



UGMS

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA MEDICAL SCHOOL *Research Newsletter*

Volume 1

September, 2013



UGMS
CELEBRATES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

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Editorial staff

Prof. Andrew Anthony Adjei
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Dr. Samuel A. Oppong
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Dr. George Obeng Adjei
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Dr. Adziri Harold Sackey
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Dr. John Ahenkorah
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Mr. Mike Clotney
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Mr. David Odonkor
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Mr. Kingsley Augustus Appo
Member

Mr. Henry Xorsenyo Kpeli
Member

Ms. Nana A. Koramah Owusu Amanhyia
Secretary

Mr. Bernard Bernie Asante
Member

Ms. Margaret Reynolds
Member

Mr. Isaac Andam
Member

Editorial

The UGMS Newsletter which has been off the scene for so long has been given the kiss of life once again. This time it is back with a bang and full of fresh ideas. Like the Parable of the Prodigal Son recorded in the Bible (Luke 15:24) whose return made his father very happy and he said “for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found”, it is hoped that the resuscitation of the Newsletter will delight the UGMS community greatly and inspire members to contribute to ensure its sustainability. Since the last edition in 2007, UGMS has seen significant changes. Among these are the appointments of the late Prof. C.T. Ntim-Amponsah as the first female Dean of the Medical School followed by Prof. Yao Tettey, first as Dean of the Medical School and now Ag. Provost of the College. In addition, Prof. J. Welbeck has currently been appointed as the Ag. Dean for the Medical School. We wish her success and pray for God's guidance and protection for her in her new role.

Also the UGMS celebrated its 50th Anniversary last year and this was marked by a series of events which have been captured in pictures in this edition. Other interesting items featured are: messages from the former Dean and the University of Ghana Medical Students Association (UGMSA); articles on the H3 African kidney disease research project and the new state-of-the-art machine purchased by the Pathology Department; and a profile of an outstanding researcher among other items. We hope the UGMS community will embrace the newsletter once again and contribute to make it a permanent feature with support from everyone through sending of news items for us to report on. The Newsletter will be released quarterly hence all who want to contribute articles and news should please contact the editorial staff at the research office. Thanks to the Ag. Dean, the board of UGMS, the editorial board, secretaries, staff and UGMSA for assisting to resuscitate the news letter once again. Congratulations to the editorial board and long live UGMS Newsletter.



Professor Yao Tettey

Over the past few years, the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) has been focusing its attention on research, by redefining its research agenda and developing a research policy. The position of a Research Coordinator has been created to head the Research Office with the support of a reconstituted Research Committee. As a result of the work of the Research Office, the Monthly Research Forum has been instituted and sustained for about four (4) years now.

Since the beginning of 2013, the Research Office has been restructuring its operations to reach out and focus the attention of faculty and staff on research and research activities.

It is worthy to note that the University's new vision is to become a "World Class University" and for that matter "A Research University". Along with this vision is the impending introduction of a College System in the University. It is expected that these would result in several changes that may take place at a rather fast pace.

If the Medical School is not to be left behind, the

need to reposition ourselves and tag along right from the onset has become paramount. Fortunately, the UGMS appears to have a head start with its current research outfit which has worked hard to revive the UGMS Newsletter.

The revival of the UGMS Newsletter as a medium of communication for the dissemination of information and sharing of ideas therefore could not have come at a better time. However, this is not the first time that the School has embarked on such a mission but the past episodes could not be sustained for one reason or the other. In order to carry the current exercise through, faculty, staff and students are encourage to take active part to support this endeavour to help sustain this new project we are once again embarking upon. If we all make the effort to commit and dedicate ourselves to this course, we would together be able to have a regular news letter that is well known and sought after from far and near as a major source of information and ideas. It is my hope that through this we can project the image and activities of the UGMS and make it more visible and accessible. We all have a role to play in this and I urge all of us to endeavour to contribute our quota to make this vision a reality.

On the occasion of the revival of the publication of the UGMS Newsletter, I wish to congratulate the Research Coordinator and his team for the hard work and dedication in making this possible. It is my hope that we will contribute to forge ahead together and wish you well. To all the contributors to this first edition and to our numerous readers, far and near, thanks for your support. Praise the Lord!!!

I wish you a happy reading.



THE UGMS RESEARCH TASK FORCE



Late Prof. Ntim-Amponsah
(Former Dean, UGMS)

The UGMS realized that research was very important because it projected the image of the Medical School in particular and the University of Ghana as a whole. This led to the formation of a Research Task Force in September, 2008 by the then Dean, Prof. C.T. Ntim-Amponsah with the temporary mandate of setting up the UGMS Research Office and also developing a research agenda for the School.

The Task Force which met on the 1st Monday of every month, consisted of the following as founding members:

1. Prof. C.T. Ntim-Amponsah (*Chairperson*)
2. Prof. Yao Tettey (*Member*)
3. Prof. A.A. Adjei (*Member*)
4. Prof. A.G.B. Amoah (*Member*)
5. Prof. R.M.K. Adanu (*Member*)
6. Prof. Margaret Lartey (*Member*)
7. Dr. George Obeng Adjei (*Member*)
7. Mrs. Evelyn Tay (*Member*)
8. Mr. P.B. Yarquah (*Member*)
9. Mr. M. Owusu-Ansah (*Member*)
10. Mrs. Bernice S. Tamakloe (*Member*)
11. Mr. Benjamin Teye Larweh (*Secretary*)
12. Mr. Benjamin Abaidoo (*In Attendance*)
13. Mr. Abdul Malik Sulley (*In Attendance*)

Mr. S.K. Acheampong later replaced Mrs. B. S. Tamakloe and Mr. Kofi Saah Addison also replaced Mr. M. Owusu-Ansah on the Task Force after the two

(Mrs Tamakloe and Mr. Owusu-Ansah) were transferred to the School of Pharmacy and College of Health Sciences Administration respectively.

Reasons for the Formation of the research Task Force:

- It was realized that even though research was part of the vision of the Medical School and the College of Health Sciences, constrained resources resulted in reduced research in the School.
- Research is the strongest link to promotion in the University of Ghana and therefore Senior Members needed to be encouraged to do research to enable them rise academically and also fulfil the mandate of the University.
- Research is also one way of projecting the image of the Medical School to the University of Ghana.
- Research in the UGMS would influence policies regarding health issues in Ghana and the Medical School, being the first Medical School in the country, should be seen as leader in this respect.
- Multidisciplinary research is very useful and therefore diversity research in College with the other constituents of the College will be very interesting.
- Emerging diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, Cancer, etc. need to be researched into in the Medical School for this is an area of interest in modern Ghana.
- Apart from monetary benefits, the other benefit to be gained from research include faculty development. Getting research grants, therefore, apart from helping build capacity, also helps acquire equipment and in the transfer of technology from institutions and collaborators with advanced research infrastructure. In other words, research grants could result in resource generation and faculty development thereby improving service to communities that are served.
- Stepping up research was also seen as a potential motivation to senior members of the School.

After sixteen months of successful deliberations, the Task Force had its last meeting on Monday 7th December, 2009 and handed over all its activities to the newly formed UGMS Research Committee. During the course of its activities, the Task Force was able to make the newly established research office functional with the appointment of a research assistant to coordinate affairs in the office.

Among the functions of the office are:

- Sourcing Funding in support of all research activities in the School
- Facilitating result-oriented research programmes in the disciplines
- Monitoring all research activities in the U.G.M.S.
- Receiving and collation of reports on all research activities in the U.G.M.S.
- Facilitating the conduct of research in the School
- Helping in data entry and data analysis
- Helping in proposal writing

At the moment, the office shares the same space with the Alumni office in the Basic Sciences building. A new research office complex is being constructed on the 1st floor of the Bentsi-Enchill building situated near the Maternity block of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital. The office, when completed, will house the General Research Office and that of the Research Coordinator and other offices including Quality Assurance and some major research projects in the School.



The Old UGMS Research/Alumni Office



New UGMS Research Building Complex (1st Floor)

The Committee, which meets monthly, has developed a research policy for the School and is tasked to coordinate all research activities in the School.

The UGMS Research Committee has been reinstated in 2013 after the Research Task Force finished its work of establishing the Research Office and setting the research agenda for the School. The Committee, as stipulated in the School's Research Policy, currently consists of the following:

1. Prof. Andrew A. Adjei - *Research Coordinator*
2. Dr. George Obeng Adjei - *Member, Center for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics (CTCPT)*
3. Dr. Samuel A. Oppong - *Member, Obs & Gynaecology*
4. Dr. Solomon Quayson - *Member, Pathology*
5. Dr. Bismark Hottor - *Member, Anatomy*
6. Dr. Edeghonghon Olayemi - *Member, Haematology*
7. Dr. Eric Sampene-Donkor - *Member, Microbiology*
8. Dr. Frank Boni - *Member, Anaesthesia*
9. Dr. Edem Tette - *Member, Community Health*
10. Dr. Jonathan Dakubo - *Member, Dept. of Surgery*
11. Dr. Angela Ofori-Atta - *Member, Psychiatry*
12. Dr. Collins Oduro Boatey - *Member, Child Health*
13. Dr. Patrick Adjei - *Member, Medicine & Therapeutics*
14. Rev. Charles Antwi-Boasiako - *Member, Physiology*
15. Mr. Osa Andrew Bremansu - *Member, Chemical Pathology*
16. Mr. S. K. Acheampong - *Member, Assistant Registrar (AA)*
17. Mr. Abdul Malik Sulley - *Principal Research Assist., CTCPT & Research Office*
18. Mr. Isaac Andam - *Research Assistant, Research Office*
19. Mr. Samuel Korankye - *Research Assistant, Obs & Gynae.*
20. Mr. Sheriff Mohammed - *Research Assistant, Surgery*
21. Mr. Raymond Essuman - *Research Assistant, Anaesthesia*
22. Ms. Nana A. Koramah Owusu Amanhyia - *Principal Research Assistant, Community Health*
23. Ms. Ruth Y. Laryea - *Research Assistant, Med. & Therap.*
24. Ms. Margaret Reynolds - *Research Assist., Med. & Therap.*
25. Ms. Adjoa Obo-Akwa - *Research Assistant, Med. & Therap.*
26. Mrs. Clementine Odei - *Principal Research Assistant, Comm. Health*
27. Ms. Phaedra Yamson - *Principal Research Assistant, Comm. Health*
28. Ms. Afua B. Adjei - *Research Assistant, Chemical Pathology*
29. Mr. Confidence Amelikeh - *Research Assistant, CTCPT*
30. Mr. Bernard Barnie Asante - *Admin. Assistant, Research Office (Secretary)*

The Committee at a meeting held on Monday 29th

STAFF NEWS

November, 2010 agreed that in order to encourage staff to make research their priority, the following actions should be taken:

- i. Copy of the UGMS Research Policy to be made available to all.
- ii. Database to be created for all Senior Members highlighting their research outputs. This has already been developed and will be updated regularly.
- iii. More training workshops should be organized for Senior Members, Residents, Research Assistants and Postgraduates to enhance research output in the UGMS.
- iv. In addition to the monthly research forum, more informal/social meetings as well as other presentations and seminars should be organized regularly. This has already started with the recent one on Crisis Management & Communication.
- v. Journal Clubs to be formed by all departments to meet regularly and discuss what they are doing in terms of research. This has also begun in some departments.
- vi. The publication of a monthly newsletter by the Research Office highlighting what each department is doing in terms of research.

Most of these have already been implemented and a few more are on the Office's work plan for the year 2013-2014.

The **UGMS Newsletter** has available slot for advertisement. Interested persons should kindly contact the following:

MR. ASANTE B. BERNARD
(0243-265-1-513 / 0208-360-384)

MISS NANA ADWOA K. OWUSU AMANHYIA
(0206-926-032)

RETIREMENT (2013) SENIOR MEMBERS

Prof. Kobina Nkyekyer
Prof Enyonam Y. Kwawukume
Dr. Frank K. Boni
Dr. Stephen K. Akafo
Dr. Emmanuel Tsegah
Dr. E .D. Kitcher
Mr. Rex Herman Alorbi

SENIOR STAFF

Irene Binder
Godwin Dogbatse
Richard Sakyi
Kwasi Kumi
Jonathan Quaye
Charles Aleeba
Catherine Boye-Quaye
Patrick Koomson
Samuel Adjei
Samuel Affotey Odai
Emmanuel Asane
Peter Bani
Daniel Aboagye

JUNIOR STAFF

Olivia De-Veer

Security Unit (Voluntary Retirement)

SABBATICAL LEAVE (2013)

Dr. Kwamena W. Sagoe
Dr. Lorna Awo Renner
Dr. Christable Enweronu-Laryea
Prof. Alex N. O. Doddoo

Microbiology
Child Health
Child Health
CTCPT

RESIGNATION/VACATION OF POST

Louis Arku Meizer
Alfred Aikin

Messenger /Cleaner
Senior ICT Clerk

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Daniel Hammond
Meshack Doodoo
Derrick Okanta

Security
Security
Messenger /Cleaner

NEW STAFF (2013)

Moses Ampong
Samuel Asante
Jonathan Tetteh
Abdullai Issifu
Linda Moffatt
Lambert Akayuure
Evelyn Alorbi
Esther Abrafi
Bliss Andoh
Martey J. Tetteh
Charles Odame
Doreen Gyimah
Joyce Dornor
Stephen Mensah
Magdalene Torto
Stephanie Botchway

Porter
Porter
Asistant Porter Gd 2
Messenger
Cleaner
Cleaner
Senior Cook
Steward
Works Superintendent
Senior Security Officer
Laboratory Technician
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant

OTHER STAFF NEWS: Obituaries

Ernest Koranteng
Issifu Nanchala

DEPARTMENT

Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Anaesthesia
Surgery
Community Health
Surgery
Accounts

Community Health
Maintenance
Maintenance
Pharmacology
Security Unit
Security Unit
Medical Illustration
Surgery
Main Hostel Cleaner
Security Unit
Int. Students' Hostel Cleaner
Security Unit
Maintenance

UGMS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

UGMS in 2012 celebrated its 50th anniversary. This was marked with a series of events spread throughout the year such as a launch of the anniversary, academic day celebration, a float through principal streets of Accra, public lectures on various themes, a dinner-dance and awards night; and a thanksgiving service. At the dinner-dance and awards night, all categories of staff who have contributed to the upliftment of the school in one way or the other were honoured. Interestingly, the editor of the Newsletter was among the awardees. He was given an award for being an outstanding researcher. See page 14 for his profile. The names of the other awardees are as listed below:

Past Deans

Prof. Emmanuel Quaye Archampong
Prof. Samuel Kwadwo Owusu
Rev. Prof. Andrews Seth Ayettye
Prof. Clifford Nii Boye Tagoe
Prof. Aaron Lantei Lawson

Past Executive Secretaries

Mr. Richard H. Graves
Mr. Christian Gbeho
Mr. Victor Okwei Nortey
Mr. Victor O. Korda
Mr. Miguel Francisco Ribeiro
Mr. Peter Bennet Yarquah

UGMS Pioneer Alumni with Un- interrupted Service

Prof. Joseph Odai Oliver-Commey
Rev. Prof. George Asare Ankra-Badu
Prof. Lawrence Osei

Living Foundation Lecturer for Excellence

Prof. Emmanuel Augustus Badoe

Living Foundation Lecturers

Prof. Samuel Ntow Afoakwa
Prof. Yaw Asirifi
Prof. Anthony K. Foli
Prof. Julius A. Mingle
Prof. C. C. Adomako
Prof. G. A. Ashitey
Prof. Ofosu Amaah

Supporting Foundation Lecturers still serving the School

Prof. Jonathan Hubert Addy
Dr. Albert. G. Boohene
Dr. Benhart Ago Kuma

Long and Meritorious Service - Senior Members

Prof. Stephen Asante Poku
Prof. Frederick Kwaku Addai
Prof. David Ofori-Adjei
Prof. Francis K. Nkrumah
Dr. John Baptist Wilson
Dr. Samuel Quarcoo Maddy

Long Service - Senior Members

Prof. Edward Ayitey Smith
Prof. Michael O. Mate Kole
Dr. Josiah Oloboye Armah
Dr. (Mrs.) Esther Dennis

Service to Community

Prof. Edward D. Yeboah
Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng
Prof. Felix Konotey Ahulu

Long Service Senior Staff

Mrs. Deborah Boafo
Mr. Hayford Offei
Mr. Albert Akongo Ayelateg-ya
Mr. Winston Hilton Blankson
Mr. Fred Dzormeku
Mr. John Kwame Dadzie
Mr. Yaw Baah
Ms. Gloria Asala
Mrs. Joyce Mercy Sarpeh
Mr. Kofi Hato-Kuevor
Mr. Lartey Daniels
Mr. Michael Clottey
Mr. Albert Adoku
Mrs. Theodosia John-Teye
Mrs. Grace Quansah

Long Service Junior Staff

Mr. Patrick Koomson
Ms. Pearl Felicia Amanfu
Mr. Fred France
Mr. Samuel Tetteh-Daniels
Mrs. Emelia Abbeyquaye
Mrs. Beatrice Kouzonli
Mr. Robert Annan
Mr. Abdulai Issaka

Groups and Institutions

Class of 1969
Class of 1974
Class of 1978
Class of 1979
Class of 1980
Class of 1982
Class of 1983
Class of 1986
Class of 1990
Ghana Medical Network
Foundation (GMNF)
Dr. William Ankobiah

Special Award (Nominations from the Dean)

Prof. Festus Komla Adzaku
Prof. Andrew Anthony Adjei



UGMS 50TH Anniversary Celebration in Pictures



Some Principal Officers of UG @ the launching



A cultural Performance during the Launching



A Section of Staff and Students @ the launching



UGMS @ 50 logo



Staff and students modeling the Anniversary cloth



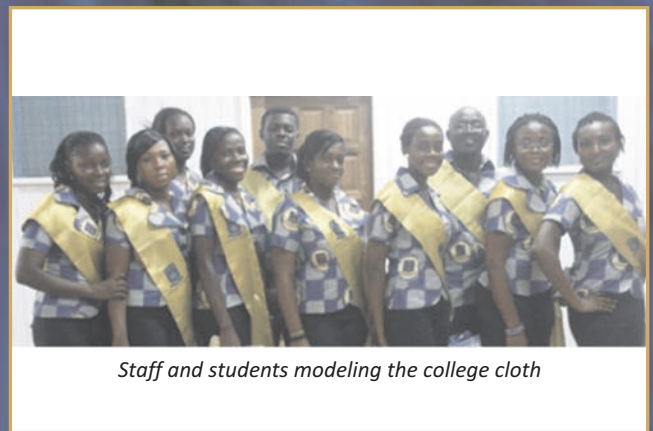
Some Principal Officers of UGMS @ a Public Lecture



Students and staff enjoying snacks after the float



Dignitaries at the Anniversary Celebration



Staff and students modeling the college cloth

UGMS 50TH Anniversary Celebration in Pictures



The V C giving a Speech @ the launching



Some Audience during the public lecture



Former provost giving a speech at the public lecture



A section of staff on the dance floor



Cutting of the anniversary cake



Staff and students during the float



Section of the audience at the thanksgiving service



Staff and students after the thanksgiving service

UGMS RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The UGMS intends to fully integrate research into all teaching and service activities of the School. In particular, teaching, especially clinical teaching and management of endemic conditions, shall reflect the current local state of affairs which should be formed by research emanating from Ghana in general and UGMS in particular

The current (2010-2015) research priorities of the UGMS are:

1. To increase research at the UGMS
2. To promote inter-departmental collaboration for research at the UGMS
3. To position the UGMS as a Centre of research excellence
4. To attract substantial research funding from governmental and non-governmental agencies and from the private sector
5. To strengthen research collaboration with other institutions within and outside the university.
6. To develop the capacity for world class research among undergraduate and postgraduate students
7. To increase the number of scientific publications (papers, manuals, manuscripts, books) arising out of research in the UGMS and/or involving UGMS staff

Management and coordination of UGMS Research
Research in the UGMS is managed and coordinated by the under-listed with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The UGMS Research Office (UGMSRO) is responsible for documenting the various roles and responsibilities and also ensure review of these roles at least once every two years. The UGMSRO also ensure the safe-keeping and dissemination to all staff all Standard Operating Procedures relating to research in the UGMS

- a) Office of the Dean
- b) Office of the Executive Secretary
- c) Office of the Accountant
- d) Research Office
- e) Research Coordinator
- f) Departmental Research Officers
- g) Principal Investigators
- h) Funding Agencies

Some funding agencies that the UGMS has dealt with in the past include:

1. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
2. University of Ghana Research Fund
3. TWAS-DFG Agency
4. National Institute of Health (NIH)

The University of Ghana Medical School Research Office (UGMSRO) also provides and helps disseminate information on

- Grant announcement
- Fellowships
- Scholarship
- Research related events

The UGMSRO is currently located at the first floor of the Bentsi-Entsil Research building near the Maternity block, of the Korle-bu Teaching hospital. The office can be contacted at research@ugms.edu.gh.

Looking forward, a fully functional research office will be established in the near future with;

- Research fellow(s)
- Research administrator
- Statistician
- Research Accounts manager
- Research assistants

RESEARCH PORTAL

The UGMS research portal is a catalogue of researchers at the UGMS with current information on

- Current research activities
- Publications and presentations
- Contact information

The objective is to provide a virtual platform on which researchers at UGMS can be reached by both the local and international research community in order to foster collaboration. The UGMS research portal can be accessed at;

www.ugms.edu.gh/researchportal

VISITING SCHOLARS

The research office has continued to receive and host visitors/scholars from renowned universities the world over. Recently, the following scholars were hosted by the office on behalf of the UGMS and on each occasion, they were given an opportunity to make a presentation to the UGMS and College of Health Sciences Community:

Prof. Howard Mclead, *Director, Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy, University of North Carolina.*

TOPIC: Using the Genome to guide Therapy

DATE: 11th March 2011

Prof. Bernd Rosenkranz, *Professor and Head, Division of Pharmacology Department of Medicine, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa*

TOPIC: Pharmacokinetics of Antiretrovirals

DATE: 14th December, 2010

Mr. Bruce Hugman, *Consultant communications expert to the WHO and Author of "Health Care Communication" and "Expecting the Worst"*

TOPIC: Communication and Crisis Management

DATE: 28th October 2010

Professor Niels Holiby, *Resistance Chairman and Professor, Department of Clinical Microbiology, Copenhagen University Hospital (Rigshospitalet), Denmark*

Topic: Bacterial Biofilms and Antibiotic Resistance

Date: 4th February 2010

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(0206-926-032)

In August 2013, the Pathology Department of the University of Ghana Medical School unveiled a new automated state-of-the-art Medical Diagnostic Equipment, BENCH MARK GV, an Immuno-histo machine by VENTANA.

In an interview with the Head of Department Prof. R. K. Gyasi, he said the new equipment's installation is very timely and will be of great benefit to patients who have been waiting weeks on end for their reports. One of the many advantages the equipment has is the speed of reporting on the slides, thus accelerating diagnoses and facilitating prompt treatment of patients. He further revealed that this machine is the first of its kind to be installed in Korle-Bu for the rapid reporting of biopsies and other histological requests.

We wish the Department of Pathology well, and say WELL DONE and CONGRATULATIONS for the vision and fortitude to acquire such a time-saving diagnostic machine for the benefits it brings to patients and the public at large.



H3AFRICA KIDNEY DISEASE RESEARCH NETWORK ORGANIZATION

On September 3, 2012, Dr. Dwomoa Adu of UGMS and Professor Akinlolu Ojo of the University of Michigan were awarded a research grant of US\$5,931.721 by the National Institutes of Health (USA) under the umbrella of the H3Africa Genome Project. H3Africa is an acronym for Human Heredity and Health in Africa. The background to the project is that some 500,000 individuals succumb to end stage renal disease annually in sub-Saharan Africa making this a major health burden.

The aim of the Research Network is to conduct genomics research that will identify new genetic and environmental determinants of kidney disease necessary to develop preventive programmes for kidney disease in Africa. *“Advanced genome-based analysis strategies, such as Mapping by Admixture Linkage Disequilibrium (MALD) in African Americans, have identified a strong association between single gene variants e.g., non muscle myosin heavy chain gene (MYH9) and apolipoprotein 1 (APOL1) and kidney disease. These gene mutations cause up to 40 percent of chronic kidney disease in African-Americans who originated from Africa. Genes evolve under the selective pressures of disease. Variants of the apolipoprotein L1 gene (apolipoprotein L1 is a minor apoprotein of HDL cholesterol) protects against human trypanosomiasis but at the same time increase the risk of kidney failure”.*

The Research Project has established a collaborative research network comprised of investigators based at 10 institutions in five African countries - population 362 million (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa) and four North American institutions. The Network will accomplish the following:

(1) phenotype 8,000 kidney disease cases and controls (1:1); (2) Conduct four genetic research projects addressing (a) single gene mutation kidney disorders in affected families (b) Genetic variants of single genes associated with kidney diseases in the populations and (c) Genome wide association studies; (3) Establish one rugged and sustainable genomics research laboratory each in Ghana (Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research) and Nigeria (University of Ibadan). In addition, the project will implement a training and career development plan for Africa-based genomic

researchers, establish a Network-wide biospecimen repository that will harmonize with the H3Africa Biorepositories and a Network-wide data management and bioinformatics facility that will integrate with the H3Africa Bioinformatics Network.

Recruitment for this study has already started at UGMS and is due to start in Nigeria in September 2013.



Dr. Dwomoa Adu



Prof. Akinlolu Ojo

PREGNANT GHANAIAN WOMEN WHO SLEEP ON THEIR BACK MAY HAVE AN INCREASED RISK OF STILLBIRTH: A UGMS STUDY REVEALS.

Maternal sleep position may influence the outcome of pregnancy, according to a study conducted at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) and published in the March edition of the International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

According to the study, Ghanaian pregnant women who sleep on their back (supine) may have an increased risk of stillbirth compared to their counterparts who sleep on their side. The study also found that pregnant women who slept on the back had about 5 times increased risk of delivering babies with low birth weight.

The study, which was a collaboration between UGMS and University of Michigan was led by Prof J. D. Seffah and Dr S. A. Oppong of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, of UGMS and Prof Louise O'Brien of the University of Michigan.

In most developed countries still birth is a rare occurrence. Unfortunately, this traumatic event is quite common in many developing countries, including Ghana. According to available data, it may occur in 20 to 50 out of every 1,000 deliveries. If maternal sleep position plays a role in this traumatic outcome, then encouraging pregnant women not to sleep on their may be a very low cost but effective intervention to reduce stillbirths.

In the study, 236 women were interviewed about their sleep practices with 48hrs after delivery. Their hospital charts were also reviewed for pregnancy outcome. The data also revealed that about a quarter of stillbirths may be avoided just by changing sleep position during pregnancy.

The whole article is available at:
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgo.2013.01.013>.

The members of the study team were;
from Ghana; Prof Joseph D. Seffah, Dr. Samuel Antwi Oppong, Dr Jerry Coleman, Mr. Alfred Aikins from University of Michigan; Prof Louise O'Brien, Prof Frank J. Anderson and Ms. Jocelynn Owusu

“Pregnant women who sleep on their back (supine) may have an increased risk of stillbirth compared to their counterparts who sleep on their side.,”



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MISS NANA ADWOA K. OWUSU AMANHYIA
(0206-926-032)



Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei, Fga

Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei was born on the 8th of April 1955. He is a Professor of Immunology and the Coordinator of Research at the University of Ghana Medical School, Korle-Bu, Accra since 1st January 2013. He is the immediate past Deputy Provost of the University Of Ghana College of Health Sciences for 4 years during which Professor Adjei made invaluable contributions to the realization of the strategic goals of the College of Health Sciences.

Professor Adjei was educated at Tarkwa Secondary and Sekondi College before he proceeded to the University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana and The University of Ryukyus Medical School (Health Sciences), Okinawa, Japan for a very brilliant academic career. He obtained the Diploma (Science Laboratory Technology), MSc, PhD degrees in 1977, 1993 and 1997 respectively. He has taught at The University of Ryukyus, University of Tokushima Medical School, Tokushima, Japan, University of Tucson Medical School, Tucson, U.S.A. and the University of Ghana where he supervised several PhD and MPhil students. He has also conducted and completed several research projects and through this, has contributed not only to the production of the next generation of scholars, but also, significantly, to knowledge. In recognition of his excellent teaching and research record, Prof. Adjei was acknowledged as the Best Researcher at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Legon, Ghana, in 1989, Best Researcher by the University of Arizona Medical School, Department of Animal Care in 1998, and won the Unilever Research Grant for Medicine in 2003. Professor Adjei has also served as external examiner and

assessor for several universities both locally and internationally.

Professor Adjei is an outstanding scholar and enjoys considerable national and international recognition for high quality research and publication. He has published extensively and has to his credit 91 publications as journal articles in high impact journals. He is the General Secretary of the Immunological Society of Ghana, Immediate Past National President of the Ghana Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Association, the Past Editor-in-Chief, University of Ghana Medical School Newsletter, Immediate Past Editor-in-Chief, Ghana Journal of Allied Health Sciences and member of the Editorial Board of "Research Letters" (a new Journal in the Medical School, which Prof Adjei was instrumental in its establishment). He is credited with the institution of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the University of Ghana College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana MPhil Programme in Immunology (of which he is the Co-ordinator), and also the Co-ordinator of the University of Ghana Medical School Monthly Research Forum. As a result of his significant achievements in Research and contribution to the Medical School and the College of Health Sciences in stimulating research, helping to shape the Medical School's research policy and the establishment of the Medical School's Research Office, Prof. Adjei was recognized by the Medical School during the School's 50th anniversary celebrations in October, 2012. In December, 2012, he was elected and inducted as a Fellow by the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Prof. Adjei is a keen researcher with funded research projects that span the basic sciences, clinical medicine and public health. His main fields of study have been host-parasite relationships, pathogenesis of Malaria, Breast and Prostate Cancers, Viral Hepatitis B, C and E pathogenesis, Transfusion-transmitted diseases, and Cellular and Nutritional Immunology. He has 130 Publications (91 peer-reviewed articles and 39 abstracts) to his credit.

He is married and has three adult children, Rose, Christian and Andrew. His hobbies include cooking and reading.



Professor Alexander Nii Oto Dadoo,
University of Ghana Medical School

The University of Ghana Medical School's WHO Collaborating Centre for Advocacy and Training in Pharmacovigilance has developed a tool kit for drug safety monitoring to be used worldwide. The toolkit consists of a package of tools and a description of the supporting processes that are needed for the effective conduct of pharmacovigilance.

The main aim of the toolkit is to ensure that pharmacovigilance practitioners in low- and middle-income countries get access to the best information on the processes and activities involved in pharmacovigilance from a trusted source. All the material in the 'PV Toolkit' is endorsed by the WHO Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicinal Products after the original text had been written by selected experts and then edited by an internal team at the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden and- the Uppsala Monitoring Centre-Africa (Ghana).

Funding for the toolkit development was provided by the World Health Organisation. The Toolkit can be accessed online at www.pvtoolkit.org and is also available on USB drives in web-like format for use in areas where there is no internet connectivity. The current version of the Toolkit is in English but it will be translated to other languages depending on the availability of funds and/or volunteers.

The WHO notes that while all drugs are thoroughly tested in clinical trials before they are approved and made available for dispensing to patients, it is not

until they have been used by large numbers of patients over a period of time that their full safety-profile emerges. Medicines that may have shown no adverse effects in the few thousand trial subjects may, when they are used by tens or hundreds of thousands of patients over a period of time, or by categories of people not included in the trials, show adverse effects or other problems not previously recorded. About 140 countries have active pharmacovigilance centres and most of those are members of the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring. In some countries, pharmacovigilance is poorly funded and resourced, and it is for them that the support of WHO and regional agents like UMC-Africa is especially important.

"The production of the toolkit in Ghana demonstrates that emerging countries can develop and share world standard knowledge and resources among themselves if they are given an enabling environment and appropriate support" Prof Alex Dadoo, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Ghana.

JUNIOR STAFF

The Junior Staff Welfare Management Committee on Wednesday, 17th July, 2013 held a reception for 2013 Junior Staff retirees at the Ministry of Health Social Centre, Korle-Bu at 12:00 p.m.

The occasion was used to advise the retirees on how to handle or make good use of their Ex-gratia benefits so that they will enjoy it for long, since the Social Security Pension Pay is nothing to write home about thus it is insufficient as compared to the monthly salary they enjoyed when they were working.

A piece of advice was not to invest in taxi operation but rather in petty trading of movable goods upon advice from experts, and also the tradesmen among them to try and open workshops if they could to keep them live well



MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (UGMSA)



Mr. Henry X. Kpeli
Secretary, UGMSA

The University of Ghana Medical Students' Association (UGMSA) since its birth in 1964, has been making giant strides and taking initiatives all in the interest of its dedicated members. The association which is the official mouthpiece of the medical and dental students, also doubles as the portal through which decisions taken by the respective schools' administrations are conveyed to the student body. In accordance with its motto, "Id Igite ut omnes vivant" (genius, that thing that dazzles the mortal eye, is oft but perseverance in disguise), the association and its members are not resting on their oars but are tirelessly aspiring to greater heights and to project its image onto international platforms.

The UGMSA amongst several other activities such as UGMSA week celebration, football tournament (MEDLIGA) and inter-school debates, also has a core priority to promote public health education. This is done during its annual health week programs,

commemorated by activities including media campaigns, free health screenings and nationwide district campaigns on a theme. The theme for the 2013 annual health week program in September is "A Healthy Blood Pressure, a Healthy Home".

As an association of students of an ever improving profession, research is very pivotal in our daily activities. Research also provides students with a better and in-depth understanding of the theoretical knowledge being thought, positively impacting diagnoses and patient care. Thus, the monthly research forum has been welcome news since its introduction by the School.

The UGMSA can hardly survive without regular updates of activities and developments in the Medical and Dental Schools as well as the University at large. For this reason, the resuscitation of University of Ghana Medical School Newsletter is timely and appropriate.

On behalf of the entire association, I wish to express our profound gratitude to UGMS. Having missed the Newsletter, the UGMSA is delighted for its return and, more so, at its current online nature which is going to make it more accessible to all including the general public. This we believe will enhance the noble image of the School. Once again, we congratulate the UGMS, and we are hopeful that this time around the Newsletter has come to stay.

The **UGMS Newsletter** has available slot for advertisement. Interested persons should kindly contact the following:

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