

UHAS Bulletin



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

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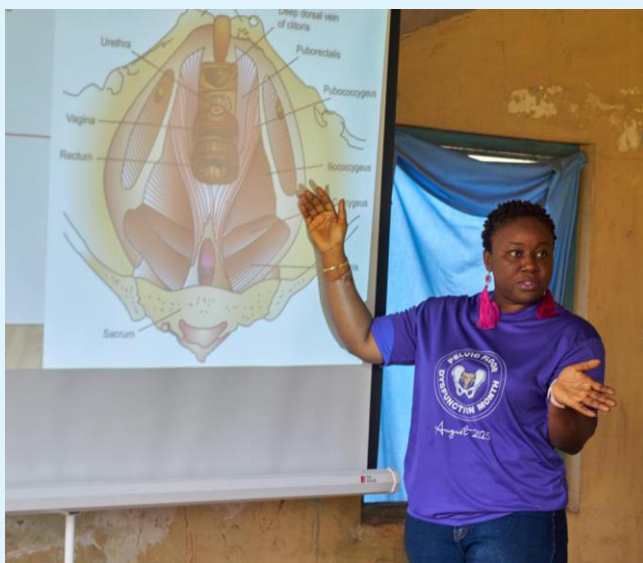
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UHAS, Nichelle Foundation and Ho Teaching Hospital Lead Campaign on 2025 Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Awareness Month



The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) in conjunction with Nichelle Foundation for Women's Health and Ho Teaching Hospital (HTH) have successfully concluded a series of educational programmes as part of this year's Pelvic Floor Dysfunction (PFD) Awareness Month observation, reaching pregnant women across three major healthcare facilities in the Volta Region.

The pelvic floor is a complex group of muscles, ligaments and fascia that line the pelvis and support vital organs in the female anatomy. PFD occurs when the muscles and nerves are unable to

function properly, adversely affecting the support of organs like the bladder and intestines, among others. Stigma and geographical challenges often prevent discussions on this crucial health condition. For this reason, the month of August is set aside globally for the creation of awareness on this deadly health challenge.

The programme which was under the theme 'Pelvic Floor Dysfunction: Awareness, Care and Prevention', saw dedicated education sessions conducted at Ho Polyclinic, Ho Municipal Hospital and Worawora Government Hospital, between August 15 and 28, 2025.

Ms. Ellen Mensa-Bonsu, a Lecturer in the Department of Physiotherapy at UHAS School of Allied Health Sciences, served as the Primary Resource Person for the campaign. She was supported by fellow faculty members, UHAS Physiotherapy students and healthcare practitioners from the target facilities.

The campaign highlighted pelvic floor dysfunction types like pelvic pain, painful intercourse, urinary retention, constipation and pelvic organ prolapse. The facilitators also seized the opportunity to offer some practical solutions to the health problem. The participants were taken through varied Kegel exercises, believed to be effective interventions for strengthening pelvic floor muscles, improving sexual function, maintaining continence and providing structural support to the vagina, bladder, uterus and rectum.

The campaign featured interactive sessions that allowed the participants, who were mainly pregnant women, to engage directly with the facilitators.

The initiative demonstrates the University's commitment to extending its mission beyond its students, directly impacting community health outcomes across its catchment areas. It represents a significant step forward in maternal





healthcare education, addressing critical knowledge gaps whilst promoting open dialogue about women's health issues that have historically been shrouded in silence.

UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences Organizes Stress Management Seminar for Students



students across the various schools of the University, marking a significant milestone in UHAS' holistic approach to education.

The Dean of SBBS-UHAS, Professor Seth Kwabena Amponsah, the Chairperson of the event, in his remarks, underscored the University's recognition of the fact that academic excellence cannot be divorced from mental wellness and called on participants to take good advantage of the seminar.



The Lead Facilitator of the Seminar, Dr. Emmanuel Dziwornu, a Senior Lecturer at UHAS School of Medicine, expatiated on the intersection between academic pressure and mental health, the multifaceted nature of students' stress, academic pressure sources, among others and identified parents, teachers and peer competition as the primary contributors to stress in students.

Dr. Dziwornu said there are mental health determinants like biological and social factors that serve as psychological mechanisms underlying academic stress and a personal mastery of these can provide students with a framework for understanding their own experiences.

Dr. Dziwornu extensively addressed mental health challenges prevalent among university students like depression, bipolar disorders,

The School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences (SBBS) at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) held a seminar on Thursday, August 14, 2025 under the theme, 'Managing Stress for Academic Success at the University's Cedi Auditorium at the main campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

The event which demonstrated the University's unwavering commitment to students' mental health, brought together



schizophrenia, sexual disorders and substance abuse among students, emphasizing the importance of professional support. He asserted that stress-induced burnouts are caused by unmanaged work-related stress, identifying relationship difficulties, lack of control, insufficient reward and physical factors as key contributors to this increasingly common phenomenon among students.

Giving the seminar a practical value, the Lead Facilitator recommended the identification of personal stress triggers and replacing unhealthy coping mechanisms as vital measures for managing overall stress levels. According to him "Recognizing what stresses you is the first step towards effective management." He also provided the '4 As' of stress management, a practical framework designed to empower students with concrete tools for stress navigation. They are (1) Avoid unnecessary stress through careful priority management; (2) Alter stressful situations where possible through proactive problem-solving; (3) Adapt to stress by adjusting expectations and perspectives; (4) Accept unchangeable circumstances whilst focusing on controllable responses. The seminar featured an interactive session that provided participants with the opportunity to open-up on varied experiences.

By creating open dialogue on mental health challenges and providing students with evidence-based stress management techniques, SBBS and for that matter UHAS, demonstrates its commitment to nurturing not just academic achievements but holistic personal development of students.

UHAS MANAGEMENT UNDERTOOK A 3-DAY RETREAT TO ENHANCE COHESIVE GOVERNANCE

The Management of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), together with some selected Heads of Department and Unit, met at the Holy Trinity SPA at Sogakofe, from Friday, September 12 to Sunday, September 14, 2025 to engage in an administrative brainstorming exercise, during which activities carried out in the 2024/2025 Academic Year were reviewed and slated activities for the 2025/2026 Academic Year were discussed.



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, used the opportunity to appreciate the work of each of the Schols and Directorates of the University. She showed contentment for the number of successes chalked by the University in the 2024/2025 Academic Year and called on both faculty and staff to always endeavor to own the University in their administrative decision-making and actions.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Frank Edwin urged the University's management members to explore innovative approaches to mobilize much needed resources in support of the University's growth and sustainability.

The Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, stressed the critical role of 'Committee



System' in university governance and administration and advocated for a renewed sense of responsibility in university administrative decision-making.

Former Pro-Vice Chancellor and former acting Dean of UHAS School of Pharmacy, Professor T.C. Fleischer, while speaking on the topic "Responsibilities of Deans, Directors and Heads of Department", emphasized the need for accountability, effective leadership and teamwork in driving institutional growth and maintaining academic excellence.

Former Director of the Centre for Malaria Research at UHAS Institute of Health Research, Professor Evelyn K. Ansah,



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spoke on the topic "Strategic Plan Review: Processes and Expectations", during which she called on participants to always make conscious efforts to align their respective activities with the University's long-term goals. All Deans and Directors of the University made impactful contributions during the retreat session.

To add a human-centered dimension to the session and to remind the leaders that caring for their mental wellness is key to sustaining productivity and institutional progress, Dr. Emmanuel Dziwornu, Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine and Mental Health at UHAS School of Medicine, delivered a presentation on "Mental Wellness for Leaders". He highlighted the importance of mental health in leadership, stressing that effective leaders must prioritize self-care, stress management and emotional resilience. He encouraged participants to adopt healthy practices that promote a balance between professional and personal well-being.

The 3-day engagement fostered a constructive dialogue, reinforced institutional accountability and underscored UHAS' commitment to excellence in teaching, research and community service delivery.



UHAS Marks a Milestone with the Commissioning of a Dental Clinic, Counselling Centre, Newsletter and Cutting-Edge Laboratories

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, commissioned a suite of new facilities and initiatives designed to strengthen teaching, practical orientation, community service and research. The ceremony, which was held at the University's School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences (SBBS) Auditorium, marked the official opening of a Dental Clinic under the School of Dentistry, a Counselling and Wellness Centre, UHAS Bulletin newsletter, Medical Imaging Stimulation Laboratory for the School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS), Zebrafish Laboratory and Graduate Research Laboratory for Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, described the commissioning/launch ceremony as a great step towards the fulfilment of UHAS' strategic objectives on expanding infrastructure and investing in technology for health education and research. "These facilities will not only enhance academic training but also ensure that our students and staff gain practical, hands-on

experience," she said. Professor Aziato urged faculty and students to embrace innovation and the effective use of data, in their pursuit of academic and professional excellence. She also commended donors and partners for their contributions, while stressing the importance of proper maintenance and revenue generation.

The UHAS Bulletin, a bi-monthly electronic newsletter, was launched by the Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni. She said the newsletter, which is a product of the Directorate of Public Affairs, will provide updates on university events, research breakthroughs, student and staff achievements and alumni news.

Regarding the Dental Clinic and its simulation laboratory, Dr. Fernando Miguel Acevedo, Acting Dean of the UHAS School of Dentistry, noted that UHAS is the fifth university in Ghana to offer dental education. He stressed the importance of simulation laboratories in the training of dentists, especially given the country's worrying dentist-to-patient ratio of 1:50,000 compared to the World Health Organization's recommendation of

1:5,000. He called on government to expand training opportunities and integrate oral health into primary healthcare.



In the School of Pharmacy, Professor Kwame Ohene Buabeng, Dean of the school, unveiled the Zebrafish Laboratory and Graduate Research Laboratory for Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences. He described the zebrafish facility as a “global phenomenon,” offering groundbreaking opportunities in neuropharmacology, disease modelling and biomedical research. He expressed profound appreciation to all donors, especially MES Equipment Limited for their support towards the graduate research laboratory.

The School of Allied Health Sciences also gained a Medical Imaging Simulation Laboratory. The Principal Investigator for the project, Dr. Seth Angmorth, a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Medical



Imaging, stated that the laboratory will boost both academic training and professional development and provide capacity for running continuing professional development (CPD) programmes for radiographers, radiologists and physicians. He appreciated the Ghana Skills and Development Fund for supporting the initiative.

The lead person for the newly commissioned UHAS Counselling and Wellness Centre, Dr. Emmanuel Dziwornu, Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine and Mental Health at the UHAS School of Medicine, described the centre as “critical to the well-being of any academic community”, noting that it will provide services such as psychotherapy, crisis intervention, career guidance and workshops, to be delivered with professionalism and confidentiality.

The ceremony also featured solidarity messages from Dr. Alphonse Makafui Dzakpasu, Deputy Director of Clinical Care, Ghana Health Service, Volta Regional Health Directorate, representing the Regional Directorate of Health Services and Ms. Ramatu Naa Ayele Attoh, Administrative Secretary of MES Equipment Limited, representing the Chief Executive Officer.

Also present at the ceremony were Professor Frank Edwin, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, faculty, staff, students, sponsors and members of the wider university public.

The new facilities stand as a symbol of the University's mission of shaping global citizens, fostering innovation and building a supportive community dedicated to transforming health outcomes in Ghana and beyond.



UHAS-SOM Marks 2025 World Sight Day

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The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), School of Medicine (SOM) in collaboration with Ho Teaching Hospital Eye Clinic held a free eye screening and public education exercise at the UHAS Main Campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho on Thursday, October 9, 2025 to mark this year's World Sight Day under the theme 'Love your Eyes.'

According to the World Health Organization, although concerted action has reduced vision loss resulting from conditions such as vitamin A deficiency, onchocerciasis and trachoma, eye health faces new challenges due to aging populations, unhealthy lifestyles, environmental factors, inadequate knowledge of good eye practices, low awareness, altered diets, sedentary lifestyles and an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs), resulting in an increase in preventable vision impairment and blindness such as refractive errors and cataracts.

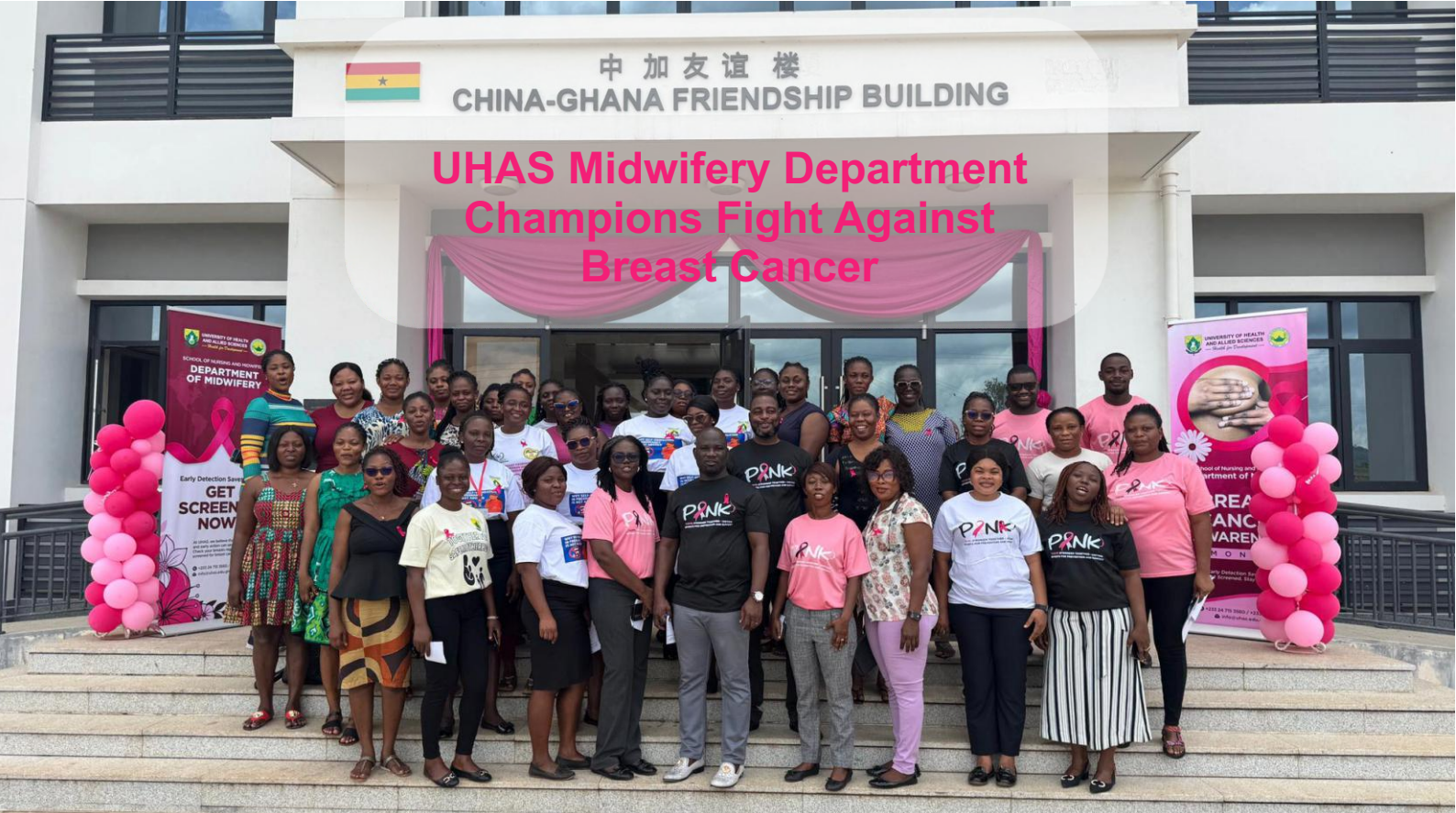
Professor Yaw Asante Awuku, Dean of UHAS School of Medicine, speaking on the theme 'Love your Eyes' said that the World Sight Day is an important day of commemoration as the eye is a very

important part of the human body. Professor Awuku called upon all and sundry to frequently check the state of their eyes through screening exercises.

Mr. Robert Ewusi-Wilson, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT), UHAS School of Medicine, on behalf of the Head of Department Dr. Alfred Osafo-Kwaako, said, among other things, that the aim of the exercise was to sensitize staff on the need to have regular eye checkups, detect early conditions that cause avoidable blindness and provide referrals for further examination and treatment.

Dr. Mohammed Jeduah, Optometrist, Ho Teaching Hospital (HTH) was the leader of the screening team which comprised UHAS faculty and healthcare professionals from HTH.

The exercise featured interactive sessions during which the facilitators addressed issues concerning myths and misconceptions while highlighting the importance of screening, among others.



The Department of Midwifery of the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SONAM), University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) has successfully concluded its maiden Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebration, leading a month-long initiative that promoted education, screening and advocacy in the fight against breast cancer.

The Department dedicated October 2025 to a fierce fight against breast cancer under the theme “Stronger Together: Uniting Efforts for Prevention and Support”.

The activities commenced with a colourful launch on Friday, October 10, 2025 at UHAS-SONAM, UHAS Main Campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho in the Volta Region of Ghana.

The Dean of SONAM, Professor Peter Adatara, launched the campaign with a call for participants to take breast health seriously, recalling the recent loss of a Level 200 student of the Department to breast cancer. He praised the Department for transforming grief into purposeful action, declaring that nurses and midwives carry a sacred responsibility to save lives through knowledge, compassion and vigilance.

The UHAS-SONAM Head of Department for Midwifery, Dr. Anthony Kuug, emphasized that awareness remains the strongest defense against breast cancer. He advocated for consistent self-examination and regular screening, noting that early detection and prompt treatment can make all the difference between life and loss. Dr. Kuug reiterated the fact that breast cancer is not a death sentence and that by harnessing knowledge, compassion and action, many lives will be saved.

Ms. Irene Torshie Attachie, a Midwife Specialist and Lecturer in the Department, spoke passionately about the psychological aspect of care. “Breast cancer does not only affect the body, it affects the mind and identity of a woman,” she said. She therefore called on midwives to provide not only clinical support but also emotional care, helping women rebuild confidence and hope.

Participants at the launch programme shared heartfelt testimonies from their encounters with breast cancer. They generally called for regular check-ups and readiness to seek help. Upon the launch, the Department conducted outreach



activities at Kodjobi in the Adaklu District on Sunday, October 19, 2025 and UHAS Main Campus, Sokode-Lokoe between October 20 and 22, 2025. The outreach activities saw faculty, staff and students collaborating to provide free breast examinations, education on self-checks and referrals to the Ho Teaching Hospital.

There was also a live panel discussion broadcast on YouTube (@UHASTV) on Friday, October 24, 2025, featuring Ms. Dinah Brenda Boateng Adu, an Assistant Lecturer at UHAS-SONAM Department of Midwifery and Ms. Portia Ahiaku Peka, a Midwife Specialist and UHAS-SONAM MPhil Student, with Ms. Ellen Mensah-Bonsu, a Lecturer at UHAS School of Allied Health Science, Department of Physiotherapy as the Host.

The panel discussion session explored the myths and misconceptions surrounding breast cancer and professional roles in early detection, canvassing for the breast cancer awareness conversation to ever be kept alive in homes, schools and workplaces. By fostering health awareness and service to society, the initiative aligns closely with the mission of UHAS in providing quality education, advancing research and delivering compassionate healthcare



UHAS Women in STEM undertake Gender Equality Partnership Project for High School Girls

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The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Network in collaboration with Edinburgh-Napier University, STEMBees Organization and funded by the British Council, hosted Gender Equality Partnership project for High School female students to train, mentor and increase the participation of girls in STEM subjects at all levels of Ghana's education ladder. The programme was held on Wednesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 16, 2025 at UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences (SBBS) auditorium and UHAS Simulation Centre, at the University's main campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

The participating schools included Awudome S.H.S., Mawuko S.H.S., Mafi Kumasi S.H.S., Adaklu S.H.S., Tsito Senior High Technical School and Sokode Senior High Technical School.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, in her address said despite the STEM bias in the Ghanaian culture, it is time to change the narrative, break the

glass ceiling in STEM and effectively admit girls into STEM. Professor Aziato challenged the students to build a brand with integrity and pursue their passion no matter the challenges.

Speaking on the theme 'Reducing Gender Segregation in STEM Subjects in Ghana through High School-based Intervention', the Guest Speaker, Professor Smile Gavua Dzisi declared that there is no empirical research that states that girls cannot thrive in STEM, so despite the misconceptions and gaps in leadership, particularly in STEM, there is the need for a paradigm shift. She charged the students to build positive habits and constantly think like the STEM star they dream to become. Professor Gavua Dzisi emphasized the need to have mentors that will serve as roadmaps as far as issues relating to their careers are concerned.

The Dean of UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences (SBBS), Professor Seth Amponsah, in his remarks appealed to stakeholders to promote equity in STEM in favour of girls in high schools.



Dr. Grace Semabia Kpeli, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the UHAS Women in STEM Network project and a Senior Lecturer at UHAS-SBBS expressed optimism about the impact of the project on the lives of girls in STEM. She also appreciated the sponsors - Edinburgh-Napier University, STEMBees Organization and the British Council.

Other trailblazers including Professor Margaret Gyapong (Former Director of UHAS Institute of Health Research), Arc. Ruth Xorladem Ayithey (Director of UHAS Works and Physical Development Directorate), Uchenna Nnabuko (an Information Analyst) and Engineer Amy Atakora Addo shared their stories with the participants in male dominated fields in STEM.

The insightful training and mentorship sessions introduced participants to panel discussions in career choices, health,

personal grooming, practical STEM lessons, Build Something Different (BSD) learning platform and robotics.

Collaborators from Edinburgh-Napier University led by Professor Sophie Foley, (Associate Professor in Microbiology) were also present. Professor Foley applauded the students for their participation and encouraged them to take advantage of the STEM training.

Also in attendance were Ms. Wendy Akushika Dogbega (President of Women in Synthetic Biology Africa), Ms. Veronica Sitsofe Agudogo (Municipal Coordinator for Science, Technology, Mathematics, Innovation and Education) – who represented Ho Municipal Director of Education. There were also other officers from Ho Municipal Directorate of Ghana Education Service and UHAS faculty and staff.





2025 UHAS Research Conference Ends with a Call for Stronger and Sustainable Health Systems

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) has successfully concluded its Third Research Conference, held from October 21 to 23, 2025, at the University's Main Campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho in the Volta Region of Ghana.

The conference opened with a ceremony on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at the University's Cedi Auditorium and ended with another ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at the same venue.

The three-day conference brought together distinguished scholars, policymakers and health professionals from Ghana and abroad to deliberate on the theme “Global Health Resilience: Emerging Threats, Policy Impacts and Sustainable Solutions”.

The event served as a platform to share scientific evidence, policy insights and practical innovations aimed at strengthening health systems and ensuring long-term resilience in Africa and beyond.

In her address, Professor Lydia Aziato, Vice Chancellor of UHAS and the Chairperson of the conference,

underscored the critical role of research in achieving universal and sustainable healthcare coverage. She said Africa must find home-grown sustainable solutions to its health challenges and ensure that the outcomes of research translate into actions that directly benefit the public. “Conferences such as this must not end in reports or publications. The real impact comes when our research outcomes reach the masses and create lasting change in healthcare.” she stated.

Professor Aziato highlighted the importance of technology and artificial intelligence in driving innovation and efficiency in the health sector. She urged researchers to leverage digital tools to design long-term health interventions tailored to Africa's context.

Touching on mental health, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for resilient health systems capable of addressing emerging psychosocial challenges, adding that mental well-being should remain a national health priority.

She called for mutually beneficial partnerships beyond the conference, stressing that collaboration among

academia, government and international organisations is essential to achieve impact at scale.



Togbega Drake Tsigbe IV, Paramount Chief of Akoeffe, represented Togbe Tepre Hodo, President of the Volta Regional House of Chiefs and conveyed the continuous support of traditional leaders to development programmes in the Volta Region and beyond.

Professor Margaret Gyapong, a Professor of Health Policy Implementation Research at UHAS Institute of Health Research (IHR), a former Director of UHAS-IHR and the Chairperson for the 2025 UHAS Research Conference Planning Committee, urged researchers to ensure that scientific findings inform real-world policy and decision-making.

Professor M. Gyapong called for stronger investment in research capacity, data systems and innovation in African universities to build more resilient health systems. She emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, saying that complex health challenges require the collective expertise of scientists, social researchers and policymakers.

Commending UHAS for providing a vibrant platform that connects research, policy and practice, she encouraged young scientists to produce research that makes a measurable difference in people's lives. She then reminded participants that all research efforts must align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ghana's national health priorities.



Delivering the Keynote Address, Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director of Global Health EDCTP3, called for proactive investment in health preparedness systems to prevent the devastating impacts of future pandemics.

Speaking on the conference theme, "Global Health Resilience: Emerging Threats, Policy Impacts and Sustainable Solutions", Dr Makanga noted that COVID-19 exposed both the strengths and weaknesses of the global health system. He therefore advocated for preparedness as the new benchmark for quality in global health.

He drew attention to findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2025, published in The Lancet, showing that global outbreaks have increased steadily

since 2003. With less than five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, he said countries must reshape their health policies around resilience, sustainability and equity.

Dr Makanga outlined key continental strategies such as the WHO Africa Regional Strategy for Health Security (2022–2030) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which emphasize innovation, vaccine self-sufficiency and digital health. He showcased the work of Global Health EDCTP3, the largest Europe–Africa research partnership, supporting over 100 projects across 64 countries. Among its notable achievements are the development of the first malaria and schistosomiasis vaccines for children, new treatments for neglected tropical diseases and the establishment of Africa-wide genomic and epidemic preparedness networks. He concluded with a powerful reminder: “If an emerging threat hits tomorrow, we must be ready to launch a trial within 30 days ethically, safely and collaboratively.”

Professor Alexander Ansah Manu, Director of UHAS Institute of Health Research (UHAS-IHR), spoke on the topic “Research within the Context of the University of Health and Allied Sciences”. He affirmed that UHAS was established under Act 828 (2011) with a dual mandate to train health professionals and conduct cutting-edge research.

Dr Manu expressed concern that Ghana's maternal mortality ratio of 234 per 100,000 live births remains far from the SDG target of 70. He urged increased innovation and system strengthening to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

He further observed that the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, re-emerging infections and climate change requires new research approaches. Referring to his slide titled 'The Sea Eats the Land at Home', he drew attention to the health impacts of environmental change.

Professor Manu also highlighted the work of the UHAS Centre for NCD Research, which currently leads projects on parental care practices and childhood development and the cost assessment of the miLab™ MAL Digital Microscope for malaria diagnosis — both funded through international partnerships.

He concluded by urging researchers to conduct studies that produce meaningful community impact, citing UHAS community outreach and NCD screening activities at Keta as examples.

A symposium on “The Politics of Global Health: Policies, Aid and Power Dynamics” was another highlight of the conference. The session, moderated by Professor Olumide Ogundahunsi, featured distinguished panelists including Dr Victor Asare Bampoe, Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA); Dr Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt, former Director of Technical Coordination at the Ministry of Health; and Dr Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, former Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The conference featured a special plenary session on “Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical and Clinical Research in Africa”, facilitated by Dr. Stephen Moore, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Cape Coast.

Dr. Moore's presentation focused on the AI imperative in Africa, highlighting the continent's rapid digital transformation including over 495 million internet users and a growing network of cloud and AI hubs. He discussed the potential of AI in accelerating biomedical research, particularly in addressing Africa's major health challenges such as malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and Neglected Tropical Diseases, amid limited health infrastructure.

Dr Moore cited examples of AI-powered disease diagnosis in Africa such as image recognition for malaria detection using mobile phone microscopy coupled with machine learning algorithms. He



further examined barriers to healthcare delivery including limited facilities, inadequate health workers and geographical obstacles and called for policies to support data sharing and ethical AI solutions tailored to Africa's realities.

There were panel discussions which examined the challenges associated with rebuilding health systems amid declining donor funding and shifting global health priorities, among others. The panelists also explored how low-and middle-income countries could strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, governance and accountability to reduce dependence on external aid, regarding health research. The engaging discussion sessions offered practical pathways for achieving equity, self-reliance and sustainable health financing, earning enthusiastic feedback from the audience.

The conference concluded with brief remarks from invited partners and dignitaries, who assured the University of their unflinching support on the way forward. The dignitaries included Dr Atsu Dordor, Volta Regional Director of Health Services and Dr Sofonias Asrat, Coordinator of Health Systems at the World Health Organization (WHO).

The acting Registrar of the University, Dr. Cedrick Dorkenoo in his closing remarks, praised attendees and conveyed his excitement about the thought-provoking conference. He hoped that participants would leave with wonderful memories,

information and connections related to a range of topics regarding African health systems.

Awards were presented to outstanding researchers: Ms Kezia Hazel received the Overall Best Oral Presentation (Young Investigator Category); Mr Kingsford Norshie, the Overall Best Poster Presentation (Young Investigator Category); Ms Juliet Aggrey-Korsah, the Overall Best Poster Presentation (Senior Investigator Category); and Ms Phidelia Theresa Doegah, the Best Oral Presentation (Senior Investigator Category).

The conference attracted international delegates, seasoned researchers from Ghana including officials from the Ghana Health Service and members of the UHAS community, both academic and administrative. Attendance was hybrid, with in person and virtual participants. A total of 200 abstracts were received from eleven African countries and Switzerland, demonstrating UHAS' growing role as a hub for research collaboration across the continent.

The 3rd UHAS Research Conference ended with lots of optimism, having participants resolving to deepen collaborations and accelerate the translation of research into practice. Binding the three-day dialogue and presentations is one clear message - sustainable health systems require technology, preparedness, innovation and partnerships that prioritise people.



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