



PNO Enyo Bosumprah wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Principal Nursing Officer, (PNO) Enyo Asi Bosumprah of the Paediatric Oncology Unit won the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award (Nursing Category) at the 14th Congress of SIOP Africa 2022 in Uganda.

Her award was in recognition of her dedicated service in Paediatric Oncology including the training of nurses

PNO Bosumprah was part of the committee that drafted the International Nursing Basic Standards several years ago.

She has been a board member of the International Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) Nursing Group since 2019 and has made several oral presentations at SIOP congresses over the years.

PNO Bosumprah is known in the international nursing community and also consulted on issues relating to paediatric oncology nursing in Africa.

Brief Profile

PNO madam Bosumprah was born in Ada-Fish on May 6, 1973 at Peki Adzokoe. She had her secondary school education at Peki Secondary School and her Sixth form at Ola Secondary School, all in the Volta Region.

She had her tertiary education at the University of Ghana, Legon where she graduated with a degree in Nursing Psychology.

She was employed at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in 2003 and posted to Child Health Department in 2004 as an Oncology nurse.

Madam Enyo has been practising as a paediatric nurse for close to 19 years. Her hobbies are dancing and listening to music.

Korle Bu Gains Accreditation to Begin Emergency Medicine Residency Training

The Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in April gained accreditation to commence Emergency Medicine Residency training programme.

With this milestone, the Hospital becomes the second in Ghana, after Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, to undertake residency training in Emergency Medicine.

For the first intake, three (3) membership residents and four (4) fellowship residents are to undergo the training.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah, was very happy for the commencement of the programme.



From the front row; KBTH CEO (Middle), other directors of the Hospital, leadership and trainees from the Gh. College with the new medical officers to undergo the training (second row).

He noted that it was a notable achievement because "training is based on practicality and looking at the number of cases that comes to the hospital, it is only right that we have the training here".

Dr. Ampomah said the training should not end with medical doctors alone but nurses and all other related healthcare providers needed to make Emergency Medical care successful should be trained to an equal level to facilitate the work.

He thanked the President of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS), Chairman of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine, Rector of GCPS and other members of the College for their input in making the Hospital's wish a reality, adding "Dr. Kwarteng's visionary leadership and the support from Dr. Ali Samba, the Director of Medical Affairs, has brought us where we are today".

In his welcome address, the head of Accident & Emergency Department, Dr. Frederick Kwarteng said it had been the dream of the department to commence Emergency Medicine Residency training since Korle Bu was the home of medical training in Ghana.

He said "initially Doctors who desired training in Emergency Medicine had to go to Kumasi for the training so it was time for Ghana's premier teaching hospital to be accredited for the residency training."

The Chairman of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine at GCPS, Dr. George Oduro noted that the training was going to be more innovative, employing non-technical surgical skills, which focuses on the relationship between team members in patient care.

The Rector of the College, Professor Richard Adanu promised to make available trainers, with the requisite qualification, to guide and impart the needed skills to the resident doctors undergoing training.

He therefore urged the trainees to apply themselves to the course and make a mark, adding, "we want to see a difference, we wouldn't want someone to say that the training is not working."

The Hospital's Director of Medical Affairs, Dr. Ali Samba could also not hide his excitement over the training. He promised to provide the needed support for the successful rollout and sustainability of the training.

Visit By Royal College of Emergency Medicine

A team from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine in the United Kingdom and the Ghana College of Physicians Surgeons (GCPS) later visited Korle Bu to build capacity for trainees undergoing the Emergency Medicine training programme and to inspect facilities at the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department.



The Team met the Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah, who noted that the highest standard will be applied to make Korle Bu's Emergency Medicine training programme successful.

The representatives from the Royal College were Dr. Giles Cattermole and Ms Elizabeth Goldsmith. They were both happy to assist in rolling out the programme and promised their readiness to provide the necessary support to ensure Korle Bu's success.

The Team, led by the Head of A&E Department, Dr. Frederick Kwarteng, toured and interacted with trainees and staff at the Department.



FATHER OF ORTHOPAEDICS TRAINING IN GH. CHALKS 90YRS

March 8th marked the 90th birthday of Dr. Bernhardt Ago Sowa Kuma, who is considered the father of Orthopaedics training in Ghana.



At a point in the 1980's, Dr. Kuma was the only Orthopaedics surgeon at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

So far, he has trained most Orthopaedics surgeons in Ghana.



In commemoration of Dr. Benhardt A.S. Kuma's birthday, doctors at the various units of the Surgical Department took memorial pictures to mark his affiliation with the hospital.



TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS DEPARTMENT HONOURS RETIREES AND HARDWORKING STAFF

The Trauma and Orthopaedic Department honoured and awarded retirees and some staff who worked hard in 2021.

The retirees who were honoured were, Mary Ocquaye, Elizabeth Abbey, Joana Addo, Patience Kukubor and Doris Aryeetey.

The following were also awarded for their hardwork and contribution to the growth of the department in 2021.



From left: Achena Baba Felicity (Accounts), Roberta Neequaye (Orderly), William Afful (Pharmacist), DCNO Dora Maa Adei Kotey (Nurse) Dr. Emmanuel Andzie Mensah (Medical Doctor), Constance Akosua Agyapomaa (Human Resource), Dartey Divine Elemawusi (Nurse).

LORD PAUL BOATENG & GH. INT. BANK BRIGHTENS PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY WARD

Lord Paul Boateng, a member of the House of Lords in the United Kingdom and the Ghana International Bank brought tears to staff and patients at the Paediatric Oncology ward when they commissioned their refurbished ward.

As a person devoted to charity, development, governance and issues of the youth in Africa, Lord Boateng felt it was imperative to provide children living with cancer a spacious environment of their own where they can play and undergo treatment as well - being blissfully unaware of their disease.

He noted that the project will have a huge impact in the delivery of care for staff and patients at the Unit. Lord Paul Boateng, in his address commended Management of the Hospital for maximising the funds donated for the project.

He congratulated staff at the Paediatric Oncology Unit for their commitment especially during the height of the covid pandemic, adding, “this is a huge achievement and we are grateful”.

He said the refurbishment was the Team's way of fulfilling their philanthropic activities and corporate social responsibility.

Professor Awo Renner, head of Paediatric Oncology Unit thanked the team for putting smiles on the faces of the children.

She noted that the new ward will further enhance care delivery for the children and appealed for support to expand the ward.



Lord Paul Boateng, accompanied by his wife, Lady Janet Boateng, have collaborated with the Board of Trustees of the Ghana International Bank to make this project come to fruition.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah, Chief Executive of the Hospital, noted that the gesture by the honourable member and the Bank was a worthy example for others to follow.

“You don’t live here in Ghana, none of your children live here but you haven’t forgotten your roots and you felt you needed to do something”, Dr. Ampomah said.



Presenting a citation on behalf of staff at the Ward to Lord Paul Boateng, the head of Child Health Department, Professor Christabel Enworenu Laryea, said they were grateful to him for fulfilling his promise to support.

“You came, you saw, you acted and we are very very grateful”, she said, adding, “you made a difference”.

Present at the occasion were Directors, some Deputy Directors and departmental heads of the Hospital.

The team from Ghana International Bank included Mr. Dear Adansi (Chief Executive), Mr. Raymond Sambou (Deputy CEO) and Sundeep Bhandari, Calum Thompson (both Board of Trustees of the Bank).



PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT GETS NEW COMPLEX WITH CONSULTING ROOMS

The Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital has commended the Head of the Psychiatry Department, Prof. Angela Ofori-Atta, for her remarkable and active role in the construction of a new building for her department.



He called on others to emulate the shining example of Prof. Ofori-Atta in mobilizing resources from philanthropic individuals and organisations for the construction of the new building.

Dr. Ampomah made these remarks at a ceremony to hand over the first phase of the construction of rooms and office complex for the Psychiatry Department of the Hospital.

In his address, Dr. Ampomah stated that “the essence of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not not hope to sit”.

The CEO also applauded the contractors of the project for the speed with which the first phase was completed without any time over runs, and further urged them to execute the second phase with the same speed and quality.

The Provost of the College of the Health Sciences of the University of Ghana, Prof. Julius Fobil, also applauded the Head of Department for her vision and hard work.

He said he was proud to be part of the efforts in the construction of the edifice.

The Director of Medical Affairs of Korle Bu, Dr. Ali Samba, stated that the new building had not only changed the face of the Psychiatry Department of Korle Bu, but it will help in reducing the stigma that some people associate with mental health.

He urged the contractors to complete the second phase on time to enable the department to provide enhanced services to patients in a congenial environment.

The head of the Department, thanked the Hospital’s board and management for their support in the successful completion of the first phase.

This support, she noted, was vital in the successful execution of the first phase for the project.

Prof. Ofori-Atta disclosed that they will immediately move to occupy the offices and consulting rooms to enable the contractors start work on the second phase.

The new edifice is a one-storey building with six consulting rooms on the ground floor and six offices at the first floor for senior members.

Dignitaries and other staff members present at the handing over ceremony were Dr. Daniel Ankrah, Director of Pharmacy, Mr. Addo-Yobo, Director of General Services, Prof. Charles Mate Kole; a Neuropsychologist, Dr. Delali Fiagbey, Rev. Fr. Micheal Akpaloo and staff of the Psychiatry Department.



LADY JANET & A FRIEND PRESENT BOOKS AND CAKES TO CHILDREN

True to her commitment to raising funds for the Paediatric Oncology Unit, Lady Janet Boateng visited the ward with Mrs Adomakoh, a business partner, to interact with staff and patients there.

Lady Janet had promised during the commissioning of the refurbished Paediatric Oncology Ward to look for sponsors to expand the ward.



Mrs Najat Adomakoh (right) presenting a book to a patient. With her are Lady Janet and Prof. Renner



The head of the Paediatric Oncology Unit, Prof. Awo Renner received the guests and briefed them on their activities.

Mrs. Adomakoh presented books and also shared some homemade cakes she had prepared for the visit.

GRIDCO DONATES TWO MEDICAL DRILLING MACHINES TO TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS DEPARTMENT.

Ghana Grid Company Ltd (GRIDCo) has donated two medical drilling machines to the Trauma and Orthopaedics Department to aid in orthopaedic surgery. The team was led by the Director for Strategy and Corporate Services, Mr. Kofi Okofu Darteh; Dir. Strategy and Corporate Services,

Dr. Frederick Kwarteng, Head of the department, received the items and noted that, the gesture from GRIDCo had come to save a dying need for the department. He said the machines will go a long way to help them during surgeries.

Dr. Daniel Ankrah, Director of Pharmacy, representing the CEO, thanked the team from GRIDCO.

The team also pledged that they will continue to support the Hospital in diverse ways.

Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCo) is the lead power transmission company in Ghana which transmits power to the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG).



KBTH CEO CALLS FOR ENGAGEMENT AMONGST TEACHING HOSPITALS

The Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah, has called for greater collaboration and engagement amongst Teaching Hospitals rather than perceiving each other as competitors in the health sector.

Dr. Opoku Ware made these remarks at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital's 2021 Annual Performance Review in Kumasi.

The event was on the theme: “Building a Resilient & Affordable Healthcare System: the Role of Hospital and Healthcare Practitioner”.

“There should be a system of collaboration to build capacity. This will ensure that when there is a problem in one area, a sister hospital can assist”, he noted.

Dr. Ampomah acknowledged the fact that the current reporting system makes it impossible to showcase the unique contributions of Teaching Hospitals in the national scheme of things. This phenomenon, he said, has affected the deployment of resources for the teaching hospitals.

“I believe that this is the time that we must speak with one voice and I am glad that our sister institutions are here. We need to support all these institutions to become stronger and better”, he stated.

Dr. Ampomah also identified partnership in the area of research where teaching hospitals can have a pool of data, which, when available would enhance service delivery. He also touched on plans to harmonize

costing in terms of service in all teaching hospitals, because they have operations in common.

“In the area of trying to make healthcare affordable, there is room for us to undertake things such as Pool Procurement. This is because there are certain input all of us are using. So if we standardize these things and have a pool, I think that would be a stronger force and serve as more bargaining power in the market place”, Dr. Opoku Ware advised.

He revealed that plans are far advanced in terms of data reporting known as Teaching Hospitals Management Information Systems (THIMS) so that they can report appropriately.



K'BU RECEIVES BULBS TO IMPROVE ITS LIGHTING SYSTEM

Alpha Limited and officials from the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) donated 200 LED bulbs to improve the Hospital's internal lighting.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hospital, Dr Opoku Ware Ampomah; the Director of General Services, Mr. Addo-Yobo and Mr. Brakatu (Head of Electrical Unit) received the items on behalf of the Hospital.

Dr. Ampomah thanked the Group for the presentation and hoped that they will also assist Management improve the Hospital's external lighting system for the safety of staff and clients.

The Director of Alpha Limited, Mr. P. Ravichandraw and officials from ECG promised to prioritise the Hospital's request as part of their corporate social responsibility.



EMMANUEL ALLOTEY-ANNAN IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF HASAG-K'BU

The Health Accounting Staff Association of Ghana, KBTH (HASAG-K'BU), in March elected Mr. EMMANUEL ALLOTEY-ANNAN as its President.



PRESIDENT OF HASAG-K'BU

Mr. Emmanuel Allotey-Annan emerged the President-elect for the Association with 116 votes out of 235 total valid votes cast. His closest contender for the position was Mr. Ibrahim Abu-Jajah, who polled 93 votes.

Other contestants for the post of President; Mr. Christopher K. Kumapley polled 17 votes while Mr. Jehu Eric Eleblu got 6 votes. For the post of Vice President, Mr. Michael Adom Bigah garnered 139 vote to beat his close contender Maurinus Kwesi Atisu, who polled 96 votes.

The Secretary's position was keenly contested between two candidates, Regina Adjei and Emmanuel Tetteh. Regina Adjei won by 139 while Emmanuel Tetteh polled 90 votes. Five other executive positions were contested unopposed with Mr David Yamoah receiving about 89.7% endorsement as Financial Secretary.



Mr. Godfred Bonsu received 93.1% endorsement for the post of Organizer. The Public Relations Officer went to Nana Esi Fosu with 90.3% endorsement. Madam Jessica Martey Commodore emerged the Women's Commissioner-elect, polling 93.1% of the valid vote cast. Welfare Officer went to Mr. Stephen Addei, who pulled 91.6% endorsement.

The new executives for Hasag-K' Bu are:

1. Mr. Emmanuel Allotey-Annan—President
2. Michael Adom Bigah—Vice President,
3. Regina Adjei—Secretary
4. Richard Lord Lamptey—Vice Secretary
5. David Yamoah—Financial Secretary
6. Godfred Bonsu—Organizer
7. Nana Esi Fosu—Public Relations Officer
8. Jessica Martey Commodore—Women's Commissioner
9. Stephen Addei—Welfare officer

Per HASAG's constitution if no petition is brought before the election committee challenging the credibility, transparency and fairness of the polls within 24-hours of declared results, the said executives stand duly and validly elected. Although keenly contested, the elections was generally smooth and incident-free with no incidents of violence recorded.

Members comported themselves throughout the process, even though the atmosphere was tense with anxiety, expectation and perspiring contenders

Congratulations to the New Officers and the entire HASAG membership.



The new Executives

Surgical Block Receives a Facelift

The Hospital's Surgical Block is undergoing external rehabilitation works. The project was handed over to Catalan Ghana Ltd in February to give the Department a facelift.

Dr Frederick Kwarteng, the Chairman of the committee overseeing the project, together with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Opoku Ware Ampomah, officially handed over the site to the contractors at a short event.

In a statement, Dr Kwarteng said the renovation was in line with the CEO's vision to restore the deteriorating infrastructures of the Hospital to their former glory.

He thanked the CEO for giving the Committee the task of ensuring that the Surgical block is given a facelift.

Dr Ampomah, in his address, said the Hospital was one of the best in Africa in terms of medical know-how and expertise thus, our infrastructure must be brought to par to improve the delivery of healthcare to patients.

Dr. Ampomah added that this drive would restore the confidence of patients in the Hospital and help staff work more efficiently and effectively.

The Surgical project is expected to last three (3) months with periodic maintenance and review spanning a further six (6) months.

The renovation works includes painting, replacement of nets, masonry and external works among others.

The project contractors were grateful for the trust reposed in them. They assured the Management that quality would not be compromised and they would deliver an excellent job within the time frame.

The Team, led by the CEO and other Directors toured other on-going projects within the Hospital including the new Urology & Nephrology Centre, expansions works at the Psychiatry Sub-BMC, the Isolation & Treatment Centre and the new Oxygen Plant.

World Bank Veep Visits Korle Bu



The Western and Central Africa Vice President of the World Bank, Mr. Ousmane Diagana in February this year visited the Hospital to assess some projects being financed by the Bank.

Accompanied by the Minister of Health, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, the Hospital's Chief Executive and Management, Mr. Diagana toured the Infectious Diseases project and the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre.

Mr Diagana was pleased with the progress of work at the Infectious Diseases Centre and activities at the Vaccination Centre.

He mentioned that the World Bank had undertaken several projects to support countries in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He further stated that the projects being undertaken in Korle Bu were the Bank's way of supporting the government's effort at combating the pandemic.

Mr. Diagana thanked Management and staff of the Hospital for the enormous work done to save lives during the peak of the pandemic in Ghana.

He urged the contractors to complete work quickly to enhance patient care.

The Minister of Health was grateful to the World Bank for continually supporting African countries to accelerate economic growth.

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Opoku Ware Ampomah, said Korle Bu had a highly skilled and competent workforce despite the Hospital's infrastructural and logistical challenges.

He added that the Hospital would continue to lead in the provision of medical care with the requisite support and partnership.



“STOP APPLYING BATTERY SOLUTIONS FOR TOOTH ACHE” — DR. R.N.A.T. DAWSON (DENTAL SURGEON).

A senior Dental Surgeon and the Focal Person of Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) at the Dental Department, Dr. R.N.A.T. Dawson has cautioned patients to as a matter of urgency desist from using battery acid, concoctions and herbs for the treatment of their oral health problems.



Dr. Dawson stressed that the whole mouth and facial region often became ulcerated after infections tracked into spaces and that could later lead to death. “In this age, you still find people who would have a toothache and would sit and apply battery acid, concoctions and insert all sort of tablets into the cavity till the whole place becomes swollen, and then becomes ulcerated” she added.



March 20, each year is “World Oral Health Day” and is set aside to simply create awareness on Oral health issues and empower the public through education, to help them make the right choices together with the Dentist to achieve optimal Oral Health.

This year’s event which was on the theme: Be Proud of Your Mouth, was a Dental Department initiative (New Allied Sub BMC) with support from Ghana Dental Association and Unilever Ghana Limited who provided Pepsodent toothbrushes and toothpastes.

A free Dental outreach was organized for Korle Bu staff and residents of Korle Gonno to commemorate the event and also to serve as the Hospital’s Corporate Social Responsibility.

Dr. Dawson was pleased with the turn out of the events but She however bemoaned the paucity of logistics and finances as the major hindrance in organizing such an exercise. “If we had more logistics and consumables we could even go beyond 200 to even 500 people” she added.

Items such as collapsible mobile dental chairs are needed, if we want to go beyond extractions, it means that the mobile unit itself that houses the electrical connections for doing filling and cleaning would have to be rented, more canopies and chairs, gauze, local anesthetic agents, Dental syringes, forceps, elevators and many more” Dr. Dawson emphasized



Dr. R.N.A.T. Dawson revealed that Caries and Gum disease were two common cases diagnosed. She explained that people with carious teeth have pains on and off which they sometimes take analgesics to relieve and hence don’t bother to go for treatment, This ultimately would lead to full-blown infections and sometimes could cause death.

On Gum disease she opined that it causes people to lose their teeth and even in pregnant women some would lose a tooth with every pregnancy so this phenomenon shouldn’t be considered as normal but a diseased state of the gums.

She entreated all to visit a dentist every 6 months and not to wait until one experiences pain before because it might be too late. She further stressed the point that it’s much cheaper to maintain oral health than to cure diseases that arise .

PATIENTS RECEIVE FREE CORNEA TRANSPLANT SURGERIES

In April, Ophthalmologists from the Hospital's Eye Centre, in collaboration with colleagues from the Himalayan Cataract Project in the United States and the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital successfully performed free cornea transplant surgeries for eight (8) patients with eye problems.

The surgeries brings to 14, the total number of patients who have so far benefitted from the cornea transplant surgery project, which started last year. The last procedure took place in February, this year, with six beneficiary patients.

The procedure, without a donor costs between USD2000 to UDS4,300.

The *Korle Bu Bulletin* interviewed some patients who where billed to undergo the surgeries and they could not hide their excitement while undergoing pre-assessment.



Patients interviewed were optimistic of a successful operation. The father of a nine-year old boy, in an interview,

said he was looking forward to his son getting back his sight after the surgery.

He said his son, Ali, had lost sight in his left eye after a friend hit it with a stick. Another patient, Sandra, who shared her experience, said she had been referred to the Eye Centre due to an impairment in her right eye, which also caused her severe headaches but is being managed with medications also said "I am just looking forward for this surgery for my eye to be restored".

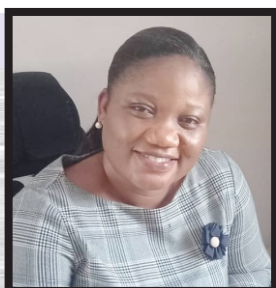
The free cornea transplant surgeries is as part of the Hospital's efforts to bring critical but expensive medical care to patients at an affordable cost.

It is also in fulfilment of the Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah's promise to provide the necessary support for more cornea transplant surgeries to be done in the Hospital after the maiden exercise.

(N.B: Pseudonyms have been used in the write-up for patient confidentiality)



PROFILE OF DEP. DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES



The new Deputy Director of General Services is Mrs Cynthia Fremah Gyakyee-Amenumey.

Before her appointment, she was the head of the Biomedical Engineering Unit.

Mrs Gyakyee-Amenumey has been a staff of the Hospital for over a two decades. She held the position of Medical Laboratory Technician in charge of the Department of Polyclinic/Family Medicine. Between 2010 and 2016, she was qualified as the Biomedical Engineer in charge of Life Support Equipment.

The new deputy director for General Services holds a Masters degree in Engineering Project Management from the Coventry

University, United Kingdom and attended All Nations University for her bachelor in Engineering (Biomedical Engineering) degree. She has also attended various training and workshops in furtherance of her work.

She is an old student of Krobo Girls Presbyterian Senior High in the Eastern Region.

Mrs Gyakyee-Amenumey is a self-motivated professional with proven organizational and interpersonal skills with a particular interest in Medical Device Technology Management and Support Technology. She is attentive to detail and with excellent communication skills, able to convey complex information clearly.

She is a team player, works well under pressure and achieves clients' deadlines.

KBTH SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDS MEDICAL OUTREACH TO THE SOCIETY

Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility has successfully organized free medical screening for residents of Korle Gonno, a suburb of Ablekuma-South.

The exercise, which attended to over 450 participants, was also in fulfilment of the Hospital's objective to provide accessible and quality health care to society.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, Dr. Opoku Ware Ampomah, in his welcome address to commence the exercise noted that Korle Bu had skilled medical personnel and it was important to extend a helping hand to those who could not afford such services.



Dr. Ampomah added that the outreach was also in line with Government's policy of universal healthcare coverage, adding "we are partnering with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the universal health coverage mantra that we seek becomes a reality".

"We have seen that a lot of young people with diabetes, hypertension among others which is on the rise and it is important that we go into our communities to do some screening programs so that it will be detected early for treatment", Dr Ampomah noted.



He appealed to other health facilities with the capacity to undertake medical outreaches not only for citizens within their operational areas but extend it to communities across the country.

He also thanked the pharmaceutical companies and other collaborators for their enormous support in making the outreach exercise in Korle Gonno a success.

The Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services (DNMS), Mrs. Rita Aryee, in an interview expressed satisfaction over the turn out.

"We did the sensitization and currently a lot of them have come", she said, adding that more residents had participated this time around than the previous outreach.

She therefore encouraged the adults to come along with their children whenever they go for such events.

Most participants interviewed expressed joy and gratitude to the hospital for the initiative. One interviewee said, "I am very happy they did this because it has really helped my little boy especially the free medication". "I was about to go to the hospital but decided to come here when I heard the announcement and I don't regret coming", another participant noted.

Another beneficiary of the outreach also said "the hospital has done very well, I went through the process and found out that I have early stages of diabetes so I have been referred to the main hospital for further management of the situation.



Services rendered at the Outreach included random blood sugar and fasting blood sugar checks, ENT services, malaria, BMI and infectious disease like HIV. Physicians were available to screen general medical conditions.

Representatives from the Pharmacy Department were on hand to give free medications prescribed for participants.

Korle Bu Teaching Hospital has over the years, been organising medical and surgical outreaches. Last year, staff of the Hospital, from different specialty areas, undertook 55 separate outreach activities across the country.

As the main referral centre in Ghana, Korle Bu will continue to conduct more of such events in hard to reach communities.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The writer Vicky Wireko



Reality zone

Korle Bu's path to fast recovery – My walk revelation

ON a self-imposed fact finding walk through the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) last Tuesday, I came out convinced that Ghana's premiere teaching hospital is fast on a path to full recovery.

The stranger in Ghana may ask, "Was KBTH ever sick?" Yes, it was at some stage. The hospital went through some bad patches over the years with some critical departments almost in a state of comatose.

Buildings were left dilapidated. Furniture in some clinics looked old and worn out. Patients had to constantly rely on third party services like x-rays, scans, laboratory and pharmacy and untidy environment where relatives made open spaces their rest places, sometimes with their mats.

There were no decent waiting areas for out-patients or visitors, no decent open spaces with benches and no decent snack bars or shops on site. In effect,

the hospital lacked the attraction and encouragement that gave hope.

Thanks to some dedicated medical personnel and administrators as well as corporate and individual benevolence, KBTH is gradually on its feet as my two hour walk-through confirmed.

Complaints desk

Today at KBTH, almost all the out-patient departments I visited had their unique public complaints booth or desk manned by a fully trained person whose job is to assist patients and visitors.

The idea I gathered was not only to assist but also to receive complaints to help monitor staff performance.

I tested it at Accidents and Emergencies Unit (A&E) as well as the Department of Medicals and Therapeutics (popularly known as Medicals).

While at the complaints

desk at the Department of Medicals, two things struck me. Beautifully listed are the services and clinics and modes of payment.

Appointment system

But also displayed is a phone number to call if one needed to see a doctor at their own convenience.

I learnt for the first time that at some departments, private medical services are available at the hospital on appointment basis for anyone who needs medical attention and is ready to pay extra to receive expedited service known as "Intra-mural".

So why is the hospital not hammering on this type of appointment system? Because, really, that is what many more patients paying consultation fees at private clinics are seeking for - convenience and quality

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As I walked away from the department, I admired the transformed state of the renovated structure, the dialysis centre, and the transformed grounds with benches for relaxation.

Korle Bu's path to fast recovery – My walk revelation

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consultation time for specialist care.

Countless times, people refer to KBTH as the last destination for various medical referrals because of the variety of specialists and equipment.

As I walked away from the department, I admired the transformed state of the renovated structure, the dialysis centre, and the transformed grounds with benches for relaxation.

Accidents & Emergencies

Many more positive impressions unfolded on my fact-finding walk about. My encounter at A&E was memorable as well. How could one overlook the fast and efficient manner two ambulance

cases were attended to while there?

Nurses are stationed right at the entrance of the A&E to receive emergency cases and rush them to triage section for necessary attendance before doctors come in.

One of the ambulances that came in was from Afigya Kwabre North Constituency with a little child accompanied by a relative. This child accidentally had his fingers trapped inside louver blades at home in Wa and got one of the fingers completely severed. He was rushed to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi where he was stabilised and then referred to KBTH for further care.

KBTH has indeed bounced back on the road to recover as I recollected my

experience decades ago as a young girl, when I was rushed to the same A&E after a road-traffic accident.

Electronic system

The paperless system in operation is commendable as well. I discovered that the days when one attended any of the clinics and had to go backward and forward with photocopying of one's NHIS and or hospital cards, pay for service before queuing to see a doctor are now shortened.

The much talked about paperless system is working. Today, at KBTH, patient's tests and other medical requests are all linked electronically to a patient's hospital card and a registered patient ID.

So if a patient needs x-ray, or lab tests, the minute the doctor makes that request, it goes directly to the "service provider".

Similarly, the x-ray or lab result is also fed directly to the doctor awaiting the patient's next appointment.

One cannot close the chapter on KBTH's road to recovery without commending the smart nurses' uniforms with their names and departments visibly embossed. As if to say, if you are not happy with a nurse, just note the name and department and report at the complaint desk. Korle Bu Teaching Hospital has resuscitated like never before. My verdict? Just try it.

Writer's E-mail: vickywirekoandoh@yahoo.com