

KATH NEWS



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THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF KOMFO ANOKYE TEACHING HOSPITAL

KATH HOLDS MAIDEN MANAGEMENT, CONSULTANTS AND SENIOR SPECIALISTS CONSULTATIVE FORUM



A group picture of participants at the maiden consultative forum

The maiden edition of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) Management-Consultants and Senior Specialists forum was held on Thursday, 20th July, 2023 at the Golden Bean Hotel in Kumasi.

The Consultative forum, first of its kind in the hospital, was organised as part of efforts to bridge the gap between management and consultants and senior specialists.

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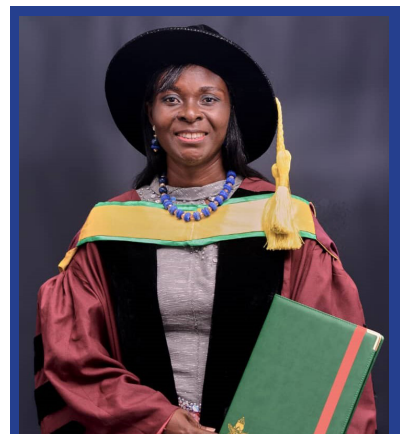


Otumfuo Osei Tutu II (seated) in a group photograph with members of the HeKAP team

ASANTEHENE TO LAUNCH \$10 MILLION RENOVATION PROJECT FOR KATH WARDS

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the old "Gee" blocks at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) are set to receive a major facelift following the declaration by His Majesty, Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, to raise \$10 million towards the comprehensive renovation of the near 70-year-old buildings.

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Dr. Akua Kusiwaa Karikari at her graduation ceremony

FIRST KATH NURSE PHD HOLDER

Dr. Akua Kusiwaa Karikari, a Deputy Chief Nursing Officer (DCNO) at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), made

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Editor-In-Chief
Dr. Collins Kokuro

Our cherished readers, the Editorial Board is overly excited to submit for your reading pleasure the third quarter edition of the KATH Newsletter for the year 2023 which highlights some key activities and programmes of the hospital recorded between July and September 2023.

Under the leadership of Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah, the Chief Executive Officer and his management team with the support of the Board, the hospital is on the path of continuous improvements, both in infrastructure and in quality of care. There have been evidence-based improvements in patient care, service delivery and facelift of several structures all over the hospital.

Management is committed to its transformational agenda of making the hospital a customer-centric medical facility of global repute, in line with the theme for the year, "Driving a customer-centric agenda for healthcare delivery: the role of management, staff and stakeholders".

This edition has been carefully designed to highlight major activities and developments in the hospital, including the maiden KATH Management, Senior Specialists and Consultants Consultative Forum

and a feature on the first Nurse PhD holder at the hospital, among others.

We also bring to you the commitment by Otumfuo Osei Tutu II to spearhead the mobilization of over \$10M for the comprehensive renovation and modernization of the in-patient wards at old "GEE" blocks into an international standard facility under the Heal Komfo Anokye Project, as part of activities to mark the 25th Anniversary of the enstoolment of the King.

Under your favorite Chief Executive's Desk, Prof. Addai Mensah highlights some of the transformational changes taking place in the hospital as reflected in early start of clinics, reduced queues at OPD Pharmacies and improved availability of drug and laboratory reagents among others.

Again, we bring to our esteemed readers, the profile of the first KATH Nurse to obtain a PhD. The Editorial Board seizes the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Akua Karikari for her academic achievement.

This publication further brings to you a story on the commencement of colorectal sub-specialty fellowship programme at KATH under a special partnership with Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS) and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS).

We are happy to highlight the 2023 Africa Procurement and Supply Chain Awards ceremony held in Lagos, Nigeria, where KATH affirmed its position as a top-notch supply chain management entity in Africa by winning the Centre of Excellence in Public Procurement in Healthcare and Public Procurement Team of the year (Silver categories).

This edition also features the maiden celebration of the KATH Research Dissemination Day which showcased ground breaking and impactful studies conducted within the hospital. To sooth the mind, we bring to our readers, hilarious medical jokes.

As usual, space was found for donations received from benevolent individuals and organisations to support the delivery of quality healthcare at KATH.

The Editorial Board is encouraged by the feedback from readers and will always welcome such reactions to help enrich future publications.

The Board wishes to express its profound gratitude to all contributors of stories without which this edition could not have been completed. We value your contributions and look forward to your continuous support.

I am forever thankful to members of the Editorial Board, CEO and Management for their continued support.

Thank you.


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Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK

It is exactly 10 months since I assumed the high office of the Chief Executive of this great institution and I cannot help but give thanks to the Almighty God for how far he has brought us as a hospital in this short period of time. I am also highly indebted to the Board, staff, the unions, the media and other partners of this hospital for the incredible level of support and encouragement I have received upon taking up this privileged assignment. It has been an awesome, revealing and enriching journey so far and with my hand on my chest, I wish to assure you that I do not take your support for granted.

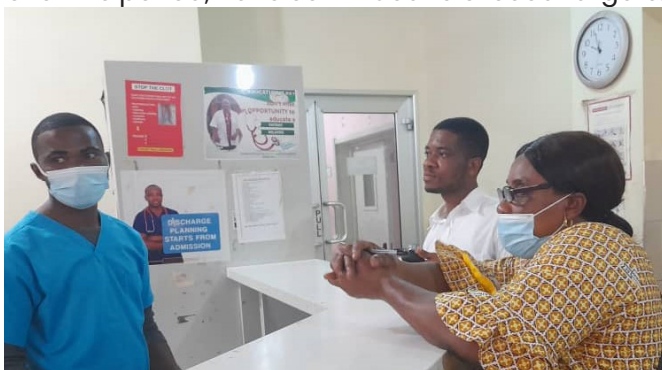
Dear readers and partners, I want to declare to you that I am fully committed to the pursuance of the transformative agenda for this hospital as we push to make it a customer-centric medical centre of global repute. This is a feat that cannot be chalked through the efforts of one person alone and I am definitely looking forward to your active and continuous support in the months ahead as we all strive to make this a reality. Yes, we can, because a cursory look around the hospital clearly shows marked improvements in its staff attitude to work, infrastructure and work environment during the period under reference thanks to the enormous support from the Board, staff and cherished partners. Our patient satisfaction surveys consistently reveal positive improvements stemming from our ongoing efforts to enhance clinic start times, reduce the queues at our OPD pharmacies, increase the availability of essential drugs and laboratory reagents, and strengthen supervision and staff discipline" No wonder key performance indicators such as specialist and primary care O.P.D. cases, surgical operations, radiotherapy, physiotherapy, laboratory and radiology services among others over the period, have continued to exceed targets.



Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah
KATH CEO

Distinguished readers, it is not for nothing that "Driving a customer-centric agenda for health care delivery: the role of management, staff and stakeholders", was chosen as the guiding theme for the hospital for this year. With the support of the Board, staff and partners, management will continue to innovate, advocate, lobby and engage as part of the overall objective of improving the operations of the hospital, staff output and welfare, as well as patients' experience. The introduction of Momo and POS for the payment of patients' bills for the first time in the history of the hospital, for instance, have been so popular that patronage has exceeded expectations. The cumulative payments made through them to date since their introduction in March 2023 stands around Ghc 2.8 million. The system is being optimised to allow anyone in any part of the world to settle the bills of their needy relatives and acquaintances who seek healthcare services at the hospital through mobile money payments.

Dear readers, in our march towards making KATH the standard bearer in specialist patient care, clinical training and research in this part of the globe, management will continue to strengthen the Quality Assurance Unit. The aim is to prioritise quality of care issues, encourage feedback and improve the system to enhance quality of services to clients. Further tightening of staff supervision and discipline through the maintenance of physical presence at all the operational areas and regular visits by Directors and their deputies even on weekends and holidays will continue to be pursued.



Ms. Georgina Afua Sam, Director of Nursing Services, visiting the CDU at the A&E Centre at **9:57 p.m.** during one of her directors' on duty shift

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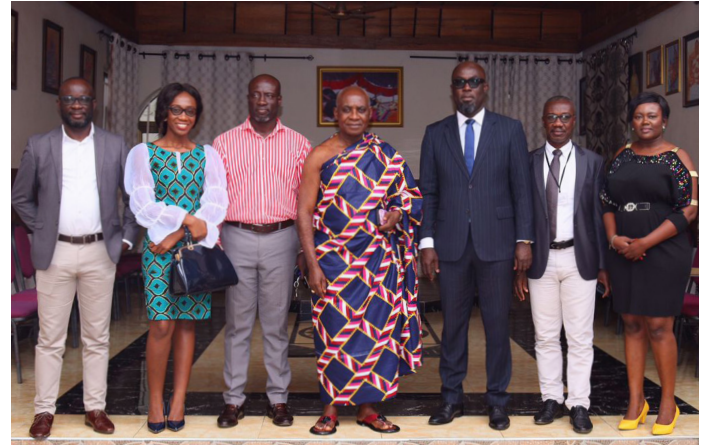
FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK *cont'd from page 3*

It must be pointed out that, also of great priority to management are issues of staff motivation and welfare, knowing and believing that in addition to discipline, it takes a well-motivated workforce to deliver to meet the expectations of clients. Management, therefore, is taking a number of steps to enhance staff motivation packages to encourage them to give off their best. One proof of this commitment is management's decision to pay the 13th month allowances owed to qualified members of staff. A payment plan has also been agreed on with the unions whose members are entitled to this allowance to clear that of 2022 amounting to Ghc5.2 million by the end of the year. It is the expectation of management that these interventions will motivate and encourage staff members to go the extra mile to meet and even exceed the expectation of clients.



A group picture of some members of management, staff and the HeKAP team after a presentation to hospital stakeholders on the KATH renovation project

Dear readers, critical to the successful execution of the transformation agenda for the hospital is the recently announced Asantehene-led initiative to raise over Ten Million United States Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) for the comprehensive renovation of the old "Gee" blocks which serve as the main in-patient facilities of the hospital. As widely publicised by the press and after extensive stakeholders' consultations, the master plan for the comprehensive renovation of the blocks has been developed for execution as part of the Asantehene's 25th anniversary legacy projects next year. On behalf of the Board, management, staff and patients of the hospital, I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Asantehene for his graciousness and impeccable leadership in the initiation of the project which will be the first of its kind since the construction of the hospital in 1955. I am also very grateful to the "Heal Komfo



Members of the HeKAP team in a group picture with Otumfuo's Hiahene (middle) during a courtesy call on him at his palace

Anokye Project" (HeKAP) team, a group of experts in architecture, engineering, medicine, real estate development and marketing communication among others, who came together to develop the master plan for the project at no cost to the hospital. The team, led by its chairman, Samuel Yaw Adu Boakye of Kessben FM fame, has done a yeoman's job behind the scenes to bring this project to its current stage. I also wish to celebrate Otumfuo's Hiahene, Prof. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei Woahene II, for his incredible contributions towards the refinement of the project proposal and the arrangements for the launch of the fund-raising ceremony since his appointment as the Asantehene's rep on the team.

As the sole tertiary health care provider in this part of the country, KATH has served the people of Ashanti Region, Ghana and beyond extremely well over the decades and it is my humble expectation that we will all contribute our widow's mite when the fund-raising campaign is eventually launched in November 2023 by the Asantehene.

Once again, I wish to thank all our stakeholders for the abundant show of support, encouragement and prayers so far and pray that we will continue to work together to make KATH the model tertiary health care we all want it to be.

Thank you.



Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October

Visit the Breast Care Centre of the hospital to get screened.

It's Freeeeee!!!



KATH ADJUDGED A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN HEALTHCARE

The Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) once again maintained its position as a top-notch supply chain management entity in Africa when it was awarded Excellence in Public Procurement in Healthcare and Public Procurement Team of the year (silver category) prizes at this year's Africa Procurement and Supply Chain Awards (APSCA) ceremony held in Lagos, Nigeria.

The awards ceremony, which is the largest gathering of procurement and supply chain professionals in Africa, also saw the Deputy Director in-charge of the Supply Chain Management (SCMU) of the hospital, Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Bempah, being adjudged among the top 50 Procurement and Supply Chain leaders in Africa.

The 2023 awards, held at the plush Oriental Hotel in Lagos, and the hospital was represented by Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Bempah and the Deputy Director of Budget and Budgetary Control, Mr. Evans Owusu-Ansah.

The ceremony is held annually to recognize leading procurement experts, teams and top procurement and supply chain organisations whose outstanding leadership and practices has elevated the standards of the profession in Africa. It is also aimed at showcasing topmost ethics, best practices, tactics and brilliance in managing organisation's supplies as well as promoting business growth and sustainability on the continent.



Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Bempah receiving the hospital's awards with the support of Mr. Evans Owusu-Ansah, Deputy Director of Budget and Budgetary Control

KATH and its SCMU have dominated the awards having received several prizes and plaudits in various categories over the years. For instance, in 2019, the Unit won the Center of Excellence in Procurement and Supply Chain of the year award in Healthcare (silver category) and the best Public Procurement and Supply Chain Team of the year (bronze category). It crowned this feat with the Best in Public Procurement and Supply Chain Compliance award (silver category).

In the year 2021 history repeated itself when the hospital and the unit were bestowed with the following awards;

- **Excellence in Procurement & Supply Chain of the Year-Healthcare** - (Gold category)
- **Excellence in Public Procurement & Supply Chain Compliance** - (Silver category)
- **The Procurement Transformational CEO of the Year** -KATH CEO

In 2022 the unit again won the following categories:

- **Excellence in Procurement and Supply Chain of the year – Healthcare-** (Gold category)
- **Public Sector Procurement Team of the Year** (Silver category)
- **Public Sector Procurement Professional of the Year**-Emmanuel Owusu-Bempah (DD-SCM, KATH).

In recognition of the above unparalleled feats, the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) has for some years now declared KATH as a Centre of Excellence in the public procurement practices and recommended the hospital to a number of institutions to understudy and benefit from its extensive expertise and experience in this field.



Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Bempah, Deputy Director-SCMU, receiving his award at the APSCA

ASANTEHENE TO LAUNCH \$10MILLION RENOVATION PROJECT

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The renovation of the blocks, which will be the first of its kind since the hospital commenced operations in 1955, is expected to be executed as part of the legacy projects marking the 25th Anniversary celebration of the enstoolment of the Asantehene in 2024.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II stated this when the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the hospital, Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah, led the executives and members of the "Heal Komfo Anokye Project (HeKAP)" team to present to the Asantehene the technical and financial proposal developed to guide the comprehensive renovation of the dilapidated blocks.

The Asantehene said the ageing blocks, which house the main wards of the hospital, have never been renovated since their construction almost 70 years ago and this was adversely impacting on the quality of in-patient care hence his decision to lead the drive for their refurbishment.



A typical state of one of the wards at the old "Gee" blocks



Artistic rendering of the ward after the renovation

The HeKAP team, made up of professionals from the fields of architecture, real estate development, marketing and brands communication, among others, was commissioned by the KATH CEO to develop the master plan for the project.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II described KATH as a strategic institution which occupies a unique position in the healthcare delivery system of the country as well as the socio-cultural and historical heritage of the Asante kingdom.

"For a hospital that has been the sole provider of tertiary healthcare in this region and beyond for decades and also named after the founding Chief Priest of the Asanteman, it will be unacceptable to allow it to fall into a state of disrepair, hence my readiness to lead the crusade for its restoration", His Majesty explained.

The Asantehene disclosed plans to formally launch the fund-raising campaign to ensure the mobilization of the needed resources to renovate and modernise the old blocks so that they can better serve patients from the region and the others that the hospital receives referrals from.

He commended the CEO and members of the HeKAP team for their commitment to the project and urged the public and corporate institutions to support the fundraising drive when it is launched to ensure the successful execution of the project.

The Asantehene appointed Nana Prof. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei Woahene II, Hiahene and founder of Foundation of Orthopaedics and Complex Spine (FOCOS) who also happens to be the Board Chairman for the Otumfuo Charity Foundation, as his representative on the project team.



Nana Prof. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei Woahene II, Otumfuo's Hiahene

Prof. Addai-Mensah pointed out that when he assumed office in December

last year, he was shocked by the extent of deterioration that the blocks have undergone after close to 70 years of intensive use without any comprehensive renovation. The CEO said he consulted the Asantehene on the issue and the King asked for a formal report on the state of the buildings for his attention.

Prof. Addai-Mensah said the Board, Management, staff and patients of the hospital owe the Asantehene a debt of gratitude for his timely intervention.

Mr. Samuel Adu-Boakye, a media personality and marketing consultant and chairman of the HeKAP team, was grateful to the Asantehene for his commitment to the execution of the project.

He added that the team has developed an all-inclusive marketing and communication strategy to facilitate the raising of the needed funds from well-meaning members of the public and corporate Ghana.



YOU AND YOUR HEALTH



Dr. Yasmine Hardy - Senior Specialist Physician & Head of Infectious Diseases Unit, Medicine Directorate

This column aims at educating our cherished readers and the general public on specific health issues and the options available for their management. In this edition, Dr. Yasmine Hardy, a senior specialist in infectious diseases engages a patient on HIV infection, transmission and management.

Dr. Hardy: Good morning Madam Jenny. You are welcome. How are you today?

Ms. Jenny: I am not fine Doc.

Dr. Hardy: What's wrong?

Ms. Jenny: Doc, I have been diagnosed with HIV and I am so confused and distressed. I have so many questions. Doc how could this have happened to me? How is HIV transmitted Doc?

Dr. Hardy: I can understand your distress but please try and calm down and let's have a discussion.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is spread through contact with the body fluids (mainly semen, vaginal fluid, blood, breast milk) of someone with HIV. By this, I mean it can be transmitted through unprotected (condomless) anal and vaginal sex. It can also be passed on during pregnancy and breastfeeding, sharing of needles and other sharp objects by people including drug users and tattooists; and in the healthcare setting, through needle stick injuries.

I'd like to add that it is not transmitted by shaking hands, hugging, giving pecks, closed mouth kissing, sharing of plates and cups, eating food handled by HIV positive individuals, spitting, sitting on toilet seats and being bitten by mosquitoes or other insects.

Ms. Jenny: Doc, I have also heard that this disease has a very negative effect on the body and when someone contracts it they die within a short period. I am really scared.

Dr. Hardy: Well yes, HIV is a virus which attacks the body's immune system thereby damaging and decreasing the number of the white blood cells or CD4 cells which are the body's soldier cells that fight against infection. The body then becomes susceptible to infections from bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites referred to as opportunistic infections; as well as to some cancers like cervical and anal cancers that would generally not cause infection in a healthy individual. However, there are oral medications called Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) available which can stop the virus from multiplying and overwhelming the body's immune system. This can lead to a dramatic fall in the number of viruses in the body to even undetectable levels known as viral load suppression with a consequent rise in the number of

CD4 cells. The increased CD4 cell levels can then fight against infections and you can largely live a healthy and good quality life like any HIV negative person.

Ms. Jenny: Oh great! That's a relief. There is hope for me then. So does that mean I can stop taking my ART after my viral load becomes undetectable?

Dr. Hardy: No please. The medications have to be taken everyday, preferably at the same time, for the rest of your life. Always remember an undetectable viral load does not mean you are cured. It simply means that the ART have suppressed the number of viruses in the blood to a very low undetectable level. If you stop taking the ART medications, there would be a rebound of the viruses as a result in a fall in your CD4 count and you would be prone to developing opportunistic infections which may be fatal.

Ms. Jenny: So Doc, do you say I have to take my medications everyday at the same time? How do I do that?

Dr. Hardy: It's good you set a daily alarm at a fixed time to remind you to take the medications. With time, it is possible that there may be ART in the form of injections available in Ghana which you can take once every four or eight weeks but until then, the oral ART would have to be taken everyday.

Ms. Jenny: I understand. Are there any side effects of the medications?

Dr. Hardy: Most people do well on it. However, at the beginning, some people may experience nausea, headaches, dizziness and general weakness but these usually subside within a couple of weeks or a month. Please report to the facility if the symptoms become very worrisome and persistent so we can decide on what to do. A small proportion of individuals may experience a deterioration in their kidney function but we shall be monitoring your kidney function and your ART will be modified accordingly if this happens so please don't be alarmed.

Ms. Jenny: Doc, I am also positive for hepatitis B. Do I have to take some other medication for that?

Dr. Hardy: Oh don't worry at all, fortunately, the first line ART, which you would be given, has action against hepatitis B as well so you don't need any added medications for that. However, if for any reason your medications are changed along the line, please draw your healthcare provider's attention to your hepatitis B status so the right management decision can be taken. A test for other sexually transmitted infections like syphilis will be requested so that these can be treated if present. A pap smear to check for cervical cancer would also be requested.

The people you live with should get tested for hepatitis B and get vaccinated if they are negative or see a healthcare provider for further evaluation if they are positive.

Ms. Jenny: Doc, I would like to get married in future. When I give birth would my children also be HIV positive? This is because you mentioned that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy.

Dr. Hardy: It is important that your viral load and that of your spouse, assuming he is also HIV positive, are undetectable before you go ahead to get pregnant.

In that case, the chances of transmitting the virus to your baby during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding are very, very low and you can have a healthy baby.

KATH HOLDS MAIDEN MANAGEMENT-CONSULTANTS & SNR. SPECIALISTS FORUM *cont'd from page 1*

It was to acknowledge their indispensability and contributions to the realisation of the hospital's mandate and to actively seek their expert inputs and participation in improving patient care, training and research. The one day forum was under the theme **“Driving a customer-centric health care delivery at KATH: The role of Senior Specialist and Consultants”**.



Prof. Addai-Mensah delivering his welcome address at the ceremony

In his address, the Chief Executive of KATH, Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah, said tertiary healthcare institutions the world over are worth their salt mainly on the basis of the quality and number of senior specialists and consultants they can boast of and the extent to which their expertise, experiences and contributions are maximised for optimum patient care.



A section of the participants at the programme

“All leading healthcare institutions make conscious efforts to put in place governance mechanisms that actively tap the input of senior specialists and consultants to guide the formulation of operational policies and institutional strategies for the delivery of quality and cost-effective clinical care services”, he said.



A section of the participants at the programme



A section of the participants at the programme

Prof Addai Mensah further emphasised that KATH over the years has failed to optimise the use of this rich human resource through the lack of formal platform such as this forum to deliberately involve, consult and engage its large group of senior specialists and consultants in the design of strategies towards the effective attainment of its mandate.



A section of the participants at the programme

“Senior specialist and consultants occupy positions of considerable responsibility as they provide the leadership and mentorship required in the expert management of complex medical cases and provision of other sub-specialist clinical services. It is, therefore, in the strategic interest of management to create a formal platform for regular engagements with them for the purposes of promoting a culture of consensus building, inclusive decision-making and collective commitment to the continuous improvement in tertiary healthcare services at KATH”, he reiterated.



A section of the participants at the programme

The forum discussed topics such as “Post Graduate Medical Education at KATH: The Key Issues” and “Creating an Enabling Environment towards a Research Driven Service Delivery: The Role of KATH Institutional



Prof. Sampson Antwi, Head of Child Health Directorate, speaking at the programme

Review Board (IRB)” which were presented by Prof. Sampson Antwi, Head of Child Health Directorate and Prof. Kwabena Danso, Chairman of KATH IRB respectively.



Prof. Kwabena Danso, Chairman of KATH IRB, doing his presentation at the programme

Prof. Daniel Ansong, Dean of School of Medical Sciences and Dentistry (SMD) of KNUST moderated the panel discussion on the topic, “The State of Service Delivery at KATH: Practitioner’s Perspective”. Panelists for the topic discussion included, Dr. R.E Larsen-Reindorf, O&G Directorate, Prof. Stephen Sarfo, Medicine Directorate and Dr. Mrs. Badu Peprah, Radiology Directorate. The rest were Prof. Joseph Yorke, Surgery Directorate and Dr. Anthony Enimil of the Directorate of Child Health.



From left to right: Dr. R.E Larsen-Reindorf, Dr. Anthony Enimil, Dr. Mrs. Badu Peprah, Prof. Daniel Ansong (moderator), Prof. Joseph Yorke and Prof. Stephen Sarfo during the panel discussion

Among the key recommendations made to improve the operations of the hospital were the need for management to appoint postgraduate training coordinators for the directorates to enhance residency training and improve intra and inter discipline communication and teamwork. The provision of offices and rest rooms for senior specialists and consultants to encourage them to stay at post when on duty, strengthening the Research and Development Unit and setting up of a fund to facilitate research activities at the hospital were also highlighted. The need to improve ICT infrastructure and rectify the defects in the Electronic Medical Records System (EMRS), procurement of additional medical equipment and the development of standard of care policy and protocol were also stressed.



Amb. Nana Effah-Apenteng, Board Chairman delivering his closing remarks at the ceremony

The KATH Board Chairman, Ambassador Nana Effah-Apenteng, who also chaired the forum described it as an eye-opener and charged management to submit a comprehensive report, including an implementation plan, to the Board. This was to guide the execution of all the key decisions that were taken at the forum.

The forum was attended by members of the KATH Board, Directors, Deputy Directors and over 150 Senior Specialist and Consultants in the hospital.

Story by: Ms. Ama Poma Adu-Pakoh & Mr. Eric Anyimadu

Check your baby's HEARING
within 7 days of birth

A2 Discharge room
Monday - Friday
9 a.m - 12 noon

KATH RESEARCH PUBLICATION

Study Title: "The Health Caregivers Did Not Care about Me after the Loss": Maternal Experiences of Perinatal Loss in the Kumasi Metropolitan Area, Ghana

Date of Publication Online: 19th June, 2023

Authors: **Bridget Amankwah**, Mary Ani-Amponsah, Mustapha Mahama, Alberta Gyepi-Garbrah, Doris Richardson, Olivia Nyarko Mensah, Hannah Acquah, Dzigbordi Kpikpitse, Rasheed Ofoosu-Poku

KATH Authors: Bridget Amankwah and Rasheed Ofoosu-Poku

Directorates of Authors: Child Health and Family Medicine

Publication Type: Original Article

Study Site: Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital

Journal (Impact Factor): Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care (0.427)

DOI: [10.1080/15524256.2023.2220078](https://doi.org/10.1080/15524256.2023.2220078)

Study Abstract: One of the common undesirable outcomes of pregnancy is perinatal loss. Healthcare systems strive to reduce the incidence of perinatal loss but typically little attention is on the experiences of bereaved mothers following perinatal loss, particularly in low and middle-income countries where such deaths are common. This research explored the lived experiences of mothers with perinatal loss in the Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana. A qualitative design was used to explore the experiences of nine (9) bereaved mothers from the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital's postnatal ward and the Mother and Baby Unit. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured interview guide, audio-recorded, and thematically analysed. One major finding was that mothers refrained from prolonged mourning of their dead babies based on traditional beliefs on fear of recurrent perinatal loss and delayed return to fertility. Mothers blamed healthcare providers for their loss due to their concerns about the level of care received. Gaps in communication flow from healthcare professionals to bereaved mothers were commonly identified as mothers struggled to make meaning of their loss and cope with cultural restrictions and beliefs. Healthcare professionals must explore mothers' concerns and "gut-feelings", and pay attention to their communication needs following perinatal loss.



Rasheed Ofoosu-Poku and Bridget Amankwah

Plain Language Summary: This research looked at the experiences of mothers who had lost their babies during or shortly after pregnancy in Kumasi, Ghana. Pregnancy loss is a common and sad event, and hospitals try to pre-vent it. However, not much attention is given to how mothers feel after losing a baby.

The researchers talked to nine mothers who had lost their babies at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi. They used interviews to collect information and then studied what the mothers said. They found that many mothers didn't express their sadness because they were afraid of losing another baby or because of traditional beliefs on prolonged mourning which may lead to delayed fertility. Additionally, some of the mothers blamed the doctors and nurses for the loss of their babies because they thought they didn't get good care.

The researchers also saw that there were problems with how doctors and nurses talked to the mothers. The mothers had a hard time understanding why their babies had died especially those who lost their babies in utero, and they had to deal with their cultural beliefs and rules. The major reason being lack of communication on the part of healthcare providers on the causes, risk factors, prevention and the unavailability of a system to support grieving mothers. The researchers say that healthcare workers should listen to what mothers say and make sure to communicate with them better after a pregnancy loss.

Compiled by: Dr. Evans Ansu-Yeboah - Head R&D

KATH BOARD ROUNDS IN PICTURES

The Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital's (KATH) Board as part of its plans to acquaint itself with the operational challenges and achievements of the various units and directorates of the hospital has been embarking on monthly tours of the facility.



Members of the Board at the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) Directorate

Directorates already visited by members of the Board are Emergency Medicine, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT), Medicine and Oncology. Among the major issues identified during these visits were shortage of nursing staff, congestion as a result of lack of space, ageing and deteriorating infrastructure, obsolete and inadequate equipment, high operational cost and power fluctuations among others.



Members of the Board at the Oncology Directorate



Members of the Board at the Medicine Directorate

Ambassador Nana Effah-Apenteng, chairman of the KATH Board who had been leading these visits said though a lot of investments have been made in upgrading the equipment and infrastructure base of the hospital it was obvious that given the pressure on the hospital a lot more was needed to be done. He pointed out that the Board has charged management to put in place a short, medium and long-term plan to address the various challenges identified.



Members of the Board at the Emergency Medicine Directorate

He urged the general public and corporate Ghana to support efforts by the Board and management to enhance the operational capacity of the hospital to enable it shoulder the tertiary healthcare burden of the people in this part of the country.

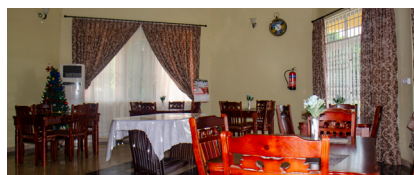
Story by Mr. Kwame Frimpong



External view of the Guest House



Comfortable waiting area



Spacious dining area



Fully air-conditioned and disability friendly bedrooms

KATH GUEST HOUSE

The KATH Guest House has the following services and amenities:

- Bed & Breakfast
- DSTV
- Catering Services
- Free WiFi
- Free private parking
- Spacious compound for outdoor programmes
- 24-hr security

For reservations, please call

The manager on **0244613416/0322190866**

Email: kathguesthouse@gmail.com

kathguesthouse@kath.gov.gh

Digital address: **AK-061-9924**

Location: Danyame, near Ridge School

JOYFUL SEPARATIONS

The Editorial Board wishes to congratulate all the underlisted members of staff on their years of great service to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and wish them a deserving and happy retirement from active service, between July and September 2023.

- **SANI MOHAMMED**
Domestics
Head Cook
40.3 years of service
- **YANKSON SARAH**
Finance (Main Revenue)
Principal Accounts Officer
24 years of service
- **ESSIEN-JONES MICHEAL**
Security
Principal Security Guard
18.3 years of service
- **BRAIMAH ROSE**
Domestics
Head Orderly
40.2 years of service
- **ADDAI ADELAIDE**
Family Medicine
Head Orderly
40.1 years of service
- **ASSIBI AKPARIBO SAMUEL**
Anaesthesia
Chief Certified Registered
Anaesthetist
37.3 years of service

MEDICAL JOKES



PATIENT DESPERATE FOR FEEDBACK CALLS THE HOSPITAL

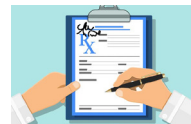
A man called up the hospital and said: "I want to know if the patient at the male ward, by name Amponsah, is getting better".



WHEN A SOCIOLOGY STUDENT MISTAKENLY SITS FOR A MEDICAL SCHOOL EXAMS

An aspiring sociology student attended a medical school exam by mistake. See the answers...

1. **Antibody** - One who hates his body.
2. **Artery** - Study of fine paintings.
3. **Bacteria** - Back door of a cafeteria.
4. **Coma** - Punctuation mark.
5. **Genes** - Blue denim.
6. **Labour Pain** - Hurt at work.
7. **Liposuction** - A french kiss.
8. **Ultrasound** - Radical sound.
9. **Cardiology** - Advanced study of playing cards
10. **Chicken Pox** - Chicken dish
11. **C.T. Scan** - Test for identifying person's city
12. **Radiology** - the study of how Radio works



DOCTOR'S "PRESCRIPTION" GONE WRONG
Patient: Doctor, the medicine you wrote on the left side of my prescription is not available in any pharmacy in Kumasi.

Doctor: oh!! That is not medicine. I was only trying to see if my pen was writing or not, just doodling.



THE DILEMMA OF FOUR FATHERS AT THE MATERNITY

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins."

"That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!"

A nurse says to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!"

"That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!"

A nurse tells the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!"

"That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!"



COLORECTAL SUB-SPECIALTY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME TAKES OFF AT KATH

The Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Ghana College of Physician and Surgeons (GCPS) and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), have formed a special partnership to develop Colorectal Surgery Fellowship programme at the hospital.

In pursuance of the above partnership, Prof. Jonathan Laryea, a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, USA, has paid a 10-day visit to the hospital to help train residents and build the capacity of local trainers for complex colorectal surgeries. He was accompanied by Dr. Alison Wenholz, a resident.

Prof. Laryea described his visit as very rewarding as he had gained a new level of respect for the surgeons at the hospital.



Prof. Laryea, a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, USA

“Our future plan is to have our specialists and consultants come in from time to time to help mentor the people here at KATH and hopefully we will be able to build that capacity in a very short time so that we would have fully trained colorectal surgeons in the country”, Prof. Laryea added.

Prof. Laryea also donated medical consumables worth over Ten Thousand United States Dollars (\$10,000.00) to the Surgery Directorate of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) to help improve colorectal surgery services at the hospital. He said he was going to try to mobilise more medical supplies for the hospital in order to make the burden of expanding access to specialist colorectal surgery services a little lighter.



Dr. Kwadwo Sarbeng, Medical Director (left) and Dr. Dally (right) receiving the medical consumables donated by Prof. Laryea


The items included sutures, surgical mesh, dermabond, rigid protoscopes, lone star retractors, colostomy supplies, long diathermy tips, laparoscopic clip applicators, and laparoscopic trocars among others.

Dr. Kwadwo Sarbeng, Medical Director, who received the donation on behalf of management, thanked Prof. Laryea for his kind gesture and skills shared with the surgical residents at the hospital. He pledged management’s continuous support for the partnership as it will help to improve specialist colorectal surgical services in the country.

Dr. Charles Dally, Head of Surgery Directorate, on his part was grateful to Prof. Laryea and Dr. Alison Wenholz, his surgery resident, for helping to advance the establishment of the colorectal surgery sub-specialty at KATH and hoped that the programme would be sustained in the years ahead. He said, the other institution chosen by the GCPS for the training programme is Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH).

“For the past few days, we have engaged in a number of surgeries and it has all been successful thanks to the support of the team from the University of Arkansas” he concluded.

Story by: Mr. Kwame Frimpong



TRANSFUSION MEDICINE UNIT
SPECIAL BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

PATIENTS CANNOT WAIT FOR BLOOD
DO WALK IN TO DONATE BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES
or CALL 050 887 4351

Transfusion Medicine Unit - KATH

POWER CHAPEL DONATES TO KATH



Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah (right) receiving the donation from Mrs. Anita Kusi Boateng

The General Overseer of the Power Chapel Worldwide, Prophet Victor Kusi Boateng, has donated 2,000 bedsheets, 4,000 pillow cases, 15 baby digital weighing scales, four patient monitors and a cash amount for the payment of bills of poor patients who were unable to settle their hospital bills.

Mrs. Anita Kusi Boateng, wife of the Prophet who presented the items on behalf of her husband, stated that it was to mark the celebration of the birthday of the Prophet and also to honour and support his "spiritual" son, Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah, CEO of KATH. The donation is estimated at Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (Ghc500,000.00).

"My husband, Prophet Kusi Boateng does these donations to orphanages and deprived communities anytime he is celebrating his birthday and was hopeful that the donation will help lessen the burden on the shoulders of the health facility and also cater for the bills of persons who do not have money to pay their bills", Mrs Kusi Boateng stated.

Receiving the items, Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah thanked Prophet Kusi Boateng for the gesture.

He noted that KATH was largely reliant on Internally Generated Funds (IGF) for its operations and donations like what Prophet Kusi Boateng had done serves as a relief to the hospital.



Members of the Global Health and Infectious Group (GHIG) and KATH management in a group picture after the donation

GLOBAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS GROUP (GHIG) AT KUMASI CENTRE FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH (KCCR) SUPPORTS KATH

The Global Health and Infectious Group (GHIG), a research group at the KCCR, has donated ventilators and 13 boxes of medical consumables to the Emergency Medicine Directorate of the hospital.

The research group, led by Dr. John Amuasi, made the presentation of the items to the CEO of KATH, Prof Otchere Addai-Mensah.

Dr. Amuasi, said the ventilators and consumables were part of equipment provided for the research during the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent, with Ghana as the focal point and KATH as a major study site.

The CEO was grateful to the group and called for more of such research collaborations to deepen the existing relations and promote similar projects.



Ms. Patience Ehuron, Nurse Manager, Child Health Directorate, in a handshake with Dr. Ulzen Jacob, President the Kumasi Royal Lions after the donation

KUMASI ROYAL LIONS CLUB DONATES MEDICAL ITEMS TO KATH

The Kumasi Royal Lions Club, an international service organisation, has donated chemotherapy chairs, examination tables and walking aids among others estimated at Twelve Thousand United State Dollars (\$12,000.00) to the Paediatric Oncology Unit of the hospital.

Dr. Ulzen Jacob, President of the club explained that the donation was in response to a special request made by the unit during previous visit by the club.

Dr. Jacob said it was the expectation of members that the donated items would go a long way to support the hospital improve specialist care for paediatric oncology patients.

The head of the Paediatric Oncology Unit, Dr. Mrs. Vivian Paintsil, expressed her profound gratitude to the Lions Club for the gesture and support over the years.

KATH NURSE PhD HOLDER *cont'd from page 1*

history when she became the first nurse at the hospital to attain a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Public Health from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in 2023.



Dr. Akua Kusiwaa Karikari at work

Dr. Karikari holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and Psychology from the University of Ghana, Legon in 2001, and a Master of Science in Health Services Planning and Management (2010) and a Diploma in Emergency Nursing (2014) from KNUST.

She is a Registered Nurse (RN) and an examiner for Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (GCNM).

Dr. Karikari is a Fellow at the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (FGCNM) and a proud member of the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA), Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), African Federation of Emergency Medicine (AFEM) and Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana (EMSOG).



Dr. Karikari attending to a patient at the Eye Clinic

She is an experienced Emergency Nurse practitioner with years of knowledge in managing emergencies, health promotion and maintenance of the well-being of clients.

Dr. Karikari joined the hospital in 2008 as a Nursing Officer and by dint of hardwork rose to become a Nurse Manager for the Family Medicine Directorate in 2016. She was reassigned to the Medicine Directorate in 2018 as the Nurse Manager and is currently occupying the same position at the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) Directorate of the hospital.

Dr. Karikari said that her professional philosophy is to use every clinical care interaction to promote positive patient outcomes.

She said that she was determined to use her new academic achievement to contribute to the development of nursing practice through research and teaching to impact positively on the nursing profession.

The Editorial Board has the singular honor to congratulate Dr. Akua Kusiwaa Karikari on her uncommon feat and hope that it will inspire other up and coming nurses to follow similar academic pursuit for improved clinical outcomes, training and research.

YOU AND YOUR HEALTH *cont'd from page 7*

When you want to get pregnant, please have a discussion with your healthcare provider so you can be counselled accordingly.

Ms Jenny: Please I am a staff of this hospital and I am concerned about the stigma I would face as I come to the clinic and join the queue and also to pick up my medications. Can anything be done about that?

Dr. Hardy: That is quite understandable. You can be assured of uttermost privacy and confidentiality. Plans are even underway to start ART delivery services in the later part of the year, so you can even stay in the comfort of your home and receive your medications at an affordable fee.

Ms Jenny: Thank you very much Doc, I appreciate the time you have spent explaining things to me. I feel calmer and hopeful now.

Dr. Hardy: You are very welcome. Please always remember to take your ART religiously as prescribed. Secondly, keep in mind the modes of transmission I spoke about earlier and take precautions to avoid transmitting the infection.

Ms Jenny: I shall. Thanks again!

KATH CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING RESEARCH PROJECTS

To foster a culture of evidence-based practice and celebrate groundbreaking research, the Research and Development (R&D) Unit of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) successfully organized its maiden Research Dissemination Day on 19th July, 2023. The event was held under the theme “Translating Research into Evidence-Based Practice at KATH”, as part of the celebration of this year’s World Research Dissemination Day at the hospital.

The event demonstrated the hospital’s dedication to nurturing a research-driven environment, where collaboration and innovation converge to elevate healthcare standards. As KATH continues to inspire and support research endeavours, it reaffirms its position as a trailblazing medical institution in Ghana.

The day was marked by an impressive array of research presentations and poster displays, showcasing the diverse and impactful research conducted within the hospital. There was a total of 14 oral research presentations and four poster displays. The enthusiastic audience engaged in vibrant discussions of the presentations and posters, fostering an environment of knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

Special awards were presented for works adjudged by a scientific jury to be of outstanding quality. The Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Yaw Opare Larbi, was joined by Dr. Evans Ansu-Yeboah, the Head of the Research and Development Unit, to present the awards to deserving presenters.

The awardees were:

Best Poster

Title: Frequency of alcohol use among injured adult patients presenting to a Ghanaian emergency department

Authors: Paa Kobina Forson *et al*

Presented by: Dr. Kwame Akrasi

Directorate: Emergency Medicine



Dr. Akosua Afriyie-Ansah receiving the award from the Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Yaw Opare Larbi on behalf of the team. Looking on are Dr. Evans Ansu Yeboah, Head, R&D (left) and Dr. Joseph Bonney, conference moderator (right)

Best Research Contribution

Title: Because of them I will never give up: Perspective of patients receiving specialist palliative care in the Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana

Authors: Ms. Gladys Anyane *et al*

Presented by: Ms. Gladys Anyane

Directorate: Family Medicine



Ms. Gladys Anyane receiving the award from the Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Yaw Opare Larbi on behalf of the team

Best Oral Presentation

Title: Characteristics and outcomes of geriatric injuries presenting to an urban emergency department in Ghana

Author: Dr Hussein Yakubu

Presented by: Dr Hussein Yakubu

Directorate: Emergency Medicine



Dr Hussein Yakubu receiving his award from the Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Yaw Opare Larbi

People’s Choice Award

Title: Occurrence of thunderstorm asthma in Ashanti Region: Implications of climate phenomenon for health

Authors: Dr. Joshua Arthur *et al*

Presented by: Dr. Birgit Agyeiwaah Baah

Unit: Public Health



Dr. Birgit Agyeiwaah Baah receiving the award from the Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Yaw Opare Larbi on behalf of the team

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prof. Otchere Addai-Mensah, who graced the occasion reiterated that research was one of the core mandates of the hospital. He said management was committed to creating an enabling environment for the conduct of research because it can positively impact the delivery of cost-effective specialist care and training.

The occasion was heavily patronised by research scientists and health professionals, both in-person and virtually, from within and outside of the hospital.

Compiled by: Dr. Evans Ansu-Yeboah - Head R&D