

# UHAS Bulletin



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

**JANUARY 2026**



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## GUSA 2nd Minor Games and 28th Cross Country Kick off at UESD

The 2nd Minor Games and the 28th Cross Country Competition of the Ghana Universities Sports Association (GUSA) held under the theme, 'Harnessing Lesser Known Sports: The Key to Developing the 21st Century Sportsman' has kicked off with a colourful opening ceremony on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at the University of Environment and Sustainable Development (UESD), Somenya.

The game which brought together all sixteen (16) public universities in Ghana featured a variety of intriguing games including Chess (men and women), Scrabble (men and women), Tug of War (men), Ampe (Women) 2.5 kilometers relay (men and women) and Cross Country (men and women).

Welcoming the participating universities, Registrar of UESD, Mrs. Mary Abena Agyapong, expressed her excitement of hosting the event at her University. She declared that the athletes are not just representatives of different universities coming together but a united community

for competition and the pursuit of excellence. She urged them to compete passionately but in the spirit of unity.

The Vice Chancellor of UESD, Professor Eric Nyarko-Sampson in his address noted that the sports event was not just a celebration of unity, discipline, teamwork, endurance and excellence but but also a reflection of UESD's growing contribution to the national higher education and sports development agenda.

The Director of Sports, University of Development Studies and the President of GUSA, Mr. Shaibu Ibrahim Tanko, on





his part noted, among other things, that the ultimate goal of the game was to build character and strengthen collaboration among member institutions.

Mr. Daniel Mensah Loglo, a student of the School of Medicine, University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), led the student representatives to swear the Athletes' Oath to affirm their commitment to fairness, integrity and respect for the rules of the games. He pledged on behalf of all athletes to compete with honesty and dedication and to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship throughout the competition.

This year's Minor Games promised to set a high standard for excellence and participation.



## UHAS Launches a Students' Chapter of the American Society for Microbiology



Microbiologist for Global Health' highlighted the guideline principles and diversity statement of Microbiology. Miss Tagoe noted that ASM promotes inclusive diversity with equity, access, and accountability in the microbial sciences, bringing microbiologists together to advance the microbial sciences among researchers, educators and healthcare professionals. She said members particularly stand the chance of collaborating with seasoned researchers with opportunities for volunteering, mentorship and publishing in high-impact peer reviewed journals.

The Chairman for the occasion, Professor Theophilus Adiku, a former Dean of UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences (SBBS) emphasized in his remarks that the formation of the UHAS Chapter of the society signifies UHAS' growing commitment to research, excellence and international scientific engagement. He said the society offers UHAS the opportunity of nurturing the next generation of microbiologists who would shape the future of healthcare,

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) has launched the UHAS Chapter of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at the University's main campus at Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

The Guest Speaker, Miss Rhodalyn Tagoe, Principal Research Assistant, Bacteriology Department, University of Ghana and ASM Young Ambassador, in her presentation on the theme 'Empowering the next Generation of





science and innovation both in Ghana and beyond.

Professor Adiku declared that Microbiology is not just about studying bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites but rather it is about understanding life and using the knowledge to protect, heal and sustain humanity, without which there would be no meaningful public health, effective medicine, sustainable agriculture and environmental stability.

Professor Samuel Essien-Baidoo, Dean of UHAS School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS), in his speech said the rising cases of emerging infections, antimicrobial resistance, climate-driven disease outbreaks, and global pandemics make the role of microbiologists very crucial in determining how health research outcomes can be used for the survival of humanity.

Dr. Innocent Afeke, Founder of ASM-UHAS Students' Chapter in his address commended stakeholders for their support so far and entreated the UHAS community to embrace the opportunities that the society provides in academic and

professional growth.

Also present were Professor Seth Kwabena Amponsah (Dean of UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences), UHAS faculty, UHAS students and the newly elected executives of the society.

#### UHAS Champions National Palliative Care Agenda at 2025 Conference

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), in collaboration with the Ghana Palliative Care Association (GPCA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), hosted the National Palliative Care Conference 2025 under the theme "Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care Strengthening Systems, Stories and Sustainability." The one-day national conference, held on Monday, October 28, 2025 at the University's main campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho brought together policymakers, researchers, health practitioners and advocates to deliberate on strategies for expanding equitable access to palliative care across Ghana.

The conference was chaired by Professor Peter Adatara, Dean of UHAS School of Nursing and Midwifery. In his remarks, Professor Adatara highlighted the vital role of academia in producing evidence and training professionals to deliver holistic care to patients with life-limiting illnesses.

Representing the Minister for Health, Dr Ernest Konadu Asiedu, Director for Medical and Dental Services at the Ministry of Health, commended the GPCA and its partners for the “visible turning point in Ghana's health journey.” He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to integrating palliative care into the national health system, noting that it has already been incorporated into nine national health policies, including those addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health.

Solidarity messages were delivered by representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA), International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC), International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) and the African Palliative Care Association (APCA).

A special address was also delivered by Monsignor Alexander Bobby Benson, Founder of Matthew 25 House, who shared an inspiring message on the moral and spiritual dimensions of caring for the terminally ill, emphasising compassion as a moral duty of healthcare delivery.

The conference featured several scientific and policy presentations from leading experts, including Dr Sulleh Gbande - an Oncology/Palliative Care Nurse and Lecturer, UHAS School of Nursing and Midwifery; Dr Andrew Dzebu – a Cardiologist, Ho Teaching Hospital (HTH); Professor Akyea Essuman – Geriatrician and a faculty of UHAS School of medicine; Dr Felix K. Nyande - Head of Department of Nursing, UHAS School of

Nursing and Midwifery; Mrs Naomi Oye Oti - Specialist Oncology Nurse, Head of Nursing, National Radiotherapy Oncology and Nuclear Medicine Center, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital; Dr Bisi Adewale – Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Ghana and a Palliative Care Nurse in charge of Research and Innovation at Palliative Care Association and faculty head for Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives; Mr Kofi Adu Gyamfi, Programs Manager, Asamang SDA Hospital Palliative Care Unit. The presentations explored diverse topics such as palliative care financing, integration of palliative care in nursing and medical curricula, management of NCDs and global frameworks for geriatric and end-of-life care.

Valley Care Limited also led a policy dialogue titled “The Caregiver's Voice,” which centred on partnerships and advocacy for caregivers.

Participants engaged in robust discussions that focused on four thematic areas, namely the integration and scale-up of palliative care across all levels of the health system, the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms, the development of a well-trained healthcare workforce and the expansion of equitable access to palliative care in rural and underserved communities. These discussions highlighted the urgent need for coordinated national strategies to ensure that every Ghanaian, regardless of location, has access to quality palliative care.

A major highlight of the conference was the announcement that Ghana has won the bid to host the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) Conference in 2028. This achievement marks a significant milestone in Ghana's leadership in palliative care.

The conference concluded with a communiqué outlining key recommendations and an awards



presentation recognising individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to palliative care in Ghana.

The National Palliative Care Conference 2025 was jointly organised by the Ghana Palliative Care Association, University of Health and Allied Sciences and the Ministry of Health, with support from

international partners. The event served as a national platform for research dissemination, policy dialogue and partnership building aimed at achieving universal access to palliative care and strengthening Ghana's health system for the future. The main coordinator for the programme Mrs Winifred Nana Yaa Otoo, Executive Secretary of GPCA.

## **UHAS Institutes Professional Practice Course for Traditional Medicine Practitioners**



The Institute of Traditional Alternative Medicine (ITAM) of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) in collaboration with the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association (GHAFTRAM) hosted the maiden Professional Practice Course (PPC) for traditional medicine practitioners. The event took place from Tuesday, November 4 to Friday, November 7, 2025 at the main campus of the University at Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato in her address said that UHAS as a pre-eminent research health institution is eager to partner with traditional medicine practitioners to thrive, contribute to the successes of the association and

together with other stakeholders make impact in society. She therefore charged the graduates that apart from the theoretical knowledge acquired at the training, there is the need to practically demonstrate their technical know-how as professional traditional medicine practitioners through a thorough health assessment of patients that is evidence-based before administration of herbal and alternative medicines.

She also encouraged the graduates to be well abreast with the changing trends and incorporate technology in their practice to improve their service delivery.

Professor Aziato applauded the graduates as the first cohorts of the



course and facilitators for teaching and learning organized in both English and Ghanaian languages (Twi and Ewe). She indicated that other phases of the course would be rolled out subsequently. She also appealed to stakeholders to collaborate with UHAS to have a state-of-the-art herbal farm of international repute and to establish a non-drug therapy centre at ITAM.

Dr. Angela Ackon, Technical Officer of Quality and Safety, WHO Country Representative who represented the Country Director of WHO, said that in Ghana, an estimated 60 to 70 percent of the population rely on medicinal plants and traditional medicine for their healthcare needs and on the continent, 80 percent of the population depend on traditional medicine as the primary form of healthcare. Hence, these figures do not only remind us about how widely used traditional medicine is but also how deeply it is rooted in our cultures, identities and daily lives particularly in rural and underserved areas, she said.

Dr. Ackon stated that the challenges in traditional medicine including improper documentation and licenses called for an urgent need to structured training, proper regulation and better integration into the formal healthcare system. She therefore commend collaborators for the timely intervention to confront the rising burden of chronic diseases, lifestyle-related

conditions and other environmental health challenges through rigorous curriculum that is both academically and culturally grounded such as models on ethics, sustainability, efficacy testing and proper documentation. She also encouraged stakeholders to ensure capacity building, policy integration, research and evidence generation and community engagement.

The Director of Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Ministry of Health, Dr. Anastasia Yirenkyi who represented the Minister of Health said that traditional medicine is not merely a heritage of the past but a vital assert to Ghana's healthcare system particularly in communities where access to modern healthcare is limited. Therefore, there is the need to nurture, regulate and integrate it into broader healthcare system. She indicated that her outfit will continue to provide policy direction, coordination and oversight for the development of traditional and alternative medicine in Ghana.

Dr. Evelyn Abayaah Issah, Acting Administrative Secretary, Traditional Medicine and Practice Council (TMPC), who represented the registrar noted that the graduation marked the significant milestone to advance Ghana's traditional and alternative medicine. The successful completion of the course shows the commitment of practitioners to learn and improve upon their service delivery in







healthcare. Hence, the training will meet the evolving standard of practice that align with national and WHO strategy for traditional and alternative medicine. She added that the training will help the council to differentiate between the coax and recalcitrant practitioners in society.

Mr. Gordon Akurugu, Regional Head of Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Volta Region, said as a regulatory authority they will continue to affirm all standards including market authorisation, registration of products and observe other compliance protocols. He mentioned that the ITAM product laboratory will help the FDA to register the products of practitioners in the region. He also appreciated UHAS management for the insightful course with key stakeholders on board.

The General Secretary of Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations (GHAFTRAM), Mr. Okogy Abibiduro Nana Obiri on behalf of the Chairman GHAFTRAM said that the course has enlightened the graduates in critical aspects such as professional ethics, documentation,

quality assurance and patient care. He stated that traditional medicine is not merely about healing but to uphold discipline, respect and excellence in service. He therefore challenged the practitioners to apply the knowledge acquired and promote ethical practice.

Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, Registrar, UHAS in her remarks indicated that the needed skills, knowledge and competencies acquired will enhance the work of traditional and alternative medicine practitioners to be more efficient and authentic with the help of the astute facilitators. She therefore charged the maiden cohorts to provide better care and improve service delivery through the certification course they have acquired as practitioners.

Professor Frank Edwin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, UHAS said that traditional medicine remains the first point of care in Ghana and on the continent, but the evolving demand of modern healthcare requires that practitioners are equipped with skills and knowledge to ensure safety, efficacy and professionalism. Hence, the comprehensive course is





timely for the practitioners, he said.

Professor Kwame Benoit Nguessan Banga, the Director of ITAM, UHAS, reiterated that as the health landscape evolves, the practicing also evolves. He therefore emphasized on WHO's mandate to engage traditional and alternative medicine practitioners through training, research and policy regulations. With this, ITAM-UHAS has responded directly to the call with the PPC designed to equipped practitioners with modern technical skills, laboratory awareness, ethical grounding and other manufacturing practices. He therefore commend facilitators for the breakout sessions, partners and other sponsors including MES Equipment for the initiative.

On behalf of the graduates, T.Dr. Charity Twumasi Ankrah accompanied by T.Dr. Edu Mohammed and Mr. Raymond Dotse Nyakey appreciated management for the training. This is a testament to our commitment and growth as traditional and alternative medicine practitioners, she said. She assured management that the knowledge and requisite skills acquired will be implemented as they aspire for excellence in their practice.

The 272 graduates were presented certificates of participation for the intensive training course.

In attendance were Dean and Directors of UHAS, UHAS-GHAFTRAM steering committee members, representatives from ITAM, TMPC, FDA, MES Equipment and participants from GHAFTRAM.

## Prof. Elvis Enowbeyang Tarkang delivers the 7th UHAS Inaugural Lecture



Professor Elvis Tarkang, Dean of International Programmes of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) delivered the 7th UHAS Inaugural Lecture on the theme 'Developing Tailored Interventions Embedded in Best Evidence and Theory to end AIDS by 2030 in Ghana' on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at the University's Cedi Auditorium, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho, Ghana.

An Inaugural Lecture is an opportunity for newly promoted or appointed Professors to inform colleagues in the University and





the general public, about their research career so far and update colleagues on their current and future research directions.

On June 9, 2021 the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) facilitated the adoption of a Fast Track strategy by United Nations Member States to end the AIDS pandemic by 2030, termed 95-95-95 targets. Professor Tarkang, a Professor of Health Promotion, in his lecture said despite efforts by United Nations AIDS Commission to end AIDS by 2030, HIV/AIDS remained a major public health challenge especially in sub-Saharan Africa and highlighted the slow progress so far towards achieving the 95-95-95 targets. He indicated that according to the 2024 Ghana AIDS report, 68 percent of infected persons were aware of their HIV status, 47 percent receive Antiretroviral drugs (ARD) and 42 percent were able to achieve viral suppression. He said these

results demonstrate a gap in the treatment cascade which would negatively impact the achievement of the epidemic control and ending AIDS by 2030. He therefore called for intensified efforts across testing, treatment initiation and viral suppression.

Professor Tarkang added that the most successful health promotion programmes and initiatives are based on psychological and contextual determinants of health-related behaviours which include health behaviours, targeted individuals, factors that influence behaviour and the context in which they occur.

The Lecturer declared that interventions grounded in best evidence and theory that combat public stigma, self-stigma, structural stigma and health practitioner stigma are more likely to produce positive outcomes. He said as Africans with deep sense of social interdependence there is the need to employ the Ubuntu concept which promotes interconnectedness, collectivism, compassion and empathy in combating the HIV/AIDS menace.

Professor Tarkang recounted his journey in academia and acknowledged his family and UHAS Management members, both past and present, especially the founding UHAS Vice Chancellor - Emeritus Professor Fred Newton Binka, the Immediate Past Vice Chancellor - Professor John Gyapong and the current Vice Chancellor - Professor Lydia Aziato, for their unwavering support.

The Chairperson and Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato in her address underscored the importance of psychosocial and contextual determinants in battling major public health challenges like HIV/AIDS. Professor Aziato applauded the Lecturer and entreated other faculty to emulate him by collaborating within their respective disciplines, both locally and globally. She noted that the Ubuntu concept finds space in the ethos of UHAS in providing





Service and Care.

In attendance were traditional leaders, researchers and policy-makers in the HIV/AIDS space, the Registrar - Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, Deans, Directors, faculty, staff UHAS students, students from second circle institutions in Ho township and its environs, healthcare practitioners and families of the Lecturer.

An exhibition of the scholarly works of the Lecturer was on display from Monday, November 17 to Thursday, November 20, 2025.

The Lecturer, Professor Elvis Tarkang, happened to be the first wholly 'baked' full Professor of UHAS. He is a Cameroonian who was appointed a Lecturer in 2014 and rose through the ranks from Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and then a full Professor in 2025. This shows UHAS living up to its mandate of inclusivity, cultural diversity and internationalization, establishing a conducive work environment where staff are supported to strive in their chosen fields regardless of their nationality, race, gender, ethnicity, etc.

## UHAS 2025 Alumni Lecture Highlights Multifaceted Approach to Revolutionizing Sports Medicine

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) had its 2nd Alumni Lecture series under the theme 'Revolutionizing Sports Medicine in Ghana: A Multifaceted Approach' on Friday, November 21, 2025, bringing together alumni, students, faculty and guests for a morning of reflection and inspiration.

In her welcome address, Professor Lydia Aziato, the Vice Chancellor, emphasized the importance of reconnecting with the alumni community. She commended the alumni for the rich contribution they continue to make towards the development of the University.

The Vice Chancellor refuted the wrong impression that the School of Sports and





Exercise Medicine was meant for training athletes. She said the School rather trains professionals to care for the health and well-being of athletes for maximum output in their respective fields of sports. Professor Aziato explained further by saying sports medicine practitioners diagnose, treat and help prevent injuries not just with the use of drugs but also with prescriptions involving exercise, movement and recovery, thereby making graduates of the programme leaders in public health who work at the intersection of clinical care, research and community well-being.

The Lecture was chaired by Mama Bobi III, Queen Mother of Bake, Ho Bankoe, whose presence underscored the importance of traditional wisdom in the purpose for the gathering. Mama Bobi III in her remarks emphasized the need for extensive humanitarian work in the field of healthcare. She urged the alumni to consider mobile health initiatives, community health worker training programmes and partnerships between the university and traditional authorities in implementing grassroots health interventions. She challenged the alumni and students to embrace multi-dimensional leadership and called on the youth to avail themselves for volunteerism and submit themselves to mentorship opportunities.

Dr. Eric Ayertey Tetteh, the Lecturer for the occasion, is a trained graduate nurse, a medical doctor, a sports enthusiast and an emerging sports medicine professional whose work sits at the forefront of the interconnected fields of sports science, sports medicine, exercise medicine and anti-doping. His drive lies in advancing this integrated approach for the optimization of athletic performance and the efficient management and prevention of illnesses and for promoting safer, more resilient and healthier athletes and active populations.

Dr. Tetteh is the founding UHAS Students Representative Council (SRC) President and his leadership helped shape the foundation of UHAS student governance and set the tone for its culture of excellence. His passion for research was evident very early in UHAS as he founded the first student research club, the Society for Integrated Health Research (SIHR-UHAS), a group that continues to distinguish itself, with nearly all pioneer members now pursuing or completed their PhD programmes.

As a pioneer-graduate of UHAS School of Nursing and Midwifery, he graduated in 2016 with Bachelor of Nursing. He went







on to undergo a four-year Graduate Medicine programme at the University of Ghana where he earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). He later obtained MSc in Sport and Exercise Sciences from Loughborough University, UK, where he received the Development Trust Africa Scholarship and the prestigious 2024 Ede's & Ravenscroft Postgraduate Prize. This recognition enabled him to undergo sponsored advanced training at Aspetar Sports Medicine Centre, the world's leading sports medicine institution.

Dr. Tetteh has completed certifications, advanced diplomas and specialized programmes with leading international sports-medicine bodies, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Boxing, FIFA, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Sports Integrity Australia, the International Testing Agency (ITA) and the European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC). He is an internationally trained Doping Control Officer and Blood Collection Officer (Denmark and UK) and has served in frontline medical and anti-doping roles at major events such as the African Games Accra 2023 and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Off the field, he has co-authored CAF's U-15 Anti-Doping Manual and played a key role in creating

the U-15 Anti-Doping Ambassador Initiative.

Dr. Tetteh, the Lecturer, traced his journey from his early days at UHAS to his international career. He reflected on his experiences from working as a ringside medical doctor in boxing to shaping Ghana's first boxing medical and safety code. His narrative emphasized not only his clinical work but also his role in developing anti-doping initiatives, athlete safety protocols and a multi-disciplinary team approach that brings together physiotherapists, emergency technicians, strength coaches, etc.

He made a bold call to action, requesting Ghana to build a nationally coordinated sports and exercise medicine system tailored to its unique physiology, culture and public health needs. He urged stakeholders to invest in research, training and infrastructure, suggesting that UHAS could become the country's first FIFA/IOC-accredited centre of medical excellence in sports medicine if the government and UHAS partners would make it a goal.

After the thought-provoking lecture, Mr. Gabriel Agbanyo, the UHAS Alumni President, appreciated UHAS Management and all who played diverse roles in the success of the Alumni Lecture.







In attendance were the Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, Deans, Directors, Faculty and Staff of the University, representatives of heads of government departments in the Volta Region, past and present students of UHAS and students from second-cycle institutions in the Ho township.

In 2021, UHAS became the first and only university in West Africa to run a programme in Sports and Exercise

Medicine at the undergraduate level. The first cohort graduated last year, 2024. The second cohort is scheduled to graduate on December 4, 2025. As Sports and Exercise Medicine is an emerging area in the professional space, it is expected that this year's UHAS Alumni Lecture which highlighted the job prospects the field offers would encourage prospective undergraduates whose interest align with the field to take advantage of the opportunities.

## UHAS Hosts 2025 Annual General Meeting of Ghana Library Association

The Ghana Library Association (GLA) held its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), Ho under the theme “Innovating for Impact: Libraries in the Age of AI and Social Technologies”, on Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21, 2025. The meeting underscored a strong call for bold innovations, responsible use of Artificial Intelligence and a renewed commitment to the country's digital future.

The two-day meeting brought together librarians, academics, policymakers and industry leaders.

Dr. Hawa Osman, the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, welcomed participants by urging them to embrace new AI-powered tools and digital approaches that make library services more responsive and accessible.

The President of GLA, Mr. Kodjo Antwi Asafo-Adjei in his address acknowledged





the resource limitations that beset the library service delivery but reminded members that their work remained central to Ghana's progress in education, digital transformation, youth empowerment and social development and advocated for experience sharing and building of strong professional ties among librarians.

In her remarks, the Vice Chancellor of UHAS, Professor Lydia Aziato, who chaired the two-day programme,

admonished librarians to collaborate closely with Information Technology professionals, adopt ethical and responsible AI practices and champion community-based literacy programmes. She shared a personal experience in Canada, where librarians supported students with research navigation, referencing and synthesis skills, reminding participants of the powerful impact librarians could make in the academic space.



Board Chair of the GLA, Dr. Michael Ato Essuman, who delivered the keynote address offered a clear and compelling vision for how AI could reshape the future of librarianship. He emphasized the fact that libraries could no longer be defined only by their collections, but by their connections. He said AI is not a threat to librarians, but rather a powerful tool that can take on repetitive tasks and free professionals to focus on higher-level responsibilities.

Dr. Essuman also highlighted the growing need for virtual reading clubs, micro-learning sessions and national digital literacy campaigns, in expanding the reach of libraries beyond physical walls. He called on librarians to invest in their own digital skills, experiment with new technologies and lead national





conversations on ethical AI and information literacy. “The future of knowledge and the intellectual resilience of Ghana rests on our ability to innovate now.”, he declared.

The Guest Speaker, Dr. Monica Mensah-Danquah, on her part encouraged librarians to continue learning, rising together and contributing meaningfully to the development of Ghana.

The University Librarian of UHAS, Dr. Theresa Adu, urged colleague librarians to continue working in shaping the minds of future generations for a well-informed population.

The 2025 AGM ended with a shared sense of purpose for utilizing Artificial Intelligence, digital tools and new opportunities for the general advancement of library services.



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Care Association and faculty head for Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives; Mr Kofi Adu Gyamfi, Programs Manager, Asamang SDA Hospital Palliative Care Unit. The presentations explored diverse topics such as palliative care financing, integration of palliative care in nursing and medical curricula, management of NCDs and global frameworks for geriatric and end-of-life care.

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## **UHAS Graduates 1,374 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of its 10th Congregation**

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) on Thursday, December 4, 2025, held the first session of its 10th Congregation at the Cedi Auditorium at the main campus, Sokode-Lokoe, Ho.

In all, 1,374 undergraduates and post graduate students from the University's six schools were conferred with various degrees. As part of the programme, 30 Oncology Nurse Leadership Programme (ONLEP) participants also graduated.

The Oncology Nurse Leadership Programme (ONLEP) in Africa is a 5-year project of a 6-month annual fully funded

postgraduate certificate programme expected to train 240 Oncology nurses. This is a partnership between UHAS, International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), City Cancer Challenge (C/Can) and Applied Molecular Genetics Inc. (AMGEN). The first cohort, which graduated as part of the first session of the 10th Congregation of the University were selected from public and private hospitals, faith-based hospitals, universities, advocacy organizations and Nursing Training Colleges from 7 countries on the continent of Africa, namely Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Malawi, Kenya, South Africa and Gambia.



The Chairman of the University Council, Professor Kodzo Gavua, in his speech affirmed the University's commitment to becoming Ghana's premier destination for health professionals training. Professor Gavua commended UHAS alumni for their outstanding contributions to the health sector, noting that their achievements reflect the high-quality teaching and mentoring provided by the University's faculty and staff. He expressed deep appreciation to the hardworking academic and administrative teams across the various Schools and Directorates, acknowledging their roles in elevating the University's reputation.

He thanked the Government of Ghana for its continuous support in providing facilities and resources to enhance teaching and learning. Looking ahead to the admission of new students in January 2026, Professor Gavua raised concerns about challenges with ongoing infrastructure projects. He noted that key projects including the 5.3-kilometre internal road network on the Ho campus, the Laboratory Complex, the Fodome Campus project expected to house the Fred N. Binka School of Public Health and other GETFund-funded infrastructure projects remain incomplete. He therefore made a strong appeal to the Minister of Finance to expedite action on the release

of funds to the relevant executing agencies to ensure timely completion.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Lydia Aziato, in her state of the University address, itemized several landmark accomplishments recorded in the 2024/2025 academic year. She disclosed that the University has introduced new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The Vice Chancellor also highlighted the commissioning of key academic and clinical facilities, including the Dental Clinic equipped with phantom heads and dental chairs, a new

Counselling and Wellness Centre, Medical Imaging Simulation laboratory, Zebra Fish laboratory, pharmaceutical research facilities and new simulation spaces for Audiology, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy.

Professor Aziato further reported positive gains in student admissions and enrolment, with 10,292 students currently studying across the University's eight schools. She also revealed excellent performance in national professional examinations, noting a 100% pass rate in several areas of the Nursing and Midwifery Licensing examinations and outstanding results in the MBChB final assessments.





In the area of research, she announced that UHAS continued to maintain a strong global reputation, ranking 3rd in Ghana in the 2025 AD Scientific Index and earning the first position in SDG 3 and SDG 8 under the Times Higher Education Rankings. She added that the faculty has secured millions of dollars in international grants, including major fundings from AMGEN, the Mastercard Foundation, IDRC Canada, the WHO, EDCTP and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supporting research in oncology training, reproductive health education, tropical diseases, vaccines, antimicrobial resistance and other critical health areas.

Highlighting the University's governance and partnerships, Professor Aziato noted the inauguration of a new University Council, staff promotions, new appointments and the renewal of her appointment as the Vice Chancellor and that of the Registrar, Ms. Yaa Amankwaa Opuni, for a further term of four years effective August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2030.

She said UHAS continued to strengthen collaborations with over 91 international partners. She also mentioned ongoing research fellowships, staff exchange programmes and newly signed Memoranda of Understanding with leading institutions.

On infrastructure, she provided updates ongoing projects like the UHAS Laboratory Complex, staff bungalows, lecture room facilities and the University road networks, among others.

The Vice Chancellor urged the graduates to remain committed to lifelong learning, ethical practice and innovation and keep upholding the UHAS values of Excellence, Integrity, Innovations, Service and Care.

The Guest of Honour, Honourable James Gunu, the Volta Regional Minister, in his remarks declared that UHAS has a 'father' in President John Dramani Mahama and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) government and therefore all ongoing projects and new projects critically required for the

continuous execution of the mandate of the University shall be attended to with speed.



The Guest Speaker, a renowned global health expert and a former Director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Professor Emeritus Marcel Tanner called for stronger, long-term, equitable partnerships in global health research and action, emphasizing that a multidisciplinary collaboration is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Speaking on the theme “Collaborating Across Disciplines, Cultures and Borders Transforms Health to Achieve SDGs”, Professor Tanner posited that no single tool or approach can solve today's complex health and development challenges and advocated for a combined and integrated approach that reflect socio-cultural, ecological and economic realities.







He said as globalization, mobility, demographic transitions and widening inequalities continue to shape health outcomes, the “SDG framework must guide our collective efforts.”

Professor Tanner highlighted how recent global crises, including pandemics and the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, have exposed fragmentation in societies and weaknesses in inclusive institutions and stressed the need for a “culture of science and public health action that is based on negotiated partnerships involving the next generations.”

He called for the move from short-term projects to sustainable, long-term investments in research and public health systems, in strengthening capacities, reduce disparities and advance decolonization in global health. “We must repair the engine, not only the body and chassis.” he said, calling for research sites to evolve into fully-fledged centres of excellence with coherent pipelines spanning basic science, implementation

research, training and service delivery.

Citing longstanding research partnerships in Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, Professor Tanner explained the value chain from innovation to application, emphasizing that health research must bridge laboratory science, real-world field testing and integration into health systems. Professor Tanner explained 'Partnership' to mean mutual learning for change that applies to projects, strategies, institutions and funders.

Drawing from the 2025 Guide for Global Research Partnerships (GRP-Alliance), he outlined six principles for equitable research collaboration: joint agenda-setting, managing power dynamics, defining clear roles, promoting mutual learning, sharing results for impact and building long-term partnerships. He stressed that competence, ethical standards, contextual sensitivity and strong communication must underpin all scientific endeavours.





Reflecting on the path toward the SDGs, particularly Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), he called for systemic, interdisciplinary approaches and research agendas that prioritize equity and well-being.

Professor Tanner concluded his presentation by declaring that “We must stay humble in our roles and responsibilities. It is not about creating great things but about doing the ordinary things with conviction and appreciation for their intrinsic value.”

He expressed deep gratitude to colleagues and partners across the global public health community, acknowledging

that mutual learning across systems and cultures remained the foundation for change.

Mr. Jerome Mawuli Kwadzo Adorkor of the UHAS School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences emerged the overall best graduating student for the regular 2024/2025 academic year.

The day's ceremony, which comprised both morning and afternoon sessions brought together esteemed dignitaries including traditional leaders, faculty, staff, alumni and excited family members of the graduates.

The ceremony showed UHAS as a giant which is indeed rising, living up to its mandate of practical orientation, research and community service.







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