



# UATH BULLETIN

A Publication of the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada - Abuja.

Volume 5 No. 4, October - December, 2022



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ UATH WEARS NEW ENTRANCE GATE
- ❖ OKAPI FOUNDATION DONATES TO CHILDREN WITH CANCER
- ❖ UATH RESIDENT DOCTOR WINS PRIZES
- ❖ INTERVIEW WITH THE CMAC
- ❖ LNG-SPONSORED MATERNITY CENTRE COMMISSIONED
- ❖ UATH CELEBRATES 2022 WORLD DIABETES DAY

# CONTENT



## FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Page 4



## UATH BOARD UNVEILS PLAQUE OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Page 8



## NLNG-SPONSORED MATERNITY CENTRE COMMISSIONED

Page 10



## OKAPI CHILDREN CANCER FOUNDATION DONATES 3.5 MILLION NAIRA TO UATH

Page 12

## DONORS AND UATH SUPPORTERS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER 2022

Page 14

## INTERVIEW WITH THE CMAC DR. BOB UKONU

Page 17

## NHIS DRF COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED

Page 20



# UATH BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (2018 – till date)

- Dr. Sam Sam Jaja - Chairman
- Professor Bissallah Ekele - CMD
- Hajia Abu Pawa
- Honorable Chigozie Ahanonu
- Honorable Bola Yusuf
- Professor Mustapha Jamda Abubakar
- Professor Felicia Anumah
- Professor Solomon Avidime
- Dr. Teddy E. Agida
- Dr. Olufunke Ajiboye
- Dr. Abubakar Ahmadu
- Dr. O. J. Amedu, mni
- Dr. Bob Ukonu
- Mrs. Khadijat Adebajo – Secretary

# BULLETIN EDITORIAL BOARD

- **Dr. Umar Abubakar** - Chairman
- **Dr. Samuel A. Adewale** - Vice Chairman
- **Mr. Michael Atiga**
- **Mr. Habu Sulai**
- **Mr. Oliver Eriata**
- **Joy Kaura**
- **Hannah Attah**
- **Mr. Tochukwu Okafor**
- **Mr. Sunday Isah**
- **Mr. Olatunde Olayinka**
- **Prof. B.A. Ekele** – Ex Officio

# FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Eleven months down the line, the hospital community, its patients and friends ushered in the year 2022 with great enthusiasm for landmark achievements. From the first quarter edition to this last one for the year, it has been one eloquent reportage after another of historically far-reaching positive developments which can be attributed to purposeful leadership and supportive tradition of the Hospital Board, Management and Staff.

Like the three previous editions, this last quarter edition (October-December) for the year 2022 is rich in content with news items and captivating pictorials brought on board by our crew for your information, education and entertainment.

Our distinguished readers shall find in this end-of-year edition, very many interesting news items. From the unveiling and commissioning of four landmark projects by the Board Chairman, Dr. Sam Sam Jaja in October 2022 to the commissioning of a multi-million Naira Maternity Center that was built, equipped and donated to the hospital by the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas. The commissioning ceremony of the Maternity Centre took place on the 18th of November, 2022 under the Chairmanship of the

Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire ably represented by the Director Hospital Services, Dr B. O. Alonge.

One of our resident doctors, Dr Ugochukwu Uchendu was honored twice by the West African College of Physicians for winning both Egerton Luke and George Eze prizes for the best membership candidate in the Faculty of Psychiatry for the year. The Chief Medical Director, Professor B. A Ekele is our Guest Columnist with an article entitled "I am Going To Washington" which promises to be an interesting read.

Within the period also, World Diabetes Day 2022 was celebrated in the hospital, NHIS DRF Committee and five others were reconstituted by the Management with clearly outlined mandates. Should a child be denied clinically indicated blood transfusion because of his parents' belief? The right answers to this legal and moral question can be obtained in this edition. What do you do when diarrhoea Disease attacks the Child? A Senior Registrar in Pediatrics has provided guidance free of charge in this Bulletin.

We rounded up the year with an expository interview with our Chairman, Medical Committee,



Dr Bob Ukonu to extract from him some basics around his appointment, role, achievements, major challenges and solutions. You will agree this edition is rich enough to keep you glued to the very end!

Three of our staff were conferred with traditional titles by their communities for selfless services and developmental activities. They include: Sanusi Muhammed, Majindadi of Pada Adara, FCT ; The Tafida of Paiko and Nimfa Zwalbong the Garkuwan Bwarat. We celebrate them and wish them successful reign in their Chieftdoms! Four resident doctors tied the nuptial knots within the period and we wish them a blissful married life. Again we did not loose any member of staff to the cold hands of death within this quarter. We give glory and adorations to the Almighty God!

We wish all our esteemed readers, a Merry Christmas and Season greetings!

Enjoy your reading!

# I AM GOING TO 'WASHINGTON'

**BA Ekele**

Those that attended the University of Jos in the late seventies and early eighties would remember Prof. Jerry A. Ajayi. His specialty was Applied Entomology and Parasitology. He was a teacher with a difference! He later became Head of Department of Zoology and then Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences. All fresh men and women (100 level students), irrespective of course of study had to pass through him courtesy of some lectures in the mandatory General Study 003 course (Science for Development). As for the 100 level students in the Faculties of Medicine and

Natural Sciences, encountering him was inevitable because of Biomed and some courses in Zoology. Prof. Ajayi truly belonged to the vanishing generation of genuine academics that once bestrode Nigerian Universities. He was an exciting and inspirational teacher. He combines knowledge and humor so well that no student could afford to miss his lectures. He adopts Queen's accent when it comes to pronouncing the names of the species of microbes and parasites (e.g., *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Periplaneta americana*) to the delight of his

audience. The tobacco pipe was his trademark and he would come to class on a good day with the unlit pipe in his mouth (for show). He has since passed on and may his gentle soul continue to rest in peace. Amen!

It was Professor Ajayi that cautioned us very early as undergraduates not to assume, otherwise u and me could be taken for an ass! Did you get the crossword puzzle? Take the first three letters in the word 'ASSUME' and you will get that not-too-bright animal, the last two letters stand for another word (me) and the only

remaining alphabet 'U' can stand alone especially in these days of customized text messages and sms. Perhaps penalty deduction in the multiple-choice questions is an attempt to discourage guesswork in some professional examinations. The message in all of these is: what you don't know, you ask for clarification instead of assuming you know!

The experience of one of my friends further illustrates this point. I shall simply refer to him as 'The Young Surgeon' and shall give no further details otherwise the identity would be unmasked. 'The Young Surgeon' was invited to present a paper at a scientific conference in Seattle, Washington, USA. And that was indeed his first trip outside the country! Somehow, he had assumed that 'Seattle, Washington' is like saying 'Yaba, Lagos' or 'Surulere, Lagos'. It is also more elegant to say one is travelling to Lagos than to say you are going to Yaba or Surulere. So, 'The Surgeon' in his wisdom and arrogance decided to drop the name of the first city (Seattle) and preferred the second nomenclature – 'Washington', in all his communications. Even to greet him "Good Morning, Sir" was enough to make him ask if you knew he was going to

***'The Young Surgeon' was invited to present a paper at a scientific conference in Seattle, Washington, USA. And that was indeed his first trip outside the country! Somehow, he had assumed that 'Seattle, Washington' is like saying 'Yaba, Lagos' or 'Surulere, Lagos'. It is also more elegant to say one is travelling to Lagos than to say you are going to Yaba or Surulere.***

Washington. This was taken to almost a ridiculous level! At the Travel Agency, where he was to purchase the air ticket for the trip, he was asked his destination. And he answered: "I am going to Washington". He was promptly issued a return ticket: Lagos – Washington – Lagos. On arrival at the Dulles International Airport, Washington DC, he asked for a taxi or car hire that will take him to the venue of the conference at Seattle (his first mention of Seattle), Washington. It was at this point that he was educated on the difference between Washington DC and the State of Washington. Seattle is a city in the State of Washington and has no direct relationship with Washington DC (Capital of

USA), where he had disembarked. In terms of distance, they are more than five thousand kilometers apart. My friend was devastated and almost collapsed! 'The Young Surgeon' was not economically empowered to pay for another 5-hours flight from Washington DC to Seattle. Because he could not reach Seattle; the well-prepared paper was not presented and he had to return home with the next available flight. End of story! Again, the moral here is very simple. What you don't know, seek for help and do not assume. If you are not sure of the diagnosis or the management of a case, ask for a second opinion or refer the patient to a higher level. We should not assume unless you want to suffer the fate of our good friend – 'The Young Surgeon'.

Congratulations, best wishes and thank you for inviting me to write a piece for your 2005/2006 Usmanu Danfodiyo University Medical Students Association (UDUMSA) Year Book\*.

Professor Bissallah Ahmed Ekele,  
HOD, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

*\*Copied and edited from the original article @ UDUMSA 2005/2006 Year Book*

# CAN A CHILD BE DENIED BLOOD TRANSFUSION BECAUSE OF PARENTS' BELIEF?



**T**he Supreme Court of Nigeria in *TEGA ESABUNOR & ANOR. VS. DR. TUNDE FAWEYA & 4 ORS* (2019) 7 N. W. L. R, PART. 1671, P. 316 @ PP. 340, PARAS. C-G, 344, PARA. C, 347, PARAS. D-E laid this quagmire to rest.

In the aforementioned case, the 2nd Appellant who is a member of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CHRISTIAN sect gave birth to little Tega on the 19th April, 1997, at the Chevron Clinic, Lekki Peninsula, Lagos State.

On 11th May, 1997, within a month of his birth, her son fell gravely ill and was taken back to Chevron Clinic. Dr. Tunde Faweya immediately commenced treatment and after administering several medications, the child had poor colour, was convulsing and having difficulty in breathing. Upon proper diagnosis, it was discovered that the child urgently needed BLOOD TRANSFUSION to stay alive.

Surprisingly, the mother and father of the dying child objected to the blood transfusion because their religious belief required them to abstain from blood transfusion.

The Doctor however, did not agree with the parents. He promptly incidented the matter to the Nigeria Police Force on the strength of which the Police filed a

Motion ex-parte before the Magistrate Court pursuant to sections 27(1) and 30 of the Children and Young Persons Law, Cap. 25, Laws of Lagos State, 1994, for an order that the Hospital be allowed to do all and anything necessary for the protection of the life and health of the Child and same was granted.

Armed with the Order, the Child was taken away from the parents and the blood transfusion was carried out. After he became well, he was handed over to the parents.

Being irked by the decision of the doctor to carry out the blood transfusion against their wish, the mother filed an action in Court against the doctor, hospital, Commissioner of Police and even the Magistrate that granted the order was made a party. The matter was dismissed both at the High Court and Court of Appeal.

In further dismissing the appeal, the Supreme Court held thus:

"All adult persons have the inalienable right to make any choice they may decide to make and assume the consequences. Accordingly, an adult person who is conscious and in full control of his mental capacity, and is of sound mind has the right to either accept or refuse medical treatment, including blood transfusion. In

such case, the hospital has no choice but to respect the person's wishes. However, different considerations apply to a child because a child is incapable of making decisions for himself and the law is duty bound to protect such a child from abuse of his rights even by the child's parents. So, when a competent parent or person in loco parentis refuses medical treatment or blood transfusion for a child on religious grounds, the Court should step in.... These considerations outweigh whatever religious belief the parent of the child may have about any form of medical treatment because the child may grow up to reject his parent's religious beliefs....."

So many innocent children have lost their lives because of the decisions of their parents hinged on traditional and/or religious beliefs.

Please save the lives of millions of children who are being deprived of medical treatment by their parents on the basis of their traditional or religious beliefs, by sharing this message to help enlighten our Doctors and Police.

***Copied and shared by Prof Abubakar Jamda and Prof Aliyu Isah on behalf of UATH HREC***

# UATH BOARD UNVEILS PLAQUE OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Board of Management, University of Abuja Teaching Hospital (UATH), Gwagwalada, in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, has unveiled over fifty of its major achievements from 2018 till date in the hospital.

The Chairman of the Management board, Dr Sam Sam Jaja, while unveiling the achievements, said it was a collective idea and determination to leave a positive footprint on infrastructural development and progress in the hospital.

Some of the achievements unveiled were, the acquisition of Right of Occupancy of the Hospital Land; construction of Dialysis Unit, renovation of Main Pharmacy and the acquisition of

two electric-driven Ambulances among others. The Board also commissioned the New Hospital Entrance Gate unveiled a PLAQUE of its achievements at Admin Block.

Dr Jaja said: “After our inaugural meeting in March 2018 the Board members took a decision that from then henceforth, we will dream UATH, think UATH and eat UATH. “And that everything we are going to do as an individual or as a Board is to think about improvement on what have been done already and to leave it better than how we meet it.

“We believe that everyone has an idea to bring forward to enable us change the narrative here, and we ensured that what we have now meet international

best standards”.

Prof. Bissallah Ekele, Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the hospital, maintained that the hospital was in tune with the best global practices to deliver healthcare services as the Management has put in place the necessary equipment, facilities and structures. He said with the efforts of the Federal Government and other donors, the hospital has been able to upgrade its equipment and facilities to cater for patients with severe and complicated ailments. Besides, he called for the improvement of welfare for the health workers to enable the country retain experienced hands and reduce medical tourism.



The Plaque with List of Achievements Unveiled at the Administrative Block





*Commissioning of the Renovated Main Pharmacy by the Board Chairman, Dr. Sam Sam Jaja and Other Board Members.*



*Board Members and Some Senior Staff in a Group Photograph at the New Hospital Gate*

# NLNG-SPONSORED MATERNITY CENTRE COMMISSIONED



University of Abuja Teaching Hospital has again benefitted from Nigeria LNG Hospital Support Programme as they built, equipped and commissioned a Maternity Centre.

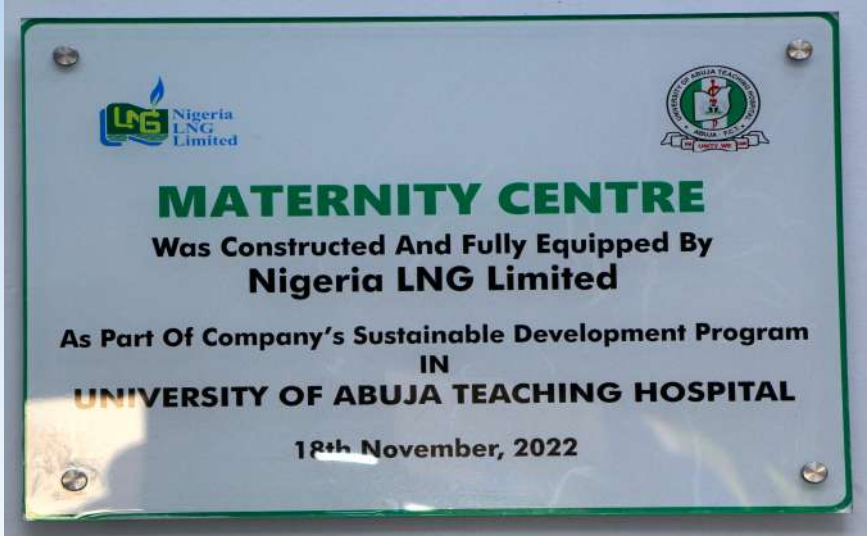
The event which took place recently had in attendance dignitaries from all walks of life that include: the Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire, represented by the Director of Hospital Services, Dr. B.O Alonge; NLNG Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Philip Mshelbila; NLNG Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Olalekan Ogunleye; Chairperson, Senate Committee on Women Affairs, Senator Betty

Apiafi; Chairman House of Representative Committee on Health Care Services, Hon. Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu; General Manager, External Relations and Sustainable Development, NLNG, Andy Odeh, Vice Chancellor University of Abuja represented by Prof Abubakar Jamda and the Royal Father of the Day, the Aguma of Gwagwalada, HRH Alhaji Magaji Muhammadu. Speaking on NLNG's commitment to Hospital Support Programme, Dr. Mshelbila said the programme was conceived following the Company's COVID-19 intervention and its concern over the increasing pressure on the healthcare facilities in the country. He stated

that the goal of the project was to boost the tertiary healthcare delivery system in 12 University Teaching Hospitals in the six geopolitical zones in the country. The Chief Medical Director, Prof. Bissallah Ekele in his address acknowledged that University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada, was still the only government-owned University Teaching Hospital within the FCT, providing clinical services; teaching and training of undergraduate and post-graduate health personnel; and undertaking impactful research activities. He appreciated the efforts of NLNG for actualizing this project, while promising not only to maintain the structure and

only to maintain the structure and equipment therein but put the facility to optimum use. He therefore called on more organisations for assistance to help the hospital achieve her mission and corporate goals.

Commissioning the Maternity Center, the Minister commended NLNG for their partnership and commitment to raising the level of healthcare delivery in the country. He stated that NLNG's contribution of a Modern Maternity Centre to UATH was in line with the principles of Universal health coverage. He



also called on more partnerships in the sector to fill gaps in healthcare delivery.

The newly commissioned Maternity Centre consists of a

10-bed delivery suite, a 10-bed Post Natal Ward, two Operating Theatres, 10-bed Special Care Baby Unit, Consulting rooms, a Laboratory and a Pharmacy.

## UATH CELEBRATES WORLD DIABETES DAY, 2022



**W**orld Diabetes Day (WDD) celebration started in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation with support from World Health Organisation (WHO) in response to growing concerns about the

health and economic threats posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations (UN) day in 2006.

14th November every year is a day set aside by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) to call

on policymakers to increase access to diabetes education and to help improve the lives of the more than half a billion people living with diabetes.

It also seeks to highlight the opportunity to strengthen the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of diabetes. The theme for this year 2022 is "EDUCATION TO PROTECT TOMORROW".

The University of Abuja Teaching Hospital Gwagwalada, was not left out in commemorating the day by offering free diabetes screening to people within the hospital premises at the Professor Anumah Diabetes and Endocrine Centre.

During the screening exercise, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on early diagnosis, prevention and management of diabetes were distributed to the public.

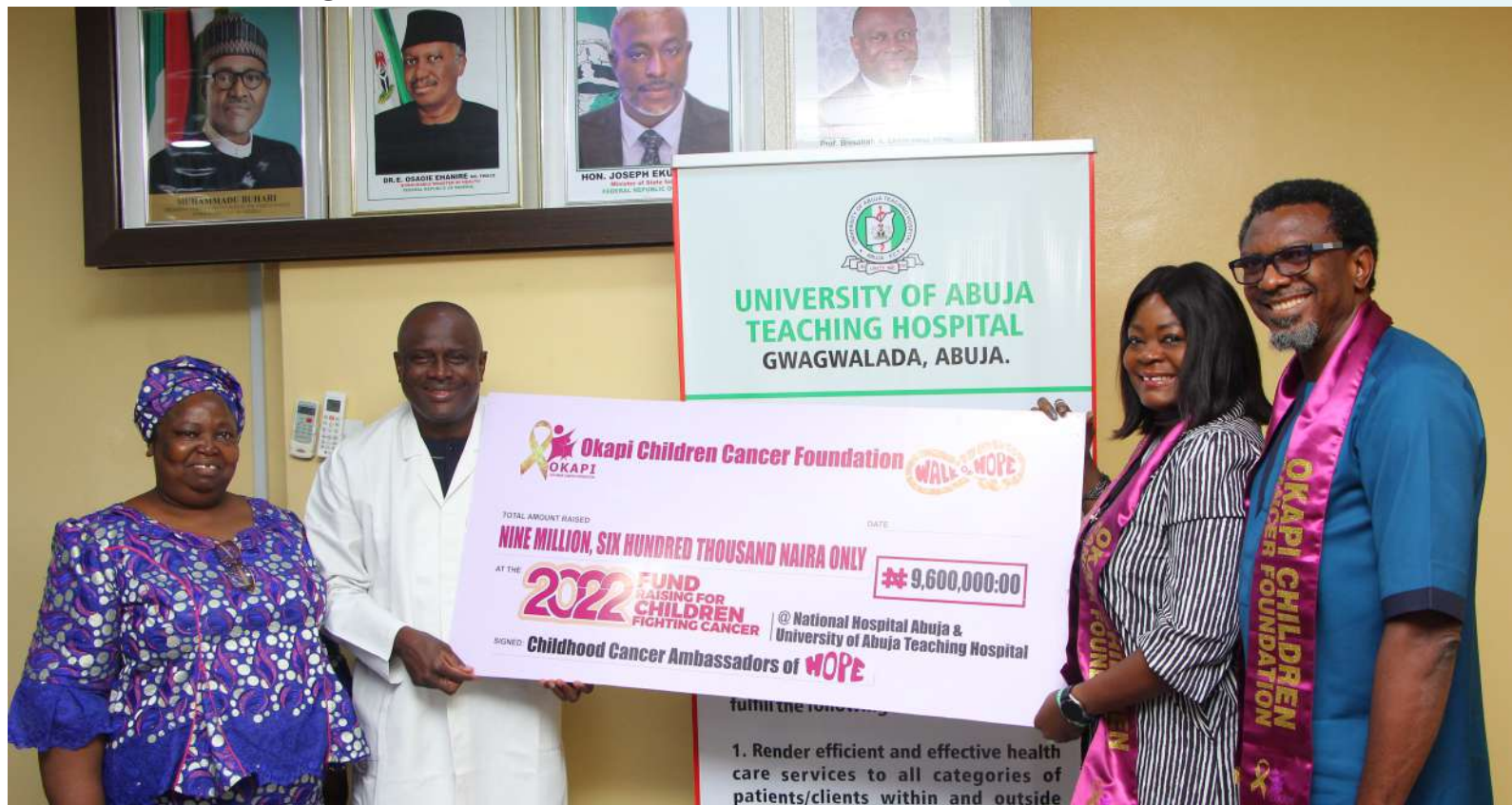
# OKAPI CHILDREN CANCER FOUNDATION DONATES 3.5 MILLION NAIRA TO UATH

**B**oard of Trustees of the Okapi Children Cancer Foundation (CCF) paid its second courtesy visit to the Management of University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada, Abuja on Monday 24th of October, 2022.

The non-governmental

organization was established in 2017 by a group of friends with a common passion for humanitarian services, particularly children diagnosed with cancer. The aim is to provide emotional, psychological and financial support to this category of children.

The spokesperson, Dr. Ozy Okonohua stated that the purpose of this follow up visit was to appreciate UATH Management for the endless support as well as the partnership over the years in ensuring that the responsibilities of children with cancer are not left to the



From left to right: Director of Admin, Mrs K.M Adebajo, CMD, Prof. B.A. Ekele, Mrs Kemi Adekanye, Dr. Ozy Okonohua during the presentation of the Cheque from Okapi Children Cancer Foundation



*The Okapi Children Cancer Foundation Walk, UATH Team was led by Sani Suleiman, the Deputy Director Information (1st Left).*

parents alone.

Dr. Ozy thanked Management for the active participation of 20 members of staff from UATH during the cancer awareness walk that took place on the 24th of September, 2022. The awareness helped to raise the sum of Nine Million, Six Hundred Thousand Naira only (N9,600,000), out of which

they donated the sum of Three Million, Five Hundred thousand Naira (N3,500,000) to UATH while the rest goes to other partner Hospitals, he said.

The Chief Medical Director, Prof. B. A. Ekele, while appreciating the Foundation for their donation, which he said was one of the highest amount donated by a

charitable organization in recent times to needy patients. He said the gesture will go a long way in reducing the burden of care on the patient's parents and Management in view of the increasing demand for financial assistance from indigent patients.

# DONORS AND UATH SUPPORTERS FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2022

Management sincerely appreciates the generosity of the following individuals/ organizations for their kind donations/ support towards our patients and the hospital.

S/N	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	DONATION (S)
1	Okapi Children Cancer Foundation	₦3,500,000 donated to cancer children
2	M/S Emzor Ltd Lagos	Tilled and painted two offices in the Central Store
3	Ginos Ventures Nig. Ltd	Donated 32" LG TV to Procurement Unit on 17 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022
4	Topstruct Nig. Ltd	Donated 1.5HP LG split Air Conditioner to Procurement Unit on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2022.
5	Ms. Prada Uzodimma	Donated ₦1,010,347 to indigent patients
6	Lady Hope Foundation	Donated ₦140,000 to indigent patients.
7	Johato Nig. Ltd	3 Air Conditioners to Post Natal Ward
8	Pharmatex Nig. Ltd	₦1,500,000 for the renovation of Surgical Accident & Emergency Unit
9	Generic And Specialties Ltd	₦1,200,000 for the renovation of Surgical Accident & Emergency Unit
10	Adeshola Mental Health Foundation	₦500,000 for Psychiatric Patients Welfare Support

We pray that the Almighty will strengthen and reward them a thousand folds to do more. Amen!

# DR. ONYEDIKA UGOCHUKWU WINS THE EGARTON LUKE PRIZE AND THE GEORGE EZE PRIZE FOR BEST MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE IN THE FACULTY OF PSYCHIATRY, WACP.



**WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**  
**COLLÈGE OUEST AFRICAÏN DES MÉDECINS**  
 6, TAYLOR DRIVE, OFF EDUARD CRESCENT, MEDICAL COMPOUND, YABA,  
 OFFICE ANNEX: 8, THORBORN AVENUE, SABO-YABA,  
 P.M.B. 1821, YABA - LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
 Tel.: 08133990333, 08176673830-2,  
 e-mail: secgen@wacpcam.org, info@wacpcam.org  
 web site: www.wacpcam.org

SG/AGSM/PW/2022 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Dr. Onyedika Ugochukwu UCHENDU,  
 Dept of Mental Health,  
 GAUTHIC, De-He.

Dear Dr. UCHENDU,

**GEORGE EZE PRIZE FOR THE BEST MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE AT FIRST ATTEMPT IN THE FACULTY OF PSYCHIATRY**

I wish to inform you that you have won The George Eze prize for the best Membership Candidate at first attempt in the Faculty of Psychiatry.

You are to receive the prize on Monday, October 31st, 2022 at the opening Ceremony of the 46th College Annual General and Scientific meetings in Accra, Ghana.

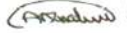
You are expected to register for the Conference, details of the 46<sup>th</sup> AGSM is in the Flier attached hereto.

Kindly log on to: <https://accra46agsm.com/registration> to register for the Annual General and Scientific Meetings.

Kindly indicate how you will want your name to be written on the plaque.

Please send acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Congratulations!

 **WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**  
 6 THORBORN AVENUE, SABO-YABA, LAGOS.

Dr. Albert Akpalu, FWACP (Int. MED)  
 Secretary-General

**PRESIDENT**  
 Dr. Durudami R. Lisk, FWACP

**SECRETARY GENERAL**  
 Dr. Albert Akpalu, FWACP (Int. MED)

**COLLEGE TREASURER**  
 Dr. Enobong Ikeme, FWACP (Int. M)

**V.P. BENIN**  
 Dr. Mansel Zennaro  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. BURKINA FASO**  
 Dr. Oga M. Lamga  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. COTE D'IVOIRE**  
 Dr. Sidore M. Diomande  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. GHANA**  
 Dr. Alfred Yawson  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. GUINEA CONNERY**  
 Dr. Mariama Beavogui  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. LIBERIA**  
 Dr. Angeli Barasa  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. MALI**  
 Dr. Seydou Doumbia  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. NIGER**  
 Dr. Eric Adibessi  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. NIGERIA**  
 Dr. Abol Jeremiah Madaki  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. SENEGAL**  
 Dr. Aboubakar Kane  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. SIERRA LEONE**  
 Dr. Sahr Gesso  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. THE GAMBIA**  
 Dr. Ufiah Okomo  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. TOGO**  
 Dr. Agnes A. Kuffi Bakigbo  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**ASST. SECRETARY GENERAL**  
 Dr. Prudence Wachinou  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**ASST. COLLEGE TREASURER**  
 Dr. Yvonne Del Adomakoh  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**PRESIDENT ELECT**  
 Dr. Rose Isiah Merakuly  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**  
**COLLÈGE OUEST AFRICAÏN DES MÉDECINS**  
 6, TAYLOR DRIVE, OFF EDUARD CRESCENT, MEDICAL COMPOUND, YABA,  
 OFFICE ANNEX: 8, THORBORN AVENUE, SABO-YABA,  
 P.M.B. 1821, YABA - LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
 Tel.: 08133990333, 08176673830-2,  
 e-mail: secgen@wacpcam.org, info@wacpcam.org  
 web site: www.wacpcam.org

SG/AGSM/PW/2022 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Dr. Onyedika Ugochukwu UCHENDU,  
 Dept of Mental Health,  
 GAUTHIC, De-He.

Dear Dr. UCHENDU,

**EGARTON LUKE PRIZE FOR THE BEST MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE IN THE FACULTY OF PSYCHIATRY**

I wish to inform you that you have won The Egerton Luke prize for the best Membership candidate in the Faculty of Psychiatry.

You are to receive the prize on Monday, October 31st, 2022 at the opening Ceremony of the 46th College Annual General and Scientific meetings in Accra, Ghana.

You are expected to register for the Conference, details of the 46<sup>th</sup> AGSM is in the Flier attached hereto.

Kindly log on to: <https://accra46agsm.com/registration> to register for the Annual General and Scientific Meetings.

Kindly indicate how you will want your name to be written on the plaque.

Please send acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Congratulations!

 **WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**  
 6 THORBORN AVENUE, SABO-YABA, LAGOS.

Dr. Albert Akpalu, FWACP (Int. MED)  
 Secretary-General

**PRESIDENT**  
 Dr. Durudami R. Lisk, FWACP

**SECRETARY GENERAL**  
 Dr. Albert Akpalu, FWACP (Int. MED)

**COLLEGE TREASURER**  
 Dr. Enobong Ikeme, FWACP (Int. M)

**V.P. BENIN**  
 Dr. Mansel Zennaro  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. BURKINA FASO**  
 Dr. Oga M. Lamga  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. COTE D'IVOIRE**  
 Dr. Sidore M. Diomande  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. GHANA**  
 Dr. Alfred Yawson  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. GUINEA CONNERY**  
 Dr. Mariama Beavogui  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. LIBERIA**  
 Dr. Angeli Barasa  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. MALI**  
 Dr. Seydou Doumbia  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. NIGER**  
 Dr. Eric Adibessi  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. NIGERIA**  
 Dr. Abol Jeremiah Madaki  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. SENEGAL**  
 Dr. Aboubakar Kane  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. SIERRA LEONE**  
 Dr. Sahr Gesso  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. THE GAMBIA**  
 Dr. Ufiah Okomo  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**V.P. TOGO**  
 Dr. Agnes A. Kuffi Bakigbo  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**ASST. SECRETARY GENERAL**  
 Dr. Prudence Wachinou  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**ASST. COLLEGE TREASURER**  
 Dr. Yvonne Del Adomakoh  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

**PRESIDENT ELECT**  
 Dr. Rose Isiah Merakuly  
 FWACP (Int. Med)

# PREVENTION OF UNDER – 5 MORTALITY

**D**iarrhea Disease is one of the leading causes of death in children under the age of five years.

Diarrhea does not kill in itself; most times what kills is the dehydration (loss of body water) that results from it.

A child who is passing watery stool is losing a lot of water.

What do you do when you have or find a child that is passing watery stool?

First of all, buy an Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS), this is readily available in most places, especially in patent medicine stores and Pharmacies. You should always have this at home.

Dissolve the salt inside 1 Litre of clean drinking water (or boil the water and allow to cool) - 1 liter is 'two' 50cl bottles of coke or any other bottle that's 50cl (50cl x 2 = 1litre).

If ORS is not readily available around you, you can also prepare it locally like this:

Get a clean drinking water,

dissolve six spoon of sugar and half a spoon of salt in the water. This is called Salt-Sugar Solution (SSS).

With either your ORS or SSS, begin to make the child drink the solution, little at a time but very frequently.

Because the solution is not very sweet, some children may refuse it but the parent must find a way to persuade the child to drink it.

After you have started the Solution for the child, it is unlikely that the child will become dehydrated.

Danger signs that should alert

***Diarrhea does not kill in itself; most times what kills is the dehydration (loss of body water) that results from it.***

you to urgently take the child to the hospital:

1. If the child is becoming increasingly weak;
2. If crying WITHOUT or with little tears;
3. If the stool (poo) contains mucous or blood;
4. If the frequency of stooling is more than 7 times in a day;
5. If the child completely refuses to drink the ORS or SSS;
6. If the child is vomiting each time, you give ORS or SSS;
7. If the child becomes unconscious or no longer responds to calls..... **DON'T EVER WAIT TO GET TO THIS POINT!**

When you see any of these signs, it is time to visit a Doctor as quickly as possible so that you do not lose your child to the cold hand of death.

If you have this information for yourself or for people around you, it's unlikely you will lose any child around you to Diarrhea Disease.

**Dr. John S. BALOGUN**  
Senior Registrar,  
Paediatrics Department, UATH



# INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN, MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE DR. BOB UKONU (CONSULTANT DERMATOLOGIST)



**Dr. Bob Ukonu- CMAC, UATH**

**Q: How did you receive the news of your appointment as the Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee?**

A: Thank you very much the Media Team of our Editorial Bulletin. It is good to have you around. I know that having seen what you people have been doing in terms of documentation in the last one year of me being appointed as the Chairman Medical Advisory Committee, it is quite exciting because that is really keeping tab with what the modern hospital should have and also be proud of. In each edition, there is always something fantastic to look up to. Coming back to your question, well, because it was something that was vied for, I would say that I wasn't surprised, because becoming the CMAC or Head of the Clinical Service, in our tradition we need to go out to canvas for vote, you need to talk to the

people, if they found you worthy, they will ask you to represent them, so as far as this seat is concerned, I am representing a group of people who are the consultants in the hospital setting, it is not as if I did anything extra to merit it, no, because other contestants were also quite capable of handling the post even better than I would do. But providence says I am the one for now. so all I could do was just to give thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to represent my family and my people at a time like this. That's the way I viewed it. Thank you.

**Q: How well are you assisting the Chief Medical Director in achieving the mission/vision of UATH?**

A: I remember when we were much younger, when people are playing draft, the viewers always see the loop holes not until you are asked to be at the driving seat that is when you will

understand. For me, when my predecessor was here and as the then Nodal officer of SERVICOM, I knew quite well the contributions here and there but I never felt the weight then like now that I am sitting on the seat. Assisting the Chief Medical Director in the area of clinical service delivery, training, research is something that is quite tasking. One of the things a senior colleague of mine told me was that the CMAC position is like the engine room of the hospital that I need to have clarity of what I want to do in order to do well and I didn't understand him then not until I assume duty. I now realized what that colleague of mine was telling me when I started receiving calls almost 24 hours, lost my privacy and all that, but as my desire is to see my immediate boss, the Chief Medical Director succeed, I have made up my mind that even if it means to sacrifice my comfort, I will do it just to make sure that the day

to day running of the hospital go smoothly because I am like taking away some burden out of him so that when it has to do with the hospital's day to day, I should be right available to do it and when it has to do with external things, he too by the virtue of his position and influence should be able to be out there advocating for the hospital to make sure that the real things we are looking for come in seamlessly and for me to do that very well, my antenna needs to be up. On no account should my antenna be down as I am like a middle man as I process information, I see them right when it happens, I will relay to him so that at any point in time, the box in box exchange of ideas occurs, he tells me how it should be done and I am also learning on the job just to make sure that the hospital in his time is run smoothly. This is what I have been doing for the last one year.

**Q: You have given us the chronology of how you flowed with the Chief Medial Director in running the hospital, can you say within the last one year it has been a bed of roses vis-à-vis what you have been able to achieve as CMAC**

A: I would not say it's a bed of roses as people out there may want to see it. For me, it's been a learning curve experience. The Chief Medial Director is a man of excellence, a man of fine details and for you to cope with such a person, it means you will also need to be down to earth and patient. Majority of times I don't think there are decisions I have taken without consultation. The bible says in the multitude of counsel, there is safety. When you follow people who have gone ahead of you, it makes things easy for you. I know he has done this before here or somewhere else, he has got the experience having been able to keep taps with him on daily basis, how

do we go around it that has made my work very easy. I would not say it's a bed of roses, for me it has been learning process. For me he has made my work easy that my own tenure would be a peaceful tenure. That is the way I look at it. When we look at issues the way they are and you are able to consult, it makes it simpler. One thing about humans is when they are made a part of decision-making process, it makes your job easy for you and that is one of the philosophies I adopted since I came on board that has really yielded results. For challenges, yes, I would say there are few challenges here and there, things that you would have loved to do or see happen as the one that coordinates service delivery, I would say that it has not been easy. So many times people would come in, they don't have a dime on them and it's the responsibility of my office to see that they get service. Majority of time, I have been able to balance it from the humanitarian view and also from economic view point. One single unit that has been able to help me resolve these issues is the social welfare unit. I have to bring Mr. Gimba closer. He has been my right-hand person.

The other area would have been power supply. When the issue of diesel came up, the theatre became an issue because they need light, the Laboratory, SCBU, Haemo-dialysis, so we needed to put our heads together on how to resolve this so that at any point in time these people can have light. Diesel was gulping a lot of money, every 14 days we are spending almost N14 million and it was so terrible and there is no management that can survive such harsh economic situation. We were able to come up with a formular which has yielded positively for us and thank God too of late as you are aware, in the last one or two months the light situation in the hospital has also improved, so that has helped us in a way. For me these two

were quite major. And as government is upping their game in terms of capital allocation, we have been also spending on new equipment. For the last six months, we have to equip certain areas of the hospital where services are highly needed.

**Q: In the area of developmental projects, the hospital had in recent times achieved a lot, what can you say is the secret of these achievements so far?**

A: There is no much magic that is happening except the hand of God. Also, God use people to work. Remember I said mine is to make sure I am on ground to make the hospital run smoothly, the Chief Medical Director's strategy is to make sure that the external influence, he gets in touch with them, advocate and all that, so that has been one of the things that God has helped us to use as a strategy. Sometimes when you don't see him around, it doesn't mean he is not working, he is working somewhere just to make sure things work smoothly. One other thing that may have opened up the door of this massive transformation should be the COVID, the way the hospital handled it was an excellent performance on the part of the management under Prof B.A. Ekele in such a way that people begin to see the need to help this hospital and God in his own way has been merciful because these people have suffered, they have done these, they have done that, this is what I am going to do, so that is the way I look at it. Today we are beginning to have partners, NGOs that want to identify with us and they have made a whole lot of difference. Also Government has been massively supportive, when you look at the things they are doing, releasing all appropriations for the last two to three years is also massive and it is one thing to receive money, another

thing to utilize it for what it is meant for. This management has been prudent and exercised a whole lot of integrity to ensure that those things money is allocated for, the money is deployed accordingly that is why you are noticing some of those developments in the environment.

**Q: Humans are the greatest assets of any organization, what is your message to encourage the staff of UATH in carrying out their duties?**

A: A lot of people are doing so much,, for anybody that remains in health care industry when he has options here and there, for me is a huge sacrifice, they have done so much whether as a Doctor, Nurse, Scientist, Pharmacy, even those in Administration because you also need them to anchor the administrative aspect of the running of the hospital and because it's a team work as everybody contribute their quota, the hospital is moving forward, So, my humble advise would be that yes we may say that your reward is in heaven, but somehow that is not only that, as we continue to put in our best to see that this hospital come on board to what we expect it to be, not only would they receive their reward in heaven, but they will start from this place. A whole lot is coming their way as we collaborate even with external people, such level of collaboration as time goes on, you are not only limited to your environment because of exchange program. People now travel out based on collaboration that is ongoing to Europe, USA, even other African countries; those are some of the benefits we stand to gain, it is not only limited to salary at the end of the day. This exchange program will also help to build us up in terms of human capacity and all that and that is what teaching hospital is meant for and its a very great privilege to work here. I will encourage them, let them not be tired, give up, they should not think that God

is not noticing what they are doing. For me, it's a calling, when you have a calling, it means you have a burden, when you have a burden, that burden needs to be lifted and how? It is only when we render our services which is what we are doing on a daily basis.

**Q: On occupational rancor and acrimony, how much of this did you meet and how much have you been able to do to unite these core professionals?**

A: It is not something that is alien to me because even as MDCAN Chairman UATH branch, I have had course to reach out to people before now. As a medical officer in this hospital way back in 2002 I remember I won an award here as the best team work staff in the hospital, why? Because I have come to realize that if I must achieve anything, then I must be friendly with people irrespective of cadre, whether junior or senior person, because if the junior person says he won't sweep here, it means I would dwell in a dirty environment, if I neglect the senior person too, he won't show me the way as there are some experiences or knowledge he has acquired. So part of my human philosophy is you must carry everybody along. The Chief Medical Director emphasized on this too so it wasn't difficult to fit in. It is not as if sometime people will not conspire to do evil but as you are on ground and your ears are opened, you will be able to reach out. Let them feel important. That is what we have been doing to

ensure everyone is carried along. For me also, the philosophy of the place is changing. Yes, we used to be known to be very belligerent in our approach to things before, but it is no longer so, the time has also come for people to know that this has not paid off for us rather it breeds disorderliness in the system, it should not be what we should bequeath because some of us are aging. But I think the narrative is now changing and that is what we are really gunning for by making sure that everybody is carried along. We need to realize that everybody is a stakeholder, if anything goes wrong, it's not just the Chief Medical Director or CMAC, you will have a portion to share for that which has gone wrong.

**Q: How do you relate with other colleagues at the Top Management level?**

A: It has been fantastic and a peaceful reign as far as I am concerned, they are very good people and the good thing is that I knew them before I even came on board, so that is what has made my work easy for me. The Chairman of the editorial board appreciated the CMAC for his time and the interview came to an end...

THE INTERVIEW CREW:  
Dr. Umar Abubakar, Chairman  
Dr. Samuel Adewale, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Habu Sulai  
Mr. Okafor Tochukwu  
Compiled By.... Okafor Tochukwu  
[Admin Officer I].



Bulletin Interview crew with the CMAC

# NHIS DRF COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED

The National Health Insurance Scheme Drug Revolving Fund Committee was constituted 10 years ago with the main responsibility of ensuring that essential medications are made available at all times to prevent “out of stock” syndrome at the NHIS Pharmacy.

The Committee was recently reconstituted and the members are:

I. Dr. Abdulkareem Rukayat - Chairman

2. Pharm. Abiri Josephine - Member
3. Mr. Ogbole Leonard - Member
4. Mr. Musa Kabir - Member
5. Mr. Nannim Sule - Secretary

Their main term of reference is to compile a list of essential medications that are low in stock and seek approval from Management for the restock of such essential medications to prevent out of stock syndrome.

## OTHER REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEES INAUGURATED

The Chief Medical Director, University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Prof. B. A. Ekele inaugurated six (6) Revolving Fund Committees; Microbiology Revolving Fund, Haematology Revolving Fund, Chemical Pathology Revolving Fund and Histopathology Revolving Fund Committees on Wednesday, 21st September 2022, the Theatre Revolving Fund Committee was inaugurated on Friday, 14th October 2022, and Family Medicine Revolving Fund Committee was inaugurated on 6th December, 2022.

Prof. Ekele outlined the Committees’ terms of reference as follows:

1. To source and scrutinize all quotations for Microbiology, Haematology, Histopathology, Chemical Pathology, Family Medicine and Theatre consumables, following procurement guidelines and recommend to Management for approval.

2. To ensure continuous Microbiology, Haematology, Histopathology, Chemical Pathology, Family Medicine and

Theatre service delivery.

3. Advise Management on measures to improve their various services.

The Committee members for each of the Revolving Funds are;

### HAEMATOLOGY REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE:

- Dr. Uchenna Ejikeme Chairman
- Mrs. Geogina C. Duru Member
- Mr. Amos Amana Member
- Mr. Yunus Ibrahim Secretary

### HISTOPATHOLOGY REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE

- Dr. Oluwasesan Abdul Chairman
- Mrs. Senwua M. Mariam Member
- Mrs. Amaka E. Chinwe Member
- Arc. Yakubu Achimugu Secretary

### CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE

- Dr. Iyabode Imafidor Chairman
- Mr. Whyte A. Jim Member
- Mr. Gosselle Karnak Member
- Ms. Hannah Attah Secretary

### MICROBIOLOGY REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE

- Dr. Jonah Peter Chairman

- Mr. Remigius C. Njoku Member
- Mr. Dokochi Baba Member
- Mr. Augustine Vincent Secretary

### THEATRE REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE

- Dr. Joseph Obande Chairman
- Dr. Dennis Isah Member
- Dr. Pius Ogolekwu Member
- Matron. Hajara Yusuf Member
- Mr. Bameyi R. Sokwo Member
- Mr. Ezekiel Kaikeh Member
- Arch. Yakubu Edicha Secretary

### FAMILY MEDICINE REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE

- Dr. Joel Abu Chairman
- Dr. Nannam Ripiye Member
- Matron Christie Adaga Member
- Mrs. Caroline I. Haruna Member
- Mr. Vincent Augustine Secretary

### DIESEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Mr. Gimba B. Koroka Chairman
- Mr. Abubakar I. Shuaibu Member
- Mr. Alhassan Haruna Member
- Mrs. Waziri S. Esther Member
- Mr. Usman H. Imam Member
- Mr. Joshua Ojo Secretary

# GALLERY



**Prof. BA Ekele (CMD, UATH) Delivering the Welcome Address @ NLNG Event**



**Dr Philip Mshelbila (MD, NLNG) Delivering His Address.**



**Representative of the Minister of Health, Dr. B. O. Alonge**



**Hon. Dr Yusuf Tanko Sununu, Chairman, House of Representative Committee on Health Care Services**

# GALLERY



**Senator Betty Apiafi,  
Chairperson, Senate  
Committee on Women  
Affairs**



**The Master of Ceremony, Sani  
Suleiman (DDI)**



**The Aguma of Gwagwalada and  
CMD @ Commissioning Event.**



**Dr Khadijat Olateju and Prof.  
Felicia Anumah @ the NLNG  
Event**

# GALLERY



**Guests: Mr Osagie, Prof. BA Ekele and Senator Betty Apiafi**



**Senator Betty Apiafi, Hon. Dr Yusuf Tanko Sununu, Prof. BA Ekele (UATH, CMD), Dr Bola Alonge (Minister Rep), Dr Philip Mshelbila (MD/CEO, NLNG), the Aguma of Gwagwalada and Mr. Olalekan Ogunleye Deputy MD, NLNG).**



**Nursing Staff at the Maternity Centre with HOD Nursing, Dr. Mrs Lydia Chukwu (In the middle).**



**The Post Natal Ward**

# GALLERY



**CMAC (Dr Ukonu), Making a Point at the Operating Theatre of the Maternity Centre.**



**UATH Top Management Committee Members at the Event.**



**Cross-Section of Dignitaries and Invited Guests @ the Event**



**Traditional Dancers @ the Event**



# GALLERY



**CMD, Prof. BA Ekele Presenting a Plaque to the Guest Lecturer – Professor Karen Sliwa**



**Guest Lecturer (3rd Left) in a Group Photograph with Some UATH Consultants.**

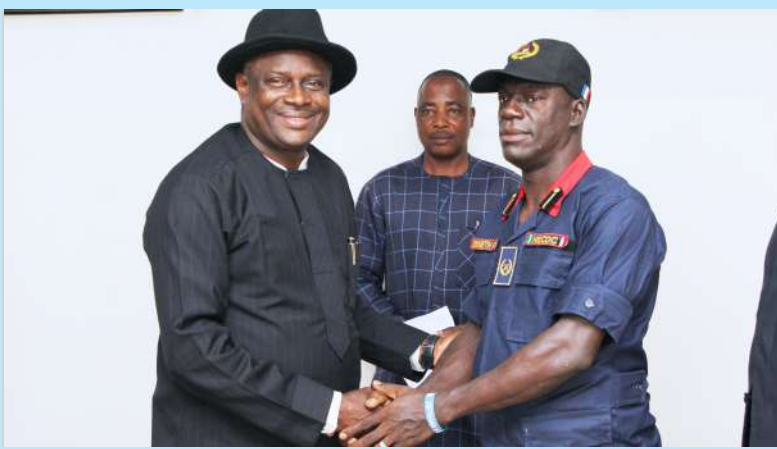


**OKAPI Foundation Team that Donated 3.5 Million Naira to UATH**



**Lion's Club President and CMAC (Dr Bob Ukonu) During Courtesy Visit to UATH**

# GALLERY



**Area Commander, Gwagwalada, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Officer Ken Imhontu) paid a courtesy visit to UATH, CMD (Prof BA Ekele)**



**UATH Intern Pharmacist's 2021/2022 Set**



**Mental Health Week Celebration @ UATH**



**Inauguration of the Family Medicine Revolving Fund Committee. Dr. Joel Abu, Chairman of the Committee Seated 2nd Left.**

# SOCIAL *Diary*



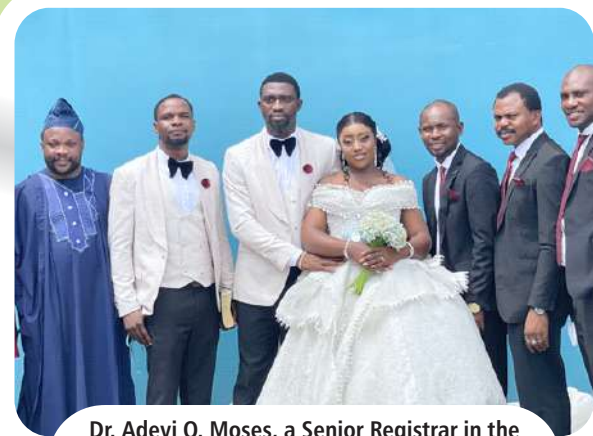
**Congratulations to Chief Nimfa Zwalbong On his coronation as the Garkuwan Bwarat**



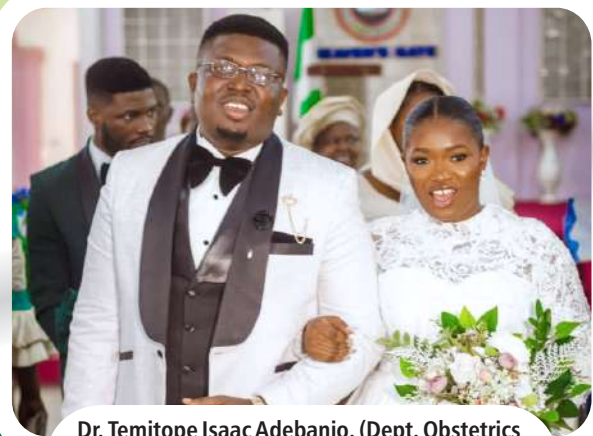
**Congratulations to Comrade Abubakar Shanabo, of Laundry Unit on his Coronation of as Tafidan Paikon Kore.**



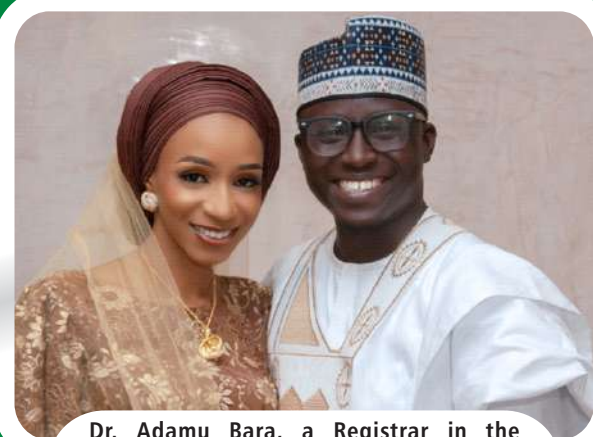
**Congratulations to Chief Cyrus Mamman Sanusi On his coronation as Majindadi Pada Adara F.C.T. Abuja**



**Dr. Adeyi O. Moses, a Senior Registrar in the Department of ENT tied the Nuptial Knot on the 12th November, 2022**



**Dr. Temitope Isaac Adebajo. (Dept. Obstetrics and Gynecology) tied the Nuptial Knot on the 15th November, 2022**



**Dr. Adamu Bara, a Registrar in the Department of Internal Medicine tied the Nuptial Knot on the 24th September, 2022**



**Dr. Oluwatosin Bisiriyu, a Senior Registrar in the Department of Ophthalmology tied the Nuptial Knot on the 19th November, 2022**

# LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The pressure of Children sometimes can make you talk rubbish:-

Son: Dad, I'm tired of grandpa's sickness, is better he dies.

Dad: It's your own father that will die not my own.



## ON THE MARBLE

Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.



**DISCLAIMER!!!**

The Chief Medical Director, Prof. B. A. Ekele is not on any social media platforms. Beware of fraudsters!