



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS
BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

**Public Lecture and Launch of
the Joint Medical/Student Exchange
Programme between the University of Ghana
and the University of West Indies**

Topic:

**“From Bridgetown to Accra - Hypertension as a
Threat to the Diaspora: Lessons from COVID-19?”**

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Venue: Great Hall, University of Ghana

Time: 4:00 p.m.





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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:

Procession:

Ghana Dance Ensemble

Welcome Address /

Introduction of Chairperson:

Mrs. Emelia N.K. Agyei-Mensah,
Registrar, University of Ghana

Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

Remarks on Partnership:

Prof. Alfred Edwin Yawson
Dean, University of Ghana Medical School

Remarks:

H.E. Juliette Babb-Riley
Chargé D'Affaires/Head of Mission
High Commission of Barbados to the Republic
of Ghana

Professor Clive Landis
Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor,
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Dr. Damian Cohall
Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Musical Interlude:

Ghana Dance Ensemble

Launch:

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

Signing of MoU.:

Vice Chancellor, Principal &
Pro VC UWI, Cave Hill Campus
Facilitated by Office of Legal Counsel

Introduction of Lecturer:

Prof. Julius Najah Fobil,
Provost, College of Health Sciences

Lecture:

Dr. Kenneth Connell
Deputy Dean of Faculty of Medical Sciences,
UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Q and A:

Mr. Ishmael Ato Essien

Chairperson's Closing Remarks:

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

University of Ghana Anthem



ABSTRACT

Hypertension as a Threat to the Diaspora: Lessons from COVID-19?”

This presentation will set the scene of hypertension, or high blood pressure, as a consistent and escalating public health concern for people of African descent. This will unfold under a lens of the post pandemic effect of COVID19. Although the disease burden of hypertension, and its deadly outcomes – heart attacks and strokes – will be described, a much closer examination of indigenous measures to address the problem will be explored.

These include innovations to improve access to care, such as tele-health and remote blood pressure monitoring, as well as leveraging the geopolitical power to ensure that evidence-based drugs are available to treat people living with high blood pressure. Finally, the presenter will suggest a whole-of society-response to the existential threat uncontrolled blood pressure poses to many low-to-middle income countries – especially in the diaspora.



Dr. Kenneth Connell

Deputy Dean of Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill Campus

PROFILE

Dr. Kenneth Connell is Associate Dean for Recruitment and Outreach, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies. He is also a Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology and a member of the Senate of the University of the West Indies. Additionally, Dr. Connell is the Public Orator for the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill.

He is an attending physician at a tertiary hospital and serves in a number of capacities, including Chairman of the Barbados Drug Formulary Committee, Vice President of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, Vice Chairman of the National NCD Commission and Chairman of the Campus Wellness Committee at the University of the West Indies.

He is the Inaugural Governor of the Caribbean Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), Consultant Internist of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados, International Consultant for the Global HEARTS Programme and has Chairman of the Campus Health and Wellness Committee.

Dr. Connell is the WHO 2021 Hypertension Guidelines Writer and he has also published extensively on hypertension.



Background of University of Ghana Medical School

Historically, the decision to establish a medical school in Ghana dates as far back as 1926 when the then Governor of the Gold Coast, Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, conceived the idea of a Medical School adjacent to the newly established Korle-Bu Hospital. There was a long but temporary setback when Guggisberg left in 1927. The idea was revived in 1951 and hotly pursued three years after the University College of the Gold Coast (now the University of Ghana) was established. The Government of the day concurred that the project was “of great importance and that it should be included in the national development plan for discussion.” This led to the visit by a delegation from the University of London’s Committee on Higher Education to the Gold Coast on a feasibility study for the establishment of a full-scale Medical School at the premises of the Korle Bu Hospital.

In 1955, the University College of the Gold Coast and the Kumasi College of Technology put forward a scheme for starting medical teaching on a minimal level to be graduated upwards to the level envisaged by the London University delegation. Consequently, in 1956, a committee to brainstorm on alternative ways to start Medical School headed by Dr D.M Balme recommended an annual intake of 20-25 students and four pre-clinical department to be established at Legon in addition to converting Korle Bu Hospital into a Teaching Hospital with its own management board.

The possibility for a new teaching hospital to be built in Legon was entertained, necessitating a move to seek financial assistance from the United States Government by the then Ghana Government. Dr Paul Connerly headed a team sent by the US President to

evaluate all previous efforts made in establishing a Medical School. They recommended, among other things, an establishment of a National Medical and Health Training Centre starting with the Medical School and then School of Nursing, Dental School, School of Medical Technology, Postgraduate School and Research Facilities Centre.

For the smooth implementation of an American System in a predominantly British environment, selected sixth form students were to undergo a two-year premedical training in a number of subjects. In furtherance of this, 51 preclinical students were admitted into the University of Ghana in October 1962.

In February 1964, the then President of Ghana, Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah exhibited his foresightedness by establishing a medical school relying on local financial and manpower resources. This decision was buoyed by the favorable report from a high powered delegation consisting of Prof A.A Kwapong, Dr C. O. Easmon and Dr E.A. Badoe to the newly opened University of Lagos and the University of Ibadan Medical Schools. So, in 1964, a group of 41 students started the Preclinical Training with a small group of Ghanaian doctors as lecturers. The initial curriculum was restricted to Gross Anatomy and Histology, taught by Prof J. M. K. Quartey, assisted by Prof F. N. L. Engmann and a number of surgeons and pathologists as part-time lecturers. The Department of Physiology was started by Prof H. H. Phillips and Biochemistry, by Prof. Dr. Dr. B. Y. A. Andoh to constitute the Basic Sciences. Teaching started in the Para-clinical Departments in April 1966 and in the Clinical Departments in April 1967.

When it became obvious that extra hands were needed, in 1965, Professor Easmon and Professor Laing toured medical schools in about nine countries to recruit both Ghanaian and expatriate teachers for the Ghana Medical School. Notable among those recruited were Drs Mitra, Mendes, Bannergie, Goswami and Ghosh.

The Ghana Medical School was established with the aim of carrying out medical education and research context of service to Ghana AND Training medical personnel to provide competent healthcare to the community. Thus, at its inception, the School was deemed to be independent exercising control over appointment of its own staff.

By 1968, the Ghana Medical School had become semi-autonomous; empowered to perform academic functions with special relation with the University whose degrees would be awarded to students on the successful completion of their course. The School had established its own self accounting administration overseen by the School Board and Executive Council. The first Dean was Professor C.O Easmon followed in succession by Professor S.R.A Dodu, H.H. Philips, F.N.L. Engmann, E.Q. Archampong, and S.K. Owusu. Prof. Easmon was supported by Dr. S.N. Otoo as the first Vice Dean.

Through the hard work by these pioneers, UGMS had produced enough of its own graduates such that by 1918, alumni could occupy the deanship of the School. Again, in succession, Rev Prof. A.S. Ayettey, Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe, Prof. A.L. Lawson, Prof. C. Ntim-Amponsah, Prof. Y. Tette, Prof. Jennifer Welbeck, Prof. Margaret Lartey and now-serving Prof. A.E. Yawson are all products of the school who answered the call to serve as deans and contribute their quota.

In October, 1969, The Ghana Medical School became University of Ghana Medical School just to enable the award of the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B. Ch.B.) by the University of Ghana, Legon to the first graduating class of thirty-nine (39). The School however, maintained its financial autonomy and had its own Executive Council and School Board with its own accounting administration which reported to Council.

Achievement of UGMS

UGMS has neither adopted a straight-jacketed approach nor closed its eyes to national health needs and global trends. The curriculum of the School has been revised to reflect prevailing trends in medical education. One of such revisions was the introduction of the BSc Medical Sciences degree in 1992 awarded after completion of the paraclinical sciences. Also, there has been a reduction in the length of training from seven and half years to six years in response to global trends. Perhaps, the most evident manifestation of the malleability of UGMS is the introduction of the Graduate Entry Medical Programme (GEMP), which trains eligible sciences graduates in medical education over a four-year period since 2009. In 2014, under the University-wide Collegiate System, the UGMS and the University of Ghana Dental School (UGDS) were merged to become a Clinical School called School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD). In 2019, following a review

of the UG Collegiate system, the SMD merger was abrogated. SMD reverted to UGMS and UGDS regaining all their former departments.

In response to national needs, UGMS heeded the call for more doctors to be trained. In this respect, intake into UGMS has witnessed a substantial increase from 41 in 1964 to 94 in 1999 and currently to 200 on the average. In this quest, UGMS has designed ingenious ways of balancing quality against quantity. When it becomes necessary to help train doctors for other African countries with no Medical Schools, UGMS heeded the call and reserved 5% of its admission for Students from these countries. Since 1999 though, perhaps in recognition of the quality product churned out by UGMS, the percentage of foreign student admissions has risen up to about 20% with applications coming from all over the world.

UGMS has been very instrumental in establishing other health related institutions within the University of Ghana. The University of Ghana Dental School was initiated in 1974 and nurtured until it attained full faculty status in 1982. In 1979 UGMS helped in establishing the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research. At the request of the Ministry of Health in 1994, the Medical School developed and ran courses leading to the award of Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology to upgrade the knowledge and expertise of laboratory technicians in the nation's hospitals.

The Medical School was called upon again in 1994 and 1998 by the Ministry of Health to assist with the establishment of the School of Public Health (for the higher degrees in the field of Public Health) and the School of Allied Health Sciences for the training of Laboratory Scientists, Physiotherapists, Radiographers and other Allied Health professionals. The Medical School mooted and nurtured the idea of bringing together all these institution, with the Department of Nursing; now the School of Nursing and Midwifery to form the first College of the University of Ghana - the College of Health Sciences.

UGMS has also extended its supported to fledgling sister medical schools within and outside the country including the School of Medical Sciences and Technology, Kumasi and the University for Development Studies in Tamale.



The UWI Cave Hill Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) of The University of the West Indies (UWI) began its distinguished history as the principal institution for medical education in the Commonwealth Caribbean in 1948, with its establishment at the Mona Campus in Jamaica. Initially founded as an overseas College of the University of London, the Faculty of Medical Sciences was the first established faculty in what, in 1962, became The University of the West Indies (UWI). Today, The UWI has the unique status of being a highly ranked truly international university, with global centres spread across North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, while serving as the principal tertiary education institution for 17 Caribbean countries.

In 1967, under the Eastern Caribbean Medical Scheme, the Faculty of Medical Sciences expanded to incorporate clinical training at the Port of Spain General Hospital in Trinidad and Tobago, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados with the establishment of the School of Clinical Medicine and Research (SCMR). In 2008

the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados upgraded and expanded the 40-year-old clinical programme in the SCMR to full Faculty status, incorporating a three-year Phase 1 programme to offer the full MBBS degree which is accredited by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

Over the years, postgraduate programmes in a wide range of medical specialties have been developed at all Campuses of The UWI. The Cave Hill Campus has strong clinical programmes leading to the Doctor of Medicine (DM) in several hospital-based specialties as well as the Diploma, Masters and DM in Family Medicine, and the Masters and PhD in Public Health. Among the many other programmes offered are undergraduate programmes in Health Sciences and Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and postgraduate programmes in Nursing Administration, Nursing Education and Pediatric Nursing. This year the Campus launched the BSc in Preclinical Sciences which articulates into the MB ChB at the University of Ghana Medical School.

UNIVERSITY ANTHEM

Hail University of Ghana
The nation's hope and glory
The place that bears the star of peace
That bids us all to do our best
Let the great Tower of learning
Inspire both young and old
May we proceed in unity to uphold the public cause.

//: Arise, arise O Legon
Defend the cause of freedom
Proceed in truth and integrity to make
Our nation proud: //

We ask for strength and wisdom
As we climb the hill of learning
May we excel in what'er we do
As we prepare to face the world
With a mind ready at all times
And a conscience quick to feel
May we proceed in unity to uphold the public cause.

//: Arise, arise O Legon
Defend the cause of freedom
Proceed in truth and integrity to make
our nation proud ://

(1921-2019) Prof. Emeritus J. H. Kwabena Nketia



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