

Proceedings from Medical Knowledge Fiesta 2014,

September 15-19, 2014, Accra – Ghana

The 4th Annual Continuing Medical Education conference for physicians in Ghana – “Medical Knowledge Fiesta 2014” - took place in Accra from September 15th to 19th, 2014. The theme of the conference was “Cutting Edge Updates for Medical Practice in Ghana”. The event was jointly organized by the Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation of North America (GPSF), the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS), and the Africa Partners Medical. About 365 physicians participated in the conference; with 68 facilitating faculty (18 from the Diaspora – USA, Canada, UK, and South Africa - and 50 from Ghana).

The opening ceremony was chaired by Professor Jennifer E. Welbeck, Dean, School of Medicine and Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana. She entreated all participants to take advantage of the weeklong Knowledge Fiesta to update their knowledge in the various medical sub-specialties and translate the knowledge gained into improved patient care. The keynote speaker was Professor Thaddeus P. M. Ulzen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor and Chair of Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS), University of Alabama School of Medicine (Tuscaloosa Campus). He challenged participants on the need to pay attention to mental health on the continent to improve outcomes of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Professors Elijah Paintsil, Thaddeus Ulzen and Ndidiamaka Musa were honored by the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons for their commitment to postgraduate medical training in Ghana.



*Fiesta 2014 – Opening Ceremony
address by Prof. Jennifer E. Welbeck,
Dean of School of Medicine and
Dentistry*



*Fiesta 2014 – Opening Ceremony:
Traditional music by Accra Cultural
Troupe*

The format of the conference was plenary presentations in the morning, workshops in the early afternoon, and track sessions during late afternoons. Both Plenary and Track sessions were specialty based instead of themed. These sessions were heavily patronized. Six workshops ran concurrently: Obstetric Emergencies, Neonatal Resuscitation, Radiology, Cardiology, Infection Control and Clinical Research/Scientific Writing.

The **Infection Control workshop** was introduced this year as part of the Ebola preparedness in Ghana. The Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation of North America provided **500 units of full Personal Protective Equipment** to the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Infection Control workshop. The workshops were held daily from September 16th to 18th and volunteer conference attendees were used to simulate the proper sequence for putting on and, most importantly, how to safely remove and dispose of used PPEs. The infection control workshops were facilitated by Dr. Douglas Osei-Hyiaman (Diaspora faculty), and Dr. Nyonuku Akosua Baddoo (Local faculty). At the end of each workshop the participants were given PPEs to take to their own facilities. The Infection Control workshop was the most popular workshop this year!



GPSF donates PPE to the College for training



Scientific Writing Workshop

On the last day of Fiesta 2014, there was a special panel discussion on Ebola dubbed “FieBola”. The panel discussants covered different aspects of Ebola disease from the biology of Ebola virus to the current state of preparedness in Ghana. The facilitators were Professor Elijah Paintsil (Yale), Dr. Badu Sarkodie (Ghana Health Service, Ebola Program Director) and Dr. Sally-Ann Ohene (WHO, Ghana). The session was moderated by Professor David Ofori-Adjei, Rector, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The planning of Fiesta was jointly undertaken by a Local Planning Committee - Mrs. Henrietta Ferguson-Laing, Dr. Ernest Yorke, Dr. Henry Lawson (Chairman), Dr. Gabriel Ganyaglo, and Dr. (Mrs) Salome Bandoh; and a US Planning Committee – Dr. Michael Opong-Kusi, Professor Elijah Paintsil, Professor Ndidiama Musa, Professor Mark Awuku, Dr. Barbara Enstuah and Dr. Ama Koranteng-Fordwor. Both planning committees were responsible for the content and the logistics for the conference. The course directors were Professor David Ofori-Adjei, Dr. Henry Lawson, Dr. Michael Opong-Kusi and Professor Elijah Paintsil.



Fiesta Local Planning Committee Members: left to right – Mrs. Henrietta Ferguson-Laing, Dr. Ernest Yorke, Dr. Henry Lawson (Chairman), Dr. Gabriel Ganyaglo, and Dr. (Mrs) Salome Bandoh.

The tentative date for Fiesta 2015 is September 14th to 18th, 2015. If you are interested in joining the faculty, please contact Elijah Paintsil at Elijah.paintsil@yale.edu or (203) 785 6101.