various schools under the College participated in the programme. In attendance was the **Chairman of the Council of Presidents of Ghana Allied Health Professionals Council, Dr. Issahaku Shiraz**, who charged the ebullient audience to continue to pursue academic excellence in the quest to providing world standard health services to the nation. He however reminded the audience to make conscious efforts towards financial literacy and financial freedom so as to have work fulfilment.

The Group CEO of DataBank Limited - Dr. Kojo Addae-Mensah urged students to cultivate the habit of investment and to start saving towards their pension from the first day of their employment.

Nana Kwame Bediako (Freedom Jacob Caesar a.k.a Cheddar), the business magnate inspired the students not to give up on their journey to success and to work very hard to change their nation and the world at large. He further called on them to pursue personal freedom.

Prof. Justice N. Bawole, Dean of University of Ghana Business School also encouraged the students to network and learn from their lecturers, make informed decisions and excel in their respective endeavours.

Other guests present were, Dr. Francis Asenso Boadi, (a representative Dr. Okoe Boye, CEO of National Health Insurance Authority) Dr. Charles Hayfron-Benjamin (Senior Lecturer, UGMS and Specialist, KBTH), Dr. Peter Ndaa (HOD, Occupational Therapy, SBHAS), Dr. Matilda Asante (HOD, Dietetics, SBAHS), Mr. Stephen Amo-Mensah (School Administrator, SBAHS), Mrs. Gillian Hammah (Chief Marketing Officer, Databank)



Nana Kwame Bediako, CEO of Kwaleyz Group



Mrs. Gillian Hammah, CMO, Databank Ghana



Dr. Charles Hayfron-Benjamin
Senior Lecturer, UGMS and Specialist, KBTH



Professor Justice N. Bawole
Dean, University of Ghana Business School

Cross section of students at the event



Committee Members



Prof. Andrew A. Adjei



Prof. Mark M. Tettey



Prof. Collins S. K. Ahorlu



Mr. Michael Opare Atuah



Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Ndanu



Dr. Esther Brobby



Dr. K. Frimpong-Manso Opuni



Dr. Lilian A. Ohene



Dr. Prudence Tettey



Mr. Daniel A. Ameyaw



Mr. Charles A. Stephens



Mr. Samuel Addo-Yeboah



Ms. Worlali Torvikey



Mr. Samuel Akpabli



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