

UHAS Bulletin



A Bi-monthly e-Newsletter of the University of Health and Allied Sciences

AUGUST 2025



- 01** UHAS LEADS GHANA IN TWO SDGS IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2025. WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025
- 02** UHAS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION. THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025
- 03** UHAS HOLDS 9TH PROF. ATTA MILLS LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES. FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025



UHAS Graduates 958 Students at the 2nd Session of its 9th Congregation

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) celebrated a momentous achievement on Saturday, May 31, 2025, as it held the 2nd Session of its 9th Congregation at the Cedi Auditorium. The ceremony witnessed the graduation of 958 postgraduate and sandwich undergraduate students from four schools of the University.

The ceremony was particularly significant as UHAS graduated its first batch of 5 Master of Philosophy (MPhil) students from the School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences. The University also celebrated a major achievement with Mr. Wisdom Kudzo Axame, who being part of the first batch of UHAS graduates in 2016 went ahead to undertake his MPhil in UHAS and crowned it with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the same UHAS Fred N. Binka School of Public Health. This accomplishment, combined with the 1,519 graduates from the first session in November 2024, brought the total number of graduates for the 2023/2024 academic year to an impressive 2,476.

Professor Kodzo Gavua, the newly appointed Chairman of UHAS Governing Council, presided over the ceremony, marking his first major official function since the inauguration of the new Council on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. Professor Gavua in his speech highlighted the University's focus on providing opportunities for nurses, midwives, public health practitioners and other healthcare professionals to upgrade their skills and pursue enhanced career prospects.

Professor Gavua addressed several critical infrastructure issues facing the University, including the stalled Sokode-Titrinu bypass dual carriage road project and the 5.3km UHAS internal roads, which are negatively impacting campus accessibility. He however expressed optimism about government's commitment to urgently release funds through the Ghana Highway Authority and Ministry of Roads for the completion of these important projects.

Professor Gavua acknowledged the

successful completion of the China Aid Phase II project, which includes the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Central Administration Block and expressed his appreciation to both the Chinese Government and Ghana Government.

The Chairman also made urgent appeals for student and staff accommodations at both Ho and Hohoe campuses, calling on government and the business community for support.

The Acting CEO of the National Vaccine Institute, Dr. Sodzi Sodzi-Tettey, delivered the keynote address on the theme 'A Paragon Within Normalized Systemic Decay'. He urged the graduates to strive for excellence despite challenges, emphasizing the importance of values, integrity and conscious decision-making in achieving success.

Dr. Sodzi-Tettey encouraged the graduates to be paragons of excellence, standing out in a world where unethical behaviors have been normalized. He also disclosed ongoing efforts for a partnership between the National Vaccine Institute and UHAS, highlighting the University's impressive research capabilities, particularly in vaccine development.



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, delivered a comprehensive state of the University address that drew attention to several key developments. She announced the launch of the prestigious

NKABOM PROJECT, a Mastercard-UHAS partnership worth \$9.8 million which is a ten-year project facilitated by the Fred N. Binka School of Public Health. The project was officially launched on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Professor Aziato used the platform to urge global researchers and stakeholders to commit to enhancing health education through partnerships with UHAS. She charged the graduates to maintain their curiosity, embrace lifelong learning and keep pace with emerging innovations while remaining anchored by UHAS foundational values of excellence, integrity, innovation, service and care.



Mrs. Bernice Evenunye Akosua Atsu of the School of Nursing and Midwifery emerged the Valedictorian for the 2nd Session of the 9th Congregation with a GPA of 3.92. In her address on behalf of the graduating class, she acknowledged their transformative journey from uncertainty to triumph, despite balancing academic demands with work and family responsibilities.

Addressing the Ceremony's theme, she challenged her colleagues to combat Ghana's moral deterioration, particularly corruption in the health sector and illegal mining. She encouraged the graduates to become agents of positive change wherever they find themselves.

The overall best students from the various Schools received \$250 (Cedi equivalent) each while Mrs. Bernice Evenunye Akosua

Atsu, the valedictorian received a total of \$2,250 (Cedi equivalent) from the Atta Mills Memorial Heritage represented by the Director, Mr. Ludwick Hlodze.

Since its first graduation ceremony on July 23, 2016, where 171 candidates were awarded degrees, UHAS has now cumulatively graduated over 11,000 health professionals, establishing itself as a leading institution for healthcare education in Ghana and across Africa. As UHAS continues its trajectory of growth and excellence, the institution reaffirms its commitment to producing world-class health professionals. The successful 2nd Second Session of the 9th Congregation demonstrates UHAS' unwavering commitment to excellence in health education and its significant contribution to addressing Ghana's healthcare workforce needs.

UHAS Holds 9th Prof. Atta Mills Leadership Lecture Series



The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) held its 9th John Evans Atta Mills (JEAM) Leadership Lecture Series on Friday, May 30, 2025 at the Cedi Auditorium on the University's main campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

The JEAM Leadership Lecture Series is an annual event held in memory of Professor John Evans Atta Mills, the late former President of Ghana. The lecture serves as a tribute to his legacy, recognizing his contributions to the establishment of UHAS and promotes leadership, excellence and innovation in the healthcare sector.

The Distinguished Lecturer for the occasion, Dr. Sodzi Sodzi-Tettey, started by tracing his relationship with UHAS from being the youngest member of the Interim Governing Council to becoming a member of the 1st substantive UHAS Governing Council. He recounted his experience in starting a new University and related it to his current assignment at the Ghana National Vaccine Institute, where he is once again called upon to innovate to ensure Ghana achieves vaccine self-sufficiency. He expressed profound gratitude to all the people who have played vital roles in his development. He especially identified the late former President, Professor Atta Mills and the current President John Mahama on the gratitude list for the confidence reposed in him for the past and present national assignments.

Dr. Sodzi-Tettey, an astute public health physician and Ag. CEO of National Vaccine Institute (NVI), speaking on the theme "Advancing Quality Health Systems in Ghana Amidst Global Disruptions", emphasized that quality health systems per WHO/OECD/World Bank, refers to systems in which the health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge. He listed five key features of Quality Health Systems, namely, improved health outcomes – including delivering care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable; application of evidence-based professional



knowledge; trusted by the people; protection from health threats; and avoidance of financial hardships.

Dr. Sodzi-Tettey discussed four of what he called global disruptions which had impacted Quality Health Systems in Ghana. These were disruptions to global health financing; the ever present threat of pandemics, with President John Mahama being quoted as saying the next pandemic is a matter of when, not if; a potential disruption from Ghana's upcoming exit from GAVI in 2030 and the challenge of achieving vaccine self-sufficiency; impairment of quality health systems due to persisting health system challenges upon which these new disruptions are superimposed.

On the question of Ghana's preparedness to manage the next pandemic, the health systems expert dilated on the February 2025 International Health Regulation Group's Joint External Evaluation that concluded that "Despite notable progress in health security, Ghana faces challenges that hinder the full implementation of core capacities under the International Health Regulations (IHR)." He admitted that there was the need to expedite action on

addressing Ghana's limited capacity to prevent, detect and respond to health threats.

The Distinguished Lecturer also highlighted some recent achievements of the NVI such as the issuance of market authorization to Atlantic Lifesciences Ltd for the manufacture of Snake Venom Anti Serum by the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority. Similarly, the NVI was leading planning activity for the commencement of the manufacturing of Tetanus Diphtheria vaccine.

The disruptions to global health financing in addition to Ghana's expected accelerated transition from the GAVI programme imposes significant financial commitments. He therefore called for a substantial improvement in domestic resource mobilization and the strengthening of both old and new partnerships. Government policies like uncapping the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) are critical in mobilizing resources for critical interventions such as the purchase of vaccines on our Expanded Programme of Immunization programme, free primary healthcare and other government priority projects, he said.



The Ag. CEO of NVI bemoaned the fact that only one percent of vaccines used in Africa are produced in Africa. On an inspiring note, he disclosed ongoing efforts to establish a partnership with UHAS to advance vaccines Research and Development. Dr. Sodzi-Tettey extolled the impressive depth of UHAS' vaccine research and development expertise which he believed Ghana could leverage to securing funding for a state-of-the-art vaccine research and innovation centre at UHAS. In this regard, he pledged to work towards supporting UHAS to complete the construction of its laboratory complex building, widely acclaimed as the largest of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa.

The last portion of Dr. Sodzi-Tettey's lecture outlined specific interventions to achieve Quality Health Systems in Ghana. These recommendations were based on eight common recommendations from three reports on the state of quality, namely, Leadership and Governance; Redesign Service Delivery; Transform Data Systems; Transform Health Work Force; Ignite

Demand for Quality; Attention to Fragile States/Improve Resilience; Improve Integrity/Accountability; and Supporting Research Agenda.

Dr. Sodzi-Tettey, who is also the founder of the Centre for Social Justice, a think tank organization that advocates for progressive social transformation and people centered development, applauded Burkina Faso as an example of resilience on the continent as the

country has made significant progress in financing vaccinations and other strides in healthcare.

The Lecturer indicated that “Universal Health Coverage without achieving quality health services is meaningless.” He therefore charged health professionals to change the power dynamics to improve quality healthcare through advocacy where all stakeholders including patients who are an important part of the care process must be actively involved. He also called for redesigning service delivery by tackling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

which should be included in the primary level in various communities. Dr. Sodzi-Tettey further advocated for the need to employ qualified nutritionists in the School Feeding Programme, and also improve integrity and accountability in healthcare funding.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Sodzi-Tettey appreciated Management of UHAS for the privilege to deliver the lecture. He again lauded the visionary leadership of President Mills and the persistence of the foundational leadership of the University at a time when the University was being ridiculed in certain quarters as amounting to nothing. Significantly, UHAS has graduated over 11, 000 students in its 13 years of existence.

The Chairman of the UHAS Governing Council, Professor Kodzo Gavua in his remarks appreciated Dr. Sodzi-Tettey for his insightful presentation and called for a 'people-centred healthcare delivery service' in Ghana.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato in her remarks as the Chairperson of the lecture paid a glowing tribute to the late former President Mills for his exemplary leadership as a statesman and an academic for the establishment of UHAS as a specialized health research educational institution solely dedicated to the production of healthcare professionals. She also commended the Distinguished Lecturer for the remarkable personal achievements attained so far and gave the assurance that UHAS would continue to produce quality healthcare professionals as part of efforts towards guaranteeing quality healthcare service in the country.

In attendance were the Member of Parliament (MP) for Ho Central, Honourable Edem Kpotosu, Members of UHAS Council, Registrar of UHAS, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, Director of Atta Mills

Institute, Mr. Ludwig Hlodze, Paramount Chief of Sokode Traditional Area, Togbe Fia Koku III, Health Professionals across Ghana, Deans, Directors, Faculty and Staff and students of UHAS and Ho Nursing Training College, including a host of online community members who participated virtually.

UHAS Celebrates International Yoga Day in Partnership with Indian High Commission



The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) joined the global celebration of International Yoga Day in a special ceremony that highlighted the universal appeal of this ancient practice and strengthened international partnerships in health and wellness education. The event, which was held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, served as a precursor to the main International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025. International Yoga Day, established by the United Nations in 2014



following a proposal by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has since become a worldwide celebration of yoga's transformative power.

The celebration at UHAS was expertly led by Prinyanka Saini, a senior faculty member at Art of Living Ghana, who guided participants through the practice with skill and enthusiasm. The event also featured the presence of Ankur Agarwal, Director of Art of Living Ghana, an offshoot of a global movement called The Art of Living Foundation that has brought yoga, meditation and practical wisdom to millions of people in over 180 countries.

Speaking on behalf of the Indian High

Commissioner, Shri Manish Gupta, Brijesh Kumar, representative of the Indian High Commission, delivered an inspiring address that captured the essence of yoga's universal message. 'Yoga is not just a form of exercise, but also a philosophy and a way of living,' Kumar emphasized. He said, "The word 'yoga' itself means 'union'. A union of the body, mind, and spirit. It teaches us how to live in harmony with ourselves and with others."

Professor Julian Korley Kortei, Dean of School of Sports and Exercise Medicine, UHAS in a brief address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian High Commission and Institute of Traditional and Alternative Medicine, UHAS specifically the Director, Professor Kwame Banga, for working so hard to make the UHAS celebration a reality. Professor Kortei further highlighted the subsisting valuable relationship between UHAS and the Indian High Commission, expressing optimism for an even larger participation in future celebrations.

This initiative that brought together students, faculty and distinguished guests positioned UHAS as a leader in comprehensive health education that honors cultural University and traditional and contemporary approaches to wellness.





UHAS-IHR HOSTS IMAGINE GHANA PROJECT STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Center for Neglected Tropical Diseases Research (CNTDR) of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) Institute of Health Research (IHR) held an inaugural stakeholder engagement on the Imagine Ghana Project on March 31, 2025 at the Main Campus of the University. The Imagine Ghana project is an adaption of the World Health Organization (WHO) Essential Care Package (ECP) for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), stigma and mental health conditions.

Professor Margaret Gyapong, the immediate past Director of UHAS-IHR in her welcome address as the Chairperson for the event, appreciated the collaboration between UHAS, Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Health and the various partners across the globe. She noted that working in a consortium makes research and execution of projects much easier. Professor M. Gyapong stated that research in UHAS is expected to impact programmes and policies.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, welcomed the participants to the University. She expressed her excitement about the tremendous efforts being made by UHAS-IHR in forging collaborations with other research institutions like Ghana Health Service, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and other partners both in Ghana and beyond.

Professor Aziato indicated that UHAS has a good number of early career researchers and called on UHAS-IHR to endeavour to bring on board the young faculty in the various schools within the University.

Dr. Maxwell Dalaba, the Director of UHAS-IHR Center for Non - Communicable Diseases, representing the Acting Director of UHAS-IHR, Professor Kwame Ohene Buabeng, stated that the Institute was working towards introducing the Center for Population and Family Health as an additional Centre in IHR. He expressed the Institute's readiness to collaborate with other players in the research space across the globe.

Dr. Alfred Kwesi Manyeh, the Director of UHAS-IHR Center for Non – Communicable Diseases Research, made a presentation entitled 'Integrating Mental



Health and Neglected Tropical Disease Interventions to Support Equitable People-Centered Care in Ghana' on behalf of the Ghana team at the forum. He was excited that the Imagine Ghana project was finally a reality. He stated that NTDs are a group of diseases that are prevalent among the poorest people in the poorest countries. He said people affected by STDs often experience pain, changes in their physical appearance, stigma and discrimination and as a result, they are more likely to experience mental distress, including depression and anxiety. He added that such people should be identified early and treated.

Dr. Manyeh said the ECP was one of the programmes put in place to address the challenges that confront people affected by STDs. He called on the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service and other stakeholders in the health space to ensure that the aspirations for the project are sustained. Dr. Manyeh said the project involved training personnel for research, building capacity, strengthening the culture of learning and identifying the right system-based strategies for the integrated management of NTDs.

Dr. Manyeh also presented 6 work packages which would form the basis for a collaboration between UHAS, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Ghana Health Service, Effect Hope and Ministry of Health. The project would be implemented

across 4 districts (Ellembele, Bole, Ho and Hohoe).

He ended his presentation by acknowledging the partners of the Imagine Ghana project which includes LSTM, Effect Hope, IHR-UHAS, Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Health and Fundacion Anesvad for their support.

Two presentations were made on the Reducing the Burden of Severe Stigmatization Skin Diseases through Equitable Person-Centered Approaches to Health Systems Strengthening (REDRESS) project.

The first REDRESS project presentation was made by a representative of the Liberia team, Mr. Joseph S. Quoi and was entitled 'Issues to consider during the preparatory stage of the Imagine Ghana Project'. Mr. Quoi gave a background on the need for the integration of NTDs and Mental Health Services, among other things. He said 'both mental health conditions and NTDs require early interventions that are available locally to reduce the burden on health systems and ensure persons affected have improved health outcomes and can achieve their full socio-economic potential.'

The second REDRESS project was entitled 'Experience sharing of integrating mental health within care for people with skin NTDs between Liberia and Ghana'. This was also delivered by another

representative of the Liberia team, Mr. Emmerson Rogers. In an overview, Mr. Rogers noted that 'In Liberia, mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) services for people affected by NTDs is limited or nonexistent, leading to service gaps.' He however gave the assurance that the adoption of the National Health Policy and Strategic Plan 2023-2033 which is a strategic objective to provide access to quality mental health services across the lifespan and all levels were assisting in addressing the situation.

There were remarks from representatives of London School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Ghana Health Service (GHS), Programme Managers (PM), Ministry of Health (MOH), National Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Program (NTDP),

National Buruli Ulcer and Yaws Elimination Program (NBUYP) and the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) that showed support and commitment to the programme and its implementation.

The WHO Essential Health Care Package that the Imagine Ghana project aims to promote is generally considered as a critical set of cost effective, affordable, and acceptable interventions for addressing health conditions or diseases associated factors that are responsible for the greater part of the disease burden of a given community. It is expected that the target persons of the project would have improved health outcomes in order to effectively continue to play their roles in the socio-economic activities of their respective communities.



UHAS SHINES AT HEALTH SYSTEMS INNOVATION CONFERENCE AT UG

The Fred N. Binka School of Public Health (FNBSPH) of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) participated in a Health Systems

Innovation Conference (HSIC) at University of Ghana (UG), Accra funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The Conference which was held from 29th to 30th April 2025, provided a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, showcasing innovative approaches to strengthening health systems, promoting knowledge



exchange and fostering mentoring relationships.

The conference was organized by Sustaining the African Health Initiative Communities of Practice (AHI-CoP) Secretariat at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), UG, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and brought together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and early career researchers from across Africa and beyond.

The two-day programme was structured around a dynamic mix of plenary discussions, thematic breakout sessions, research presentations and interactive poster exhibitions. Participants engaged in a wide range of topics organized under major themes including, Digital Health and Telemedicine, Health Systems Strengthening, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Health Policy and Governance, Community Health and Primary Care, Health Policy and Systems Research, Health Policy and Climate Research and Health Systems Financing.

At the opening ceremony, the Principal Investigator of AHI-CoP, Prof Ayaga Agula Bawah, who doubles as the Director of RIPS-UG, highlighted the vision and objectives of AHI CoP, emphasizing its role in bridging the gap between evidence generation and policy action. He also underscored AHI CoP's commitment to fostering cross-country collaboration and

strengthening the Implementation Research ecosystem in Africa.

The Acting Deputy Director-General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Dr. Caroline Reindorf Amissah who chaired the opening ceremony on behalf of Professor Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, the Director General of GHS, in her address expressed strong institutional support for the HSIC platform and applauded the role of implementation research in enhancing evidence-informed decision-making at all levels of Ghana's health system. Dr. Amissah cited several ongoing health system initiatives led by GHS, including the deployment of digital tools such as the Home Visit App, the scaling of the Network of Practice (NoP) strategy and efforts to strengthen community-based care. She also appreciated the role of frontline health workers, researchers and partners in building a resilient and responsive health system.

Professor Gordon Akanzuwine Awandare, Pro-Vice Chancellor of UG responsible for Academic and Students Affairs, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, in a welcome address reiterated the University's commitment to public health leadership, policy-relevant research and fostering the next generation of implementation scientists. He emphasized the University's role as a hub for learning and innovation in sub-Saharan Africa, encouraging deeper partnerships between academia and the health sector.

Dr. Koku Awoonor-Williams, an experienced public health physician and a longtime champion of health systems transformation in Ghana, delivered the keynote address. Drawing from his extensive work with CHPS and district health system strengthening, Dr. Awoonor-Williams shared historic insights and practical reflections on how adaptive

leadership, data use and research-practice integration could transform local health systems. He urged institutions to embrace collaborative leadership, continuous learning and context-specific interventions to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals.

There was a solidarity message from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The message acknowledged the work of local researchers and the importance of platforms like HSIC in sustaining dialogue, sharing results and scaling impact. The solidarity message also affirmed the Foundation's support for knowledge generation, local ownership and institutional capacity building across all AHI partner countries.

UHAS was represented by 14 early-career researchers from the Fred N. Binka School of Public Health (UHAS-FNBSPH) and two senior academics, namely Dr. Hubert Amu and Dr. Mawuli K. Kushitor. The faculty and their mentees made impactful oral and poster presentations which earned the admiration of all who were present at the conference. At the end of the two-day Conference, two of the members from UHAS-FNBSPH, Mr. Frank Oppong Kwafo and Ms. Emmanuella Enam Godwilmann, won the first and second best poster presentation awards, respectively.

The performance of the UHAS team at the Conference reflects the University's commitment to producing innovative policy-relevant research, fostering a culture of scholarly engagement and practical impact. The high number of early-career researchers from UHAS-FNBSPH who featured in the conference also highlights the School's emphasis on nurturing young public health professionals and researchers to become global public health practitioners and researchers.



UHAS-SSEM MARK FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN GHANA

The School of Sports and Exercise Medicine (SSEM) of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) marked the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) on Friday, April 4, 2025 under the theme 'Healthier Communities, Stronger Nations: The Role of Sports in Public Health' at the University's Professor Anyidoho Auditorium, Ho. The event happened to be the first to be held in Ghana.

The Ag. Dean of School of Sports and Exercise Medicine, Professor Nii Korley Kortei, in his welcome address gave a brief historical background of the celebration. He said the late H. E. Kofi Annan (Former UN Secretary General), having appreciated the importance of sports in the promotion of development and peace among UN organizations as well as member nations, masterminded the



initiation of the celebration in 2013. He gave the assurance that UHAS-SSEM will champion this celebration every year in Ghana to draw attention to the impact of sports on the ecosystem. 'Sports is more than just a game, it's a catalyst for change,' as it fosters inclusion, promotes teamwork and instills values such as perseverance, respect and fair play, values that are important in building an impactful world, he said.

Professor Kortei completed his address by encouraging institutions to support and collaborate with SSEM to conduct cutting-edge research and advocate for safe and inclusive practices that will demonstrate how sports can be harnessed for the betterment of humanity. The Dean used the occasion to call on audience to reaffirm their 'commitment to leveraging the power of sports to address public health challenges.'

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, in her remarks, commended the Dean and Faculty for bringing UHAS to the map of institutions that observe the day. She said SSEM is mandated to train experts to, among other things, take care of the health needs of sports men by

prescribing specific exercises to solve various health problems. Professor Aziato entreated parents to take key interest in the varied healthcare programmes that the University offers, when assisting their wards in the selection of University programmes.

The Vice Chancellor also appealed to government to assist the University in acquiring all equipment and training facilities required for the adequate training of these much-needed professionals.

The Registrar, Ms . Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, delivered an address entitled 'The University's position on Sports for Development and Peace'. She said 'UHAS recognizes the role of sports in fostering wholistic development, enhancing Public Health and contributing to national growth.' Ms Opuni underscored the fact that the approach of the University to Sports Development is guided by three key pillars, namely health and wellbeing, talent development and competitive excellence and community engagement and national development.

The Registrar concluded by stating that the steadfast commitment of the University to sports development as a means to build a



healthier community and a stronger nation is evidence in the integration of sports into the academic programmes and the strive to cultivate the culture of fitness, team work and excellence that benefits individuals and the society at large.

The Volta Regional Director of Sports, Mrs. Joyce Datsa, in her remarks as the Chairperson for the occasion said Sports has become irreplaceable in maintaining public health, amidst today's health challenges. She noted that in the sphere of increasingly busy lifestyles and unbalanced diets, the importance of exercise as a key pillar of public health is becoming increasingly relevant.

The Volta Regional Director of Sports acclaimed that exercise has been shown to have a positive impact on people's mental well-being by stimulating the release of endorphins to reduce stress hormones, anxiety and depression. Mrs. Datsa ended her speech by urging all to embrace the transformative power of sports for healthier communities, stronger nations and a healthier world.

Honourable Jerry Amevor, District Chief Executive (DCE) of Adaklu delivered the Keynote Address on behalf of the Volta Regional Minister, Honourable James

Gunu. He stated that Sports as a pillar of Public Health and physical activity is one of the most effective ways to prevent heart disease, diabetes and hypertension. He said 'in an era where sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits have led to a rise in obesity and chronic illnesses, engaging in regular sports activities can serve as a preventive and curative measure.'

Hon. Amevor entreated all stakeholders to assist in investing in sports facilities to promote physical education in schools and physical activities in the local communities. He reiterated the readiness of the Volta Regional Minister to collaborate with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ghana Health Service and other relevant institutions to promote policies that will encourage active lifestyle.

Others who made presentations on the occasion include Mr. Kwesi Tetteh Amanor, CEO of Republic Trust Ltd. Company, Dr. Frank Appiah Kusi, lecturer of SSEM and Dr. Joy Akameze, Ag. HoD of Sports and Exercise Medical Sciences.

The presentations were followed by panel discussions on the theme of the occasion. The panelists touched on nutrition, injury and recovery period, financial planning or stability, policies for development with regards to athletes, etc.

Present at the event were Deans, Directors, Faculty and Staff of the University.



UHAS-SAHS CELEBRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH MAIDEN DEAN'S AWARD CEREMONY

The School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS) of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) held the first-ever School academic awards ceremony in the University. The occasion which came off on Thursday, March 27, 2025, marked a significant milestone in UHAS's commitment to recognizing and celebrating students' achievements.

The Chairperson for the Awards Committee, Dr. Nsor-Atindana, in his remarks expressed the hope that the SAHS ceremony would serve as a groundbreaker for the other schools within the University to follow suit.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, in her address commended the leadership of SAHS, especially the Dean, Professor Samuel Essien-Baidoo, for organizing the event. She challenged students to maintain consistency in their achievements and encouraged those who did not receive any award on the occasion

to draw inspiration from the event for future successes. Professor Aziato used the occasion to appeal to GETFUND to expedite action on the stalled SAHS campus project, which would enable the school to move from its current location at the Ho Teaching Hospital to the main campus of the University.

The Regional Director of Health Services, Dr. Chrysantus Kubio, underscored the ceremony's significance in national development. He emphasized that, the awardees represent a critical sector in Ghana's healthcare landscape and urged them to continue striving for excellence.

Professor Sebastian Eliason, Dean of the School of Medical Sciences, University of Cape Coast, introduced the students to the skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, among others, which he believes are a unique framework for success.

The event also featured the inauguration of



the SAHS Musical Band, an initiative by the Dean of SAHS, Professor Essien-Baidoo. The Band, comprising students from various schools of the University, was officially launched by the Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, who highlighted the importance of developing talents alongside academic excellence.

In all, there were eighteen (18) award winners. Mr. Vincent Arthur, the overall best student from the Physiotherapy programme, shared a heartfelt address on behalf of his colleagues. He expressed gratitude to his lecturers for their guidance and inspiration and challenged his fellow students to consistently pursue academic excellence.

The ceremony was made possible through the sponsorship and support of various organizations, including Salaria Eye Med, Republic Bank and the Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists.

In his closing remarks, Professor Essien-Baidoo, expressed profound gratitude to the University Management, sponsors and

partners for making the ceremony a success.

The event was attended by Deans, Directors, Faculty, Staff and other dignitaries.





UHAS HOLDS 4TH JOINT WHITE COAT CEREMONY

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) held its 4th joint White Coat Ceremony for the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy on Friday, March 14, 2025 at the Cedi Auditorium on the University's main campus, Sokode-Lokoe. In all, 258 students were transitioned into their clinical years.

The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage; a formal academic ceremony that inducts students from the pre-clinical phase to the clinical phase of their programmes.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, the Chairperson for the event, in her opening remarks congratulated the students for successfully going through their pre-clinical studies and urged them to cultivate a habit of lifelong learning as they enter the professional phase of the training.

She advised the students to always inculcate the ethos of UHAS in all aspects

of their training and maintain a blemish-free status. The Vice Chancellor also advised them to use technology wisely to enhance their knowledge base in assisting their patients.

An astute professor at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Pharmacy, University of Ghana, Professor Mahama Duwiejua was the Guest Speaker. He spoke on the theme “Interprofessional Health Training and Collaborative Practice: Bridging the Gaps.” He said, collaborative efforts in healthcare have become important as they help reduce the risk of errors such as misdiagnosis or medication mistakes and lead to a more efficient use of resources as well as lower healthcare costs.

The Keynote Speaker bemoaned the fact that most hospitals are not up to the task as they “only pay lip service” to what is required.



Prof. Duwiejua posited that there exists longstanding mistrust between healthcare professionals, which is rooted in “professional protectionism”. According to him, “All these factors continue to hinder patient care and patient safety by blocking the development of interprofessional communication.” He therefore called on his colleagues in the healthcare sector to eschew the unacceptable attitudes and learn to work together.

He finally called on the student trainees to stay true to their oath. He advised them to “renounce the silo mentality and embrace collaborative and team-based care.”

The students from both School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy took turns to appreciate their lecturers and mentors for guiding them through the pre-clinical years. They also appreciated their parents and guardians for their unwavering dedication, support and encouragement.

In her closing remarks, the Vice Chancellor,

Professor Lydia Aziato passionately advocated for “interdisciplinary cooperation” by reminding the students that excellence in patient care emerges when various health disciplines work in harmony.



UHAS Basic School Collaborates with Narcotics Control Commission to Mark 2025 International Day Against Drug Abuse

The University of Health and Allied Sciences Basic School (UBS), in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Commission (NCC), marked the 2025 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the theme 'Empowering the Youth against Drug Abuse' on Monday, June 23, 2024. The event started with an awareness float through the principal streets of Ho township which brought together thirteen basic schools across the Ho Municipality and ended with an informative ceremony at the University's Cedi Auditorium, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

At the ceremony, the Headmaster of UHAS Basic School, Mr. Seth Korgah delivered the welcome address during which he outlined the purpose of the initiative to mark the International Day. He emphasized the urgent need for preventive interventions to remedy the crisis. He admitted that

'Currently, there has been an increase in drug abuse because children are exposed to drugs at a very tender age.' His remarks underscored the commitment of UBS to address this pressing social issue through education and community engagement.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor of UHAS, Professor Frank Edwin, reinforced the University's dedication to comprehensive student welfare and community service programmes. He emphasized the importance of educating the youth about the dangers of substance abuse and advised leaders in the education space to implement robust data management policies for assessing drug abuse prevention strategies. 'The University is committed to empowering our students with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.' Professor Edwin said.



The Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, made a brief remark expressing her satisfaction with the exceptional community engagement spirit demonstrated at the event by the remarkable turnout from participating schools across the Ho Municipality. She indicated that the impressive participation of the thirteen basic schools in the programme reflects the community's genuine commitment to addressing youth substance abuse through collaborative education and prevention efforts. Ms. Opuni emphasized the importance of sustained participation in the World Drug Day activities as a critical strategy for curbing the causes and

consequences of drug abuse and called on teachers to ensure that their respective institutions maintain active involvement in the annual World Drug Day celebrations, as these events provide essential platforms for prevention, education and community mobilization.

The keynote address was delivered by the Director of Drug Demand Reduction from the Narcotics Control Commission, Mr. Sylvester Yaw Adu, under the theme 'The Evidence is clear: Invest in Prevention, Break the Cycle', which aligned with the international theme; 'Empowering the Youth against Drug Abuse'. Mr. Adu

presented alarming statistics from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, revealing that 292 million people worldwide abused substance use in 2022, representing a 20% increase over the previous decade. He noted that Ghana faces similar challenges, with prescription opioid abuse, commonly known as 'Red,' which exposes a disturbing trend among young people.

The Director outlined the multifaceted impacts of substance abuse and explained how they affect not only individual users but also their families, communities and future generations. He emphasized the connection between drug abuse and organized crime, noting that substance abuse often serves as a funding mechanism for terrorism, violence and corruption in the West African subregion. Mr. Adu announced ongoing efforts to operationalize the National Rehabilitation Centre and establishment of a Substance Use Disorder Fund to support affected communities. He called for corporate social responsibility participation and community support for these initiatives, emphasizing the fact that 'no contribution is too small' in addressing this critical social challenge.

The event featured an educative panel discussion involving representatives from the Ghana Police Service, Food and Drugs



Authority, Ghana Education Service and the Department of Social Welfare. The discussion focused on drug management

strategies among the youth and collaborative approaches for law enforcement agencies to address substance abuse in the Ho Municipality and beyond.

There was a telecast of an educational documentary targeted at children / the youth to highlight the various types of drugs, their negative effects and evidence-based solutions in addressing substance abuse.

The Destiny Club of UBS also conducted a captivating panel discussion aimed at addressing the dangers and prevention strategies of drug abuse. The peer-to-peer

educational approach proved to be particularly effective in engaging the University student audience.

The event was attended by UHAS officials, including Professor Evelyn Ansah, the Board Chair of UHAS Basic School. The thirteen basic schools from the Ho Municipality that participated in the programme were Anglican Basic School, Bankoe E. P. Basic School, Riis Presby School, Methodist Junior High School, Heve Basic School, Mawuli Basic School, Ho Kpodzi Junior High School, Dome E. P. Basic School, United M. A. School, Philip Akpo Junior High School, Rising Star Academy, Ho Technical University Basic School, Fiave Global Junior High School and Nuriya Islamic Basic School.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

UHAS PROF. SETH OSUSU-AGYEI AND EMERITUS PROF. FRED N. BINKA TOP AD SCIENTIFIC INDEX 2025 H-INDEX RANKINGS IN GHANA



Professor Seth Owusu-Agyei



Emeritus Professor Fred Newton Binka

Scientists at the University of Health and Allied Sciences have been ranked very high in the recent AD Scientific Index 2024 H-index rankings released.

Professor Seth Owusu-Agyei of the University's Centre for Non-communicable Diseases Research at the Institute of Health Research and a former Pro-Vice Chancellor topped the national rankings with a total H-index of 76 out of a total of

7,129 Scientists ranked.

Emeritus Professor Fred N. Binka, a former Vice Chancellor of the University and the current Chairman of the governing council of the Ghana Health Service was ranked 2nd with a total H-index of 65.

At the 5th position was Professor John Gyapong, also a former Vice Chancellor and the current Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), who obtained a total H-index of 65.

Overall, 2,626,180 Scientists from 24,563 institutions and 221 countries across the world were ranked, out of which 7,129 were from Ghana and 224 of the number were UHAS affiliated Scientists. Remarkably, UHAS Scientists took 6 out of the top 25 positions in Ghana.

The top 10 ranked UHAS scientists are as follows:



Name of Scientist	School/ Institute	University Rank	Country Rank	World Rank
Professor Seth Owusu-Agyei	IHR	1	1	25,507
Professor Fred N. Binka	FNBSPH	2	2	35,595
Professor John Gyapong	IHR	3	5	42,782
Professor Margaret Gyapong	IHR	4	12	74,078
Prof. Martin Ayanore	FNBSPH	5	19	94,287
Dr. Hubert Amu	FNBSPH	6	25	104,418
Mr. Martin Adjuik	FNBSPH	7	40	141,050
Prof. Robert Kaba Alhassan	IHR	8	43	160,650
Professor Evelyn Korkor Ansah	IHR	9	54	173,426
Mr. Richard Gyan Aboagye	FNBSPH	10	62	189,299

The AD Scientific Index 2025 H-index rankings provide a comprehensive evaluation of scientific performance by combining total and recent 6-year h-index values, offering insight into both research productivity and long-term impact. The h-index balances quantity with quality, highlighting **sustained academic excellence**. Rankings are **continuously updated in near real-time** to reflect the latest scholarly activity across **countries, institutions, and 211 academic fields**.

These feats are the manifestation of UHAS' continuous premium on research as a core pillar of its mission and the commitment to supporting initiatives that position the University as a center of excellence in health education and research in the sub-region and beyond.

Visit [AD Scientific Index 2025 Rankings UHAS Scientists](#) for the full rankings of UHAS scientists.

UHAS Leads Ghana in Two SDGs in THE Impact Rankings 2025

The University of Health and Allied Sciences has been adjudged the Best University in Ghana in terms of contributions to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Goals **3** and **8** in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025. The University also placed second in SDG 1.

UHAS placed third in Ghana in the overall Impact Rankings, falling behind Ashesi University and the University of Cape Coast, with an overall score in the 60.9–65.5 range; the top two institutions scored between 65.6 and 70.2.

For SDG 3 (**Good Health and Well-being**), UHAS attained the score range of 66.3–70.6, followed by University of Cape Coast with 50.6–57.1 scores and University of Ghana at the third place with score range of 50.6–57.1 points.

For SDG 8 (**Decent Work and Economic Growth**), UHAS had 75.0 score points, followed by both Academic City University College and Ho Technical University with 45.6–57.1 scores range points.

The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings table identifies and celebrates universities that demonstrate comprehensive commitment to addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including environmental sustainability, social inclusion, economic growth and partnerships, among others.

These attainments are significant milestones and reflect UHAS' ongoing commitment to its mission of providing quality education and advancing knowledge through scholarship and research that improves health and quality of life.

For further information, please click on the following link: [University Impact Rankings 2025 | Times Higher Education \(THE\)](#)



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