

Eke Laments Dearth of Paediatric Surgeons



Foremost Paediatric Nephrologist in the College of Health Sciences, Professor Felicia Eke, has stressed the need for policy-makers to devote more resources to the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases, regretting that not much attention is currently being paid to the health needs of this category of citizens *reports Mercy Don-Baridam*

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Side Bar

Professor Ndowa Late handed over the Deanship of Faculty of Agriculture to Dr. Amiyé Francis last week. Watch out for details.

-Editor



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NCCP Mounts Anti-Cancer Campaign In UNIPORT ...Decries Neglect Of Health Sector

By Humphrey Ogu

If the money expended by Nigerians on medical treatment abroad, especially India, is committed to development of the health facilities at home, Nigerians would have no need to travel overseas for their healthcare needs. Co-ordinator, National Cancer Prevention Programme (NCCP), Dr Kin J-Egwuonwu made the observation, while giving a talk on the cancer

scourge in the University last Monday.

Dr J-Egwuonwu, who is a Consultant Gynaecologist, regretted that the "Nigerian Health sector is the least capable of handling cancer, due to non-availability of specialized centres for treatment of cancer in the Country," disclosing that "Cancer has replaced heart disease as the number one killer of mankind. Every year, 500,000 Nigerians are diagnosed and

100,000 die of the disease. It is a growing epidemic which kills more than malaria and HIV put together."

He wondered why Nigerians prefer to export patients to other countries instead of importing the technology from those places and why the funds spent on treatment of cancer abroad cannot be channelled towards building cancer-testing centres

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Finally, it appears that there is some semblance of ordered architecture in the management of the educational sector of our country. An admixture of policy mishaps and practised mediocrity had long become the grim metaphor for everything that had gone awry with this critical sector that makes the difference between great nations and fringe participants in the business of humanity.

After a prolonged wondering about in the educational wilderness, it now appears as if the Federal Ministry of Education is beginning to realize that becoming a member of the exclusive group of world-class educational system is not achieved through self-declaration. Rather, elite status is conferred by the outside world on the basis of verifiable reforms that positively impact on the quality of education at home.

Justification for my measured optimism is anchored on the abrasive candour with which the Honourable Minister and his energetic Minister of State are frontally tackling the prolonged rot in the educational system. Nigeria's educational system especially tertiary education which was eagerly awaiting euthanasia, now appears to hold out tiny hopes of revival as part of President Goodluck Jonathan's transformation agenda. Recent moves by the Ministry seem to suggest that there may be light at the middle of the tunnel after all.

The Ministry is suddenly no longer spewing forth a wind of words that had previously failed to change the mill of our parlous educational history. The system that was ensnared with a combination of deficits that are too familiar to be restated here appears to have found willing rescuers in the persons of the Minister and her subordinate schedule officers who share her enthusiasm to do things differently. Who is not sick and tired of the unending academic pilgrimages to poorly-endowed neighbouring countries and metropolitan European capitals for quality education that we can very conveniently offer our youths at home at a far cheaper price. The gratuitous insults suffered by many a Nigerian youth in search of quality education abroad inflicts a new form of inferiority complex on them as they wait endlessly and begging to be scheduled for elusive Visa interview at Embassies in Abuja.

Now, the Minister of State, Chief Nyesom Wike, is traversing the land, inspecting, monitoring and evaluating lethargic teachers and school administrators, who appear not to be in a hurry to do things differently from their accustomed routine. While the Ministry is busy whipping everybody into line, the bed-bugs in the corridors of the educational sector are silently absorbing the punch in the hope that what is hot would wax cold with time. "We have seen it all before", appears to be the waiting game of

Education: Are We About To Turn The Corner?

By Williams Wodi

those at the short end of the stick as Wike approaches his reformation agenda with the force of energy. If speeches reflect reality, it may well be said that we are about to turn the corner in efforts aimed at restoring the lost paradise of education in this country. The Ministry also needs to another hard look at the nursery, primary and secondary levels of education, where a lot of rot has taken over the space. Additionally, we must find ways and means of balancing our over-bloated overhead cost with capacity-building and accelerated infrastructural development as a backup to the new thinking. We have had enough of sabre-rattling in the educational sector.

Correspondingly, the Ministry should closely scrutinize and supervise private universities to ensure that they demonstrate capacity to deliver quality education to their clientele. Private universities that currently operate on the market forces of demand and supply should be reined in to insure the integrity of the Nigerian degree. Their profit-driven proprietors run them like physicians who force bitter pills down the throat of patients by

giving them an aromatic savour.

When the American revolutionary Patrick Henry delivered his emotional speech to rally the troops, his words elicited cries of 'To arms! To arms!' among those who had been undecided about the Revolution. To save our educational sector, the Ministry of Education needs support from all stakeholders. It is a full-blown revolution! In Chile, students and concerned citizens have been on the streets for three months agitating for educational reforms. The students even chased their Lecturers out of the classrooms to drive home their seriousness on the issue.

In the Acapulco region of Mexico, teachers are currently on strike to protest heightened insecurity instigated by rival drug gangs battling for territorial influence. We cannot be different in Nigeria. Something must be done to save our educational system. To arms! To arms! Oh compatriots! If we continue on this path of self-redemption, we may well be on the right track, but we need to learn from the citizen actions in Chile and Mexico in our own context.



Prof Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i
Minister Of Education



Nyesom Wike
Minister Of State, Education

Audit Staff, Worlu, Goes On Secondment To Otuoke Varsity ... Converts To Academic Cadre

By Otikor Samuel



Dr Worlu

Staff of the Internal Audit Unit, Dr Paul Worlu, has been placed on secondment to the Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State to share his experience with the new Institution, which is one of the newly established nine Federal universities in the Country. The secondment, which offers opportunity for experience-sharing is aimed at strengthening the Audit Unit of the new University.

The Letter conveying his secondment, signed by the SPATS Personnel Officer, Christy Nworu on behalf of the Registrar, Matilda Nnodim and obtained by *UNI-PORT Weekly* last Monday, read in part: "I write on instruction to inform you that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajielika, has approved your temporary release to the Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, as requested by the National Universities Commission (NUC)."

In a related development, Dr Worlu has been

converted to the academic cadre in the Department of Educational Management; Faculty of Education, following what was described as his impressive performance during an interview that was ratified by the Appointments & Promotions Committee (Academic).

The Letter of Conversion, dated September 22, 2011, and signed by Mrs Flora Iyagba, on behalf of the Registrar and made available to this publication, disclosed that he would assume duty as Lecturer II in the Department of Educational Management.

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DV-C Charges Graduate Students On Quality Research

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Graduate Students of the University have been charged to rise up to the challenge ahead of them to ensure quality research which would be in line with the University's goals of competing favourably with other universities.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, gave the charge when the new Executive of Graduate Students Union paid her a courtesy visit in her office last Tuesday.

According to the former Dean, School of Graduate Studies, students have the potential to make strong contributions to national development, advising them to make maximum use of their time to engage in quality research. "Graduate Programme is a challenge; it focuses on where there is a need and a problem to solve, if there is a problem, face it and stop complaining, see how you can solve the problem", the DV-C charged the Executive members, advising them to search for relevant articles in *Journals*, as well as visit the Internet, not just text books alone to fill gaps in knowledge. "Visit works others have done that can assist you to write your Thesis". Professor Willie-Abbey urged them to comport themselves at every time, stating that

"Respect is earned, the way you present yourself will count. If you properly present yourself as a Graduate Student, you will command respect", adding that Graduate Class is a class for discussion, to tap knowledge from others who come from different institutions.

She further commended the students for the visit, encouraging them to feel free to call on her whenever they have any challenge. In her words, "Graduate Students are the workforce of this office". On the numerous requests

presented by the students, she assured them that she would meet with the appropriate authorities to ensure an enabling environment for their studies.

The new President, Balogun Isaac, who expressed gratitude to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the warm reception, said the visit was part of efforts aimed at pursuing matters affecting the students, which he promised in his electioneering campaign. He appealed to Management to come to their aid to address the various challenges facing them, enumerating as some of the problems access to Internet services in the hostels, inadequate materials in the library, regulation of programmes and office space.

Other members of the Executive present at the occasion were: Vice-President, Ishie Ruth; Secretary General, Otaru Olawole; Treasurer, Obarezi Jacob; Director of Sports, Wogu Micheal; Director of Business, Nwachukwu Chikadibia.



DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey (centre) and Exco members of GSU

UNIPORT To Provide Expertise For BRACED Summit

By Otikor Samuel

University of Port Harcourt is among other select institutions in the South-south region that would collaborate with the *BRACED Commission* to drive the process of accelerating sustainable development of the South-south States through creation of employment opportunities aimed at reducing poverty, thereby, improving the lives of about twenty million people of the region.

BRACED Commission, which is an association of Governors of South-South, is an acronym for Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta States that signed a pact, committing all the confederating States in a partnership for economic cooperation and integration of the region.

In a Letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, dated 13th September, 2011, which conveyed the request for participation in the 2nd Economic Summit scheduled for Asaba, Delta State from

Thursday, November 24, to Saturday, 26 2011. Summit Secretary, Gabriel Okoseniema, gave the theme as *Integrating the South-south Region for Sustainable Development*, adding that the Commission hopes to tap into opportunity of the proposed professional participation to leverage on the talents and resources within the region for its overall development.

"It is against this background that the *BRACED Commission* will appreciate it if our desire to work with the University is brought to the attention of the academic community, especially those in the Social and Science Faculties. Indeed, there are opportunities for some of the experts to serve on a number of the working committees of the Commission," the Secretary disclosed.

Okoseniema revealed that the 1st Summit held in April 2009, specifically invited Scholars in the areas of infrastructural development, Oil and Gas, Environment, Agriculture, Education and Human Resource Development, Science and Technology, Youth and Gender issues, as well as Information and Communication Technology, calling on interested academics to transmit their curriculum vitae to the Commission through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor at the third floor of the Senate Building, University Park.



V-C, Prof Ajiienka



Gov Inoke, Chairman S' South Governors' Forum

Toronto Varsity Donates Books To UNIPORT

By Humphrey Ogu

As part of efforts to boost teaching and learning, as well as research and development in medical education in the University, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada, has donated books and other resource materials to the University of Port Harcourt.

Making the donation on behalf of the School, Mr Aaron Yarmoshuk, who is Director, *HIV/AIDS Initiative-Africa*, said that the presentation was informed by the School's interest in facilitating development in the area of Public Health, hoping that the books would give medical students information that would assist them in their studies.

Receiving the books, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended the donors for their kind gesture to the University, which he said, was evolving in the right direction, disclosing that "We are at the stage of research, not research for research sake, but research for development. That is why we are introducing the entrepreneurial component."

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor E thebert Ndulka, commended the collaboration between both Universities, promising that "The University will give all necessary support to ensure that it receives accelerated approval in the Senate because of its import. We hope that in time, you would also integrate other aspects of University."

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie Abbey, who was in Canada recently to advance the collaboration between both institutions, stated that "The essence of the visit to the University of Port Harcourt is to strengthen the existing relationship between the University and University of Toronto and discuss further areas of research. At the moment, they are working on HIV/AIDS. We are also thinking of other areas such as youth development."

According to her, the Project at the Centre for Health and Development (CHD) in the College of Health Sciences, would end by 2012, and so there is need for sustainability of the partnership, which has been very successful so far, stressing that "The visit today is to

brainstorm on ways of integrating the programme into the University system. We need to look for more funding from other agencies to sustain it, noting that if supported the programme would involve a lot of community research.

Earlier, the Programme Manager of CHD in the College, Dr Seye Babatunde, who accompanied the delegation from Dalla Lana School of Public Health, stated that the Centre has been involved in capacity-building on tackling HIV/AIDS scourge. "We have trained up to 300 health workers in testing, counselling and caring for people living with HIV," he said, noting that among those who benefitted from training from the

Centre were doctors, lecturers and nurses from different Departments in the College.

Dr Babatunde, who disclosed that the Centre sent four persons to model HIV/AIDS Centre in Kenya, said: "They evaluate how well the training of Medical Doctors is going, as well as organize training and refresher courses for health workers," adding that plans are afoot to focus on HIV, youth and violence to understand ways in which the youth perceive violence. According to him, the indicator success of the Centre is that it has been integrated into the University system.

Also on the delegation were: Dr Dan Allman, of the Senior Scientist, HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Programme Officer, Precious Nwaobia.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ndulka (3rd from right) receiving a copy of the books from Yarmoshuk, while DV-C (R&D) Prof Willie-Abbey and others look on.

...Royal Society Of Chemistry Too As Obuzor Emerges National VP, CSN

By Otikor Samuel

The Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom has donated 73 Volumes, including *Structure and Bonding, Organic Synthetic Methods, Biophysical Chemistry, Basic Atomic and Molecular Spectroscopy, Natural Products, Inorganic Chemistry in Aqueous Solution,*

Aromatic Chemistry, Maths for Chemists and Functional Group Chemistry to the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

The Head of Department, Professor Raphael Ngochindo, who briefed UNIPORT Weekly shortly on arrival from the 34th Annual International Conference of Chemical Society of Nigeria held in

Kwara State between 19th - 23rd September, 2011, disclosed that the books were donated to the Department through the Chemical Society of Nigeria at the Conference, stating that this year's event, which was hosted by Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed, who is also a Chemist, was awesome in organization and attendance.

Professor Ngochindo, who is a Chartered Chemist and Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry, commended the University for providing logistics that enabled the Department to participate in the event, disclosing that a Lecturer in the Department, Dr Gloria Obuzor, who facilitated the delivery of the books, emerged the National Vice-President of the Chemical Society of Nigeria.

Receiving the books, Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Erimosele Abumere, conveyed the University's gratitude to the donor for the rare gesture, stating that the books would expose readers to new trends in research. "The books are very recent; they will assist us a lot to understand the current trends in research. We will formally convey our gratitude to the Society for the gesture," the Dean promised.



HOD, Chemistry, Prof Ngochindo, Dean Science, Prof Abumere and Dr Obuzor

Participants Relive Blissful Cultural Day At S'Union Week

Otikor Samuel

Of the numerous events that were rolled out for the 2011 Student Week held penultimate week in the University, the *Cultural Day*, which was an exhibition of fashion and value system of the various ethnic nationalities across the Country appeared to have excited some of the students most. A sample of respondents randomly selected across the different groups that put up appearance during the *Week*, disclosed that displaying their traditional attire in a competitive manner, as well as to appreciate them were part of the most thrilling moments of the *Week*. They also commended other activities such as the Lecture delivered by Professor Willy Olowa on drastic measures aimed at curbing corruption in the Country. Faith Ossai, who hails from Delta State, said that the Cultural Exhibition, which was part of activities for the Grand Finale of the *Week* was the only day that

stimulated her interest as some of the programmes of the event were either put off or conducted in low profile. Miss Ossai declared unwavering love for her ethnic group, stating that she had a wonderful time during the *Week* which made her feel at home.

For Russell Ogu, from the Orashi region of Rivers State, the 2011 Student Week Cultural Day was his happiest moment on Campus. "The relish of the Cultural Day brought back memories; it was like going back to the origin of where we came from. You do not need a prophet to tell you that everyone was happy as different cultures were displayed. I have no regret being in the University of Port Harcourt. It was the first time in my life that I was seeing the different ethnic groups in such magnificent cultural outfits."

Gift Boms, a student of the Department of Theatre Arts, who decorated the float and designed the costumes, described the Cultural Day as impressive, pointing out that the general atmosphere was euphoric. He, however, observed that the awareness level was low, leading to poor turnout for some of the events.



Faith Ossai



Russell Ogu



Gift Boms

Faculty of Science Wins V-C Cup

By Otikor Samuel

Faculty of Science beat its Education counterpart 2-1 to emerge winners of the coveted Vice-Chancellor's Cup in the final football match competition held at the Sports Complex penultimate week as part of activities marking this year's Student Week.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* last Thursday, Director of Sport of the Student Union, Favour Inengite, said that all the eleven Faculties participated in the Competition, disclosing that a cash prize of N20,000 and the trophy were presented to the winner of the Football competition, while Faculties of Education and Engineering, which took second and third positions received N15,000 and N10,000, respectively.

Inengite, who revealed that Student Union Sports Fiesta was incorporated into the Student Week this year, said that eight sporting events were lined up for contest for both male and female categories, naming marathon, taekwondo, judo, tennis, swimming, badminton and squash as the other events.

The Student Union Director of Sports, who further disclosed that winners of the competition were presented with cash prizes and certificates, recalled that the idea of a Sports Fiesta was initiated in 2007 to provide an avenue for the development of young talented sportsmen and women in the

University, expressing delight that the idea is blooming as most of the Gold medalists who are bringing honour to the University were discovered during previous fiestas.

Speaking earlier, after kicking-off the Football competition, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, urged the players to show more commitment in the game to enable the University feature the football team in subsequent Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and other competitions.

Professor Ajienka promised that there would be improvement in the organization of the next edition, commending the Director for ensuring success of the competition, which he applauded as colourful. Describing her as one with many talents due to the several exploits and honours she had brought to the University, the Vice-Chancellor urged students to emulate the good works of Inengite. High points of the competition were representation of trophy and cash prizes to winners of both male and female categories by the Vice-Chancellor and the Director.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) in a group photograph with one of the Faculty Team (Inset Kick-off time)

UPWA Elects New Exco

At last, a new Executive Council has been constituted to run the affairs of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), with election conducted at the Gladys Conkey Daycare Centre, University Park last Wednesday.

A result released by the Electoral Committee headed by Mrs Leticia Ogali as Returning Officer and made available to *UNIPORT Weekly*, revealed that Caroline Nnabuo was elected Secretary-General, Mary Jane Efemini as Assistant Secretary, Esther Shaka, Financial Secretary, while Comfort Nwideduh emerged as Treasurer. Other members of the new Council are: Dr Celestina Harry elected the Public Relations Officer; Mary Udoakang, Welfare Officer and Uyi Oyegun as Provost. The new Executive Council is expected to work closely with President of the Association, Mrs Mercy Ajienka for the welfare of the Association.



Mrs Ajienka, UPWA President

PASSAGES

Mrs Jackson Ogbondah



The University of Port Harcourt announces the demise of Mrs Jackson Ogbondah, who until her death was a Library Supervisor in the Central Library Department. The deceased was

buried in her hometown, Choba on Tuesday, 23rd August, 2011.

Mrs Joy Ordu

Similarly, the death has been announced of , who until her demise on 14th September, 2011 was a staff of the Pensions/Welfare Department. Burial announcement will be announced in due course.



NCCP Mounts Anti-Cancer Campaign In UNIPORT

Cont'd from p1

in the Country, explaining that India alone has 140 of such centres where Nigerians go on medical pilgrimage, thus, contributing to the Gross Domestic Product of that Country. According to him, life expectancy in Nigeria is not only low, but also falling by the day.

He pointed out that cancer is no respecter of persons; people who are high in economic status such as the wife of former Head of State, Markim Babangida, and that of the serving Governor of Edo State, Clara Oshiomhole, and a one-time, Vice-President, Admiral Augustus Aikhom and ace broadcaster, Yinka Craig, have died of the disease in recent times.

Dr. J-Egwuonwu said that "Cancer of the cervix is caused by infection through the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)," explaining that HPV also causes cancer of the vagina, vulva, penis, scrotum, perineum, amongst others. According to him, the use of condom does not protect partners from HPV; advising young people to abstain from sex, if they want to stay free of viral infections, while women between 18 and 21 years of age should get tested every one to three years.

"The more obese a woman is, the more likely she is to have breast cancer. Women who breastfeed their babies have less chances of having breast cancer, and so it is advisable for nursing mothers to practice exclusive breastfeeding," he said, stressing the importance of self-examination among women or by their male partners.

Also speaking, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Alani, commended the University Health Services Department for making it possible

for the programme to hold, disclosing that, "Four members of the University are currently undergoing radiotherapy at UPTH. I have had cases where breasts are removed. It is more worrisome that we have more men than women here," he regretted, urging those present to spread the message to staff and students who could not attend.

Defining cancer as unusual enlargement of cells that result in loss of blood supply and eventual rotting of tissues, Professor Alani, who observed that "Cancer of the cervix is one of the cancers that have harassed womanhood," stated that "They are preventable through personal hygiene. Those who have many children are at risk of having cervical cancer."

Earlier, Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Oleka Udesala described the event as timely and topical, stating that "Most people do not

know that prostate cancer is endemic in the South-South and not so common in the North, where people consume a lot of tomatoes in their meal, disclosing that diet has a major role to play in the prevention of the deadly disease.

"Nature has blessed us with various food crops. For instance, tomato products contain *lycopene*, which is known to be effective in the fight against prostate cancer," he said, adding that there is a campaign for the consumption of mushroom in the US. He also bemoaned the lack of equipment for cancer research in the Country.

Also speaking, Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr Chinwe Ezirim reiterated that "Prevention is the best way of treating cancer," urging staff and students to make the best use of the knowledge gained from the sensitization campaign to protect themselves from the scourge



A cross section of participants at the anti-cancer campaign

Eke Laments Dearth of Paediatric Surgeons

Cont'd from p1

Eke made the observation while addressing the 10th Annual Scientific Conference of the Association of Paediatric Surgeons of Nigeria (APSON) with the theme *Foundations of Paediatric Surgery*, which took place at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) penultimate Wednesday.

Professor Eke, who presented a well-received Lecture titled, *Surgical Conditions in Children: the Paediatric Perspective*, identified congenital diseases, the need for multidisciplinary approach, partnership with Paediatric Surgeons, emergency and other related aspects of paediatric care as major areas of concern to her.

Speaking under the sub-theme: *Congenital Malformations and Neonatal Nutritional Support*, the Former Dean, Faculty of Clinical Science, stressed the need for Paediatric Surgeons to clinically diagnose children, using Ultra Scan, advising that the urinary system of all males be checked before they are discharged from hospital to avoid urinary tract infection, because of increasing cases of urinary incontinence (involuntary passage of urine).

Professor Eke identified other congenital disorders to include Prune Belly Syndrome, *Myelomeningocele*, usually associated with back bone, Palou's Syndrome-Trisomy B, Burt's RX convulsion, and Child Abuse. According to her, Paediatricians are vital in child care because they are trained to recognise congenital defects in children, advising them to watch out for such childhood disorders as allergy and immune deficiency diseases, which should be diagnosed and treated soon after birth. She, however, lamented that Paediatric surgeons have always had serious challenges due to lack of equipment, skilled personnel and adequate funding for effective administration of the system.

Professor Eke listed various ways Posterior Urinary Valve (PUV) could be handled especially through Surgical Management, disclosing that endoscopic valve ablation or vesicostomy slanting is usually done in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). She described the procedure as challenging, requiring more specialised hands for effective delivery of services, explaining that the medical aspect is important to the Paediatric Surgeon, who is expected to embark on long time monitoring of children undergoing the procedure.

She disclosed that the survival rate in PUV cases has risen to about 90% since it was discovered in 1990, regretting that no matter the surgical attention given to some patients, they still end up with renal failure. Professor Eke advocated the

employment of more Neurosurgeons, Neurologists, Teachers and Psychiatrists, Play Therapists, Churches, Urologists, Social Workers and Parents of affected children to improve their chances of survival.

According to the Lecturer, most of these diseases could be prevented through immunization, which she described as the responsibility of the Paediatrician, calling on nursing mothers to cultivate the habit of proper antenatal care. She warned that mothers who do not follow the right prescriptions usually expose their children to these disorders.

In his opening remarks, Vice-Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajenba, described the Pre-Conference Workshop as timely as "It is coming at a time when the University is positioning itself to become a World-class Entrepreneurial University that is recharged to effectively discharge its core mandate of teaching, research and community service".

Professor Ajenba, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Ben Willie-Abhey, observed that despite advances in medical and allied fields worldwide, mortality rate of children is still very high, revealing that available records show that about 22 thousand children die daily before their fifth birthday in Nigeria, blaming it on a number of factors which include: illiteracy and poor sanitary conditions, poverty, poor nutrition, amongst others.

Professor Willie-Abhey called for more qualified Surgeons,

stressing the need for more skilled auxiliary support services to reduce mortality and morbidity rates among children and their mothers. She appealed to scientists with common interest in research activities and the wellbeing of infants to quickly find local solutions to the scourge of high mortality rate in Nigeria.

She said that the Institute of Maternal and Child Health was set up as part of the University's bold initiative to tackle infant mortality and neonatal morbidity, disclosing that the Institute is currently partnering private and public spirit groups and organisations to achieve its statutory mandate in the targeted areas which include, Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa, Edo and other neighbouring States.

In his Address, Chief Medical Director (CMD) of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojule, pledged support for Paediatrics, stating that the Hospital cannot be called a tertiary health institution without the involvement of Paediatricians. "UPTH is a small Hospital, but we have a vision to be a first class World Hospital, we want to be the best in all we do and we are working diligently to achieve our goal", he disclosed.

Speaking earlier, President APSON, Professor Iyechere Egbuonwa, stressed the need for children to have their own hospital environment with better infrastructure, as well as specialist Doctors who understand their peculiar needs. Other dignitaries that attended the event included former CMD of UPTH, Dr Urial Ekwu, Dr Peter Okeke, and Dr Isaac Gbaha, amongst others.



R-L, CMD, Prof Ojule, DV-C (R&D), Profs Willie-Abhey, Eke and Egbuonwa

GUIDEPOST

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Contract Appointment of Professor Oleka Udeala of the Department of Pharmaceutical & Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been renewed for another one year, after its expiration on 31st January, 2012.

ADJUNCT LECTURER

Dr. *Ekhim Ihonkhai*, appointed *Adjunct Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Contract Appointment of Professor Basa Obahi, Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, has been reviewed with effect from February, 2011 to January, 2012.

ORIENTATION FOR M.Sc STUDENTS

The Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Institute of Petroleum Studies holds its Orientation for Master's Degree students in Petroleum Geosciences for 2011/2012 Session on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at Alam Rex Computer Room (IPS Park). Time is 10:00am.
Contact: Professor *Minaiyse Odigi*, Director CPG.

CONFERENCE FOR EDUC PSYCHOLOGISTS

The Nigerian Council of Educational Psychologists holds its 2011 National Conference and Launching of *Journal, The Educational Psychologist* with the theme: *Improvement of Intellectual Functioning and Psycho-Social Adjustment of Nigerian Children* at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, 6th October, 2011. Time is 10:00am.
Contact: Dr. P.U. Elsh, Chairman, Local Organizing Committee.

HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME

Members of the Unique UNIPORT Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Ltd interested in accessing the N5 billion loan from United Bank for Africa (UBA) are advised to obtain forms in the following offices: Dr H.A. Ayo (President), Dept of Economics, Room 26, Faculty of Humanities Building; Abel Ejiwonor (Secretary), Bursary Department, Pension and Insurance Office, Senate Building; Iyke Owino (Manager), Cooperative Office, Old Basic Studies Office, Choba Park.

ONE-WEEK WARNING STRIKE

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU), embark on one-week warning strike, commencing today, Monday, 3rd to Sunday, 9th October, 2011.
Contact: Abel Ejiwonor, SSANU Chairman, UNIPORT.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor J. H. Ezeningwem, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, proceeds on a one year Sabbatical Leave, effective from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

STUDY LEAVE

Thomas Ojobong, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, proceeds on a one year Study Leave, effective from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

DCF SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Four Engineering Students of the University, who have been selected to benefit from the *Delta-Africa Charitable Foundation* through combination of merit, leadership traits and degree of indigence, will receive their awards this Friday, 7th October, 2011 in Lagos. They are Kinate Christian (Mechanical), Favour Wejuya (Mechanical), Uchechukwu Woke (Electronic/Electrical) and Peibari Zaria (Mechanical).

FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

Interested candidates are invited to apply for a commonwealth scholarship that will commence in Sept/Oct, 2012. Details of the application procedures are available at <http://bit.ly/cwuk-app>; www.dfid.gov.uk/cwuk; www.fsb.gov.ng; www.csfp-online.org; www.fsb.org.ng; fsb2011@unicon.com
For further enquiries, you are advised to e-mail or call Akinyek (08065294771), Abudu Ilaki (08059621058), Onwua ma (08023175350), Bihinu (08033322705).

HSE ALERT!

BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS:
REPORT ALL STRANGE FACES TO THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT.
CALL: 08033180450 OR 08037097680

Briefs From Other Varsities

RSUST HOLDS CONVOCATION OCT 15

The Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Nkpolu, Port Harcourt, holds its 19th to 23rd Combined Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Convocation Arena. According to the University, the Ceremony is slated at 9:30 am for graduates who completed their studies from 2004 to 2010.

LASU GETS NEW V-C

Former Provost, Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM), Professor John Obafunwa has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of the Lagos State University (LASU). Professor Obafunwa, whose appointment takes effect from November 1, was until his elevation, a Professor of Forensic Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Forensic Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Pathologists, Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathologists.

V-C, POLICE BOSS APPEAR BEFORE ASSEMBLY ON ABSU GANG RAPE

As public outcry continues to greet the reported case of gang rape of a female adolescent by five suspected male students of Abia State University, Uturu, Police Commissioner, Bala Hassan and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor



Prof. Ruyayyan Alured Rufa'i
Vice-Chancellor

Chibuzo Oghuagu, have appeared before the Abia State House of Assembly to brief it on the ugly development which has attracted wide condemnation from across the globe. From the video of the rape, which was posted on the Internet, about five young men whose names were mentioned during the act subjected their female victim to a marathon rape. They never yielded to the plea of the hapless young girl who served the 'sex machines', who wittingly or unwittingly later uploaded same to the internet, making a movie of the act which was downloaded by over one million people across the world.

EKITI COMMUNITY OFFERS FACILITIES FOR NEW FEDERAL VARSITY

The Isole-Ekiti Community, which would co-host the new Federal University in Ekiti State, has expressed willingness to give 15 befitting buildings to accommodate pioneer workers of the University.

The Community made the offer during a reception in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chirweu Nebo.

ABUAD TO COMMENCE MEDICAL COLLEGE

Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (UBUAD), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Ido-Ekiti, Ekiti State, to use some of the facilities at FMC for the proposed College of Medicine in the University. According to authorities of the University, 60 full-time Consultants, 19 Local Consultants, 350 Nurses and 76 Laboratory Technologists are on ground in readiness for the formal take-off of the College.

NEW GLOBAL SCOREBOARD FOR RESEARCH INNOVATION

Although research efforts by universities and private organizations are increasing across the globe, most research remains highly concentrated in a small number of US universities, according to a just-published OECD study that uses a new measure of research impact. Across disciplines, however, "a more diverse picture emerges." The report, *Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2011: Innovation and growth in knowledge economies*, uses what it says is a new indicator of research impact "measured by normalized citations to academic publications across all disciplines". Using this system, the report's authors say 40 of the world top 50 research universities are located in America, with some excelling in a wide range of

disciplines. "Stanford University features among the top 50 for all 16 subject areas, and 17 other US universities feature in the top 50 in at least 10 scientific fields," the report states. But it also notes that "a more diverse picture emerges on a subject-by-subject basis with the US accounting for less than 25 of the top 50 universities in social sciences", a field in which the United Kingdom excels. A chart in the report shows that although the US holds the dominant position in 11 of the subject fields, it falls away sharply in agriculture, earth and environmental sciences, pharmacology and the social sciences. "Universities producing the top-rated publications in earth sciences, environmental science and pharmaceuticals are more evenly spread across the OECD economies," the report says, adding that those in Asia are starting to emerge as leading research institutions.

-Compiled by Otiakor Samuel

Scenes from 2011 Student Week held between 19th - 25th September

