It was all joy and smiles at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) when His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, with the support of His Royal Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, cut the sod to mark the reactivation of construction works on the hospital’s Maternity and Children’s block project.

Forty-four long years after the initial sod-cutting was done during the regime of the late General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong in 1976, the project has tragically remained uncompleted due to funding difficulties in spite of the urgent need for space and other facilities for the delivery of quality clinical care for women and children at the hospital.

It was against this background that staff members, patients, Management and Board of the hospital sighed a huge relief on Friday, 15th May, 2020, when the President performed this sod-cutting ceremony for the project. The project upon completion is expected to add about 800 beds to the hospital’s bed capacity and serve as a referral centre for 13 out of Ghana’s 16 regions.

With the funding fully secured by the government for the first time in the history of the project, there is every hope and expectation that its execution would witness a finality very soon.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Akufo-Addo affirmed that the €155 million funding for the project had been fully secured from German Deutsche Bank and the UK Export Finance to get the project completed in three years.
EDITORIAL

It is always a delightful feeling when the buildup of a new edition of the official mouth piece of news at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, the KATH NEWS is rising. The members of the KATH Editorial Board (KEB) will leave no stone unturned to make a befitting production. The stories are scrutinized with “hard lenses”. The page setting and design, the page allocation, the story plan and grammar checks are all done with great introspection. The editorial meetings (news room) are always hot and would only cool down after the final print. The KATH NEWS has reached far, even beyond the shores of Ghana and the expectation for new editions increasing by the day.

Permit me to celebrate the hardworking editorial members and the chairwoman of the Editorial Sub-Committee-Mrs Margretta Odame Antwi, our designers-Dr Joseph Bonney and Mr Henry Adu-Agyeman, our chief strategists and special writers- Mr Kwame Frimpong and Mrs Ama Pomaah Adu-Pakoh and our official proof readers-Mr Thomas Gyampomah, Dr Emmanuel Kumah and Mr Augustine Acheampong for the dedicated services being rendered to KATH through the KEB.

I am honored to have you people to work with. So far, there has been five major productions of the KATH News and still counting. It has been amazing! The stories behind the scene of production are themselves good read but we will keep them for now.

In this edition, we have carefully selected stories and activities that will make a good read and make it hard to put the newsletter down. We have details of work done in KATH from the Chief Executive’s Desk, Update on COVID-19 at KATH following the Special Edition on the pandemic. We bring you happenings from the KATH Boardroom in addition to our special stories on the Maternity and Children’s block project and road rehabilitation at KATH. We continue to profile our Directorates and Units and also bring you special in-depth look at the buzzing Trauma and Orthopedics Directorate. I am hopeful that our readers will like our selection.

The corona virus infection has come to affect our traditional way of doing things and therefore the e-News letter comes in handy. Our readers can subscribe freely to the newsletter by going to the KATH website (www.kathhsp.org) and providing the necessary information. I also encourage our cherished readers, particularly our staff, to go to our social media handles (@komfo_anokye for twitter, @kathhospital for Facebook and our soon to be launched whatsapp accounts) for timely and accurate official information about the activities and issues happening at KATH. The KEB appreciates very much the suggestions and criticisms and indeed write-ups and articles from our cherished KATH staff and readers and we encourage such comments to be sent to keb@kathhsp.org, ebkathgh@gmail.com, telephone number 0266018559, 0243900598, and intercom ext. 1056 or to the office of the Public Affairs Unit (PAU).

I am grateful to KATH Management and some members of staff for the keen interest in the work of the KEB and further endorsing our productions. I will want to thank the Chief Executive and his Management again for securing a high tech mobile phone for our live streaming events, and also for initiating processes to secure a laptop and external hard drives to facilitate the work of the KEB. The KEB has become a family, the joy and enthusiasm with which the board works is fantastic, to say the least. Ms Catherine Korankye Eastwood, a Senior Nursing Officer, has joined the KEB to complement our activities. We welcome her and it is our resolve to work with her to capture the voices and ideas of nurses at KATH. Welcome Catherine.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to read the June 2020 edition of the KATH newsletter and once again I entreat all to remember to wash hands with soap under running water or use alcohol based hand sanitizers before and after reading through this edition.

KATH Editorial Board

01. Dr. Collins Kokuro - Chairman
02. Mr. Kwame Frimpong - Member
03. Dr. Emmanuel Kumah - Member
04. Mr. Augustine Acheampong - Member
05. Dr. Joseph Bonney - Member
06. Mrs. Margretta Odame Antwi - Member
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10. Ms. Ama P. Adu-Pakoh - Member/Secretary

Editorial Board E-mail : keb@kathhsp.org
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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S DESK

As always, it is my singular honour and pleasure to engage you, our cherished readers, through this medium which is steadily becoming a powerful mouthpiece of this great hospital. I am most grateful to the Editorial Board led by Dr. Collins Kokuro for maintaining the production of this important newsletter since its reactivation in the last quarter of 2019. The enthusiasm and commitment of the Editorial Board, so far, is highly commendable as demonstrated by the production of additional edition during the second quarter, the special edition on the COVID-19 pandemic in May, 2020. That unique edition was a further proof of the mettle of the Editorial Board and its determination to highlight the significant contribution KATH is making to the delivery of specialist health care services in Ghana and beyond. To all members of the Editorial Board, I say kudos for the good work done.

Cherished readers, as indicated in the March 2020 quarterly edition of this regular newsletter, this year was expected to be the most significant in the history of this hospital since the commencement of its operations in 1955. This optimism was based on our program of works and other plans that had been drawn up by Management, the Board and the Government as at January 2020. By that time, the Coronavirus disease seemed, and indeed, felt like a distant subject. Tragically and unbeknown to us, this disease has now grown and spread to become the havoc-wrecking COVID-19 pandemic that Ghana and the world are experiencing today.

In spite of the devastating impact that the COVID-19 has had and continue to have on the finances of the hospital, some significant progress has been chalked in the execution of some of our planned interventions during the first half of the year. Thankfully, due to the unwavering determination of the government, the debilitating impact of the pandemic on the economy of the country has not derailed the execution of key government projects earmarked for the hospital. In the first week of April, 2020, the rehabilitation of the hospital’s dilapidated roads and car parks commenced with the completion of work on the asphaltic overlays, short of mark...
wish to convey our heartfelt and eternal gratitude to President Akufo-Addo, His Royal Majesty the Asantehene, the Honourable Minister for Health and the KATH Board deserve special mention for the diverse roles played in ensuring the reactivation of this important project. As a hospital, this is the major intervention yet in concretizing our well stated mission.

Another pleasant development, as we mark the first half of the year, is the delivery of new medical endoscopes to the Gastroenterology Unit of the Medicine Directorate from Karl Storz Company of Germany. Thanks to this procurement, which is valued at almost 1.2 million Ghana Cedis, the Gastroenterology Unit has now resumed the provision of specialist endoscopic diagnostics procedures which have been unavailable for a long period at the hospital after the old equipment broke down.

The 47-unit Housemen’s flats project located at the Bantama staff quarters of the hospital has also been completed and ready for occupation by House Officers. This is a project that would go a long way to provide comfortable, safe and convenient accommodation for one of the most critical cadre of staff within a walking distance from the hospital. The new 24-Hour Pharmacy building which has been constructed adjacent to the A&E Centre, was also commissioned in June to provide an ideal environment for the provision of world-class pharmaceutical services to patients and members of the public. This pharmacy is a special purpose outlet which will stock most non-insured medicines and considerable list of non-medicine medical items for prompt and convenient patient care. All these monumental feats have been achieved through the judicious use of the hospital’s Internally Generated Funds (IGF) in the face of the unimaginable difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic is wrecking on the operations and the economy of the hospital.

The above achievements notwithstanding, there is no doubt that the rest of the year is likely to be an extremely challenging one for the hospital, especially if the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic persists deep into the months ahead. This is because since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital’s expenditure on various personal protective equipment (PPEs) has almost quadrupled as against the drop in patient attendance to the hospital with the consequential drop in revenue. While I would like to reiterate the appreciation of Management to all benevolent individuals and corporate establishments that have contributed in diverse ways to resource the hospital to cope with the burden of clinical care since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish to remind all that KATH and the country are still in the fight against the pandemic to ensure, God-willing, our lives return to normalcy. We will, thus, continue to need more support. On behalf of Management, I take this unique opportunity to recognize and appreciate all the gallant staff in all the operational areas of the hospital for the great cooperation and commitment to duty that has facilitated the provision of much needed care to our cherished clients in the midst of COVID-19. Let us all continue to work in harmony to protect and facilitate our institution in executing the special mandate of providing the specialist health needs of the catchment areas of our dear country. Concluding, I wish to assure all our stakeholders that Management and the Board will endeavour to do our best to shepherd the hospital through these difficult and challenging times.

Thank you.
NEWS FROM THE BOARDROOM  Series 4

REACTIVATION OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILDREN’S BLOCK PROJECT
One of the key priorities of the Board upon assumption of office was to lobby intensively for the completion of the hospital’s Maternity and Children’s block project. Thankfully, the government has successfully secured a loan to complete the above project whose initial sod-cutting ceremony was performed in 1976. President Akufo-Addo with the assistance of the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei-Tutu II, has performed the ceremony to mark the resumption of work on the 44-year old project. The contract awarded to Contracta Construction U.K. Limited is expected to be completed in 36 months’ time and will arguably be the largest single investment made in the hospital’s expansion since its construction in 1954. The project will have about 800 beds, nine operating theatres and ultra-modern facilities to provide world-class clinical care for children and women in the country and reduce the crippling congestion and its associated mortalities at the hospital.

RENOVATION OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY (A&E) CENTRE
A comprehensive renovation of the above Centre involving painting and other civil works was executed under a contract at the cost of Ghs550,000.00. This has helped to restore the structural integrity of the building after 10 years of intensive usage.

REACTIVATION OF THE STALLED ONCOLOGY (RADIOThERAPY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE EXPANSION) PROJECT
Under the country’s Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine programme, the Hospital’s Oncology Directorate was to benefit from a Six million U.S. dollar ($6m) expansion project funded by the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID). Unfortunately, the project stalled for four years for inexplicable reasons. Other questionable decisions made by the project implementation committee that nearly doomed its execution included the importation of key equipment four years before the completion of the building to house them without any recourse to the Hospital.

The Board, in order to save the project managed to get the Hon. Minister of Health to visit the project site on two occasions besides the submission of comprehensive reports on its state of implementation. As a result of these interventions, the Minister issued the appropriate instructions leading to the acceleration of the pace of work on the project. The project’s civil works have now been completed whiles the installation of the equipment has also reached advanced stage.

The Hospital Board approved the release of funds for the training of key medical staff at the Mayo Clinic in the USA so that they can put the state of the art facilities to maximum use.

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For more details: contact Dr. EMMANUEL KUMAH on 0552515763
INDEPTH LOOK AT THE TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS DIRECTORATE

INTRODUCTION.
The Trauma and Orthopaedics Directorate was carved out of the Directorate of Surgery in 2006. It has since been functioning autonomously at the Accident and Emergency (A & E) Centre of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH). The Trauma and Orthopaedics Directorate is currently headed by Dr. Dominic Konadu-Yeboah, a Senior Specialist Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon with sub-specialty in arthroscopy and arthroplasty. Dr. Konadu-Yeboah holds an MPH from the KNUST School of Public Health.

The vision of the Directorate is to provide Trauma and Orthopaedics services of the highest quality comparable to international standards through the application of best practice and innovation and to become the most preferred destination for trauma and orthopaedics services in the sub-region. The Directorate is resourced with well trained, committed, motivated and client-focused staff who constantly seek to meet the needs and expectations of clients accessing trauma and orthopaedics services at the KATH.

SERVICE LOCATIONS
The services of the Directorate are accessible at several locations in the hospital. Patients presenting with trauma and orthopaedic emergencies first present to the Accident and Emergency Centre where they are attended to and emergency surgical procedures performed as necessary. Patients requiring admission are temporarily admitted to the A & E Centre and later transferred to the Trauma and Orthopaedics wards when their conditions become stable. Ward C1A serves as the ward for adult female patients. Wards C2A and C2B serve adult male patients. Paediatric patients are admitted to ward B3 for in-patient care. The Directorate has plaster room situated at the A & E Centre where fractures are manipulated and splinted. Other procedures such as reduction of dislocations are also performed here if not complicated. The Directorate has its ultra-modern theatre suite in the A & E Centre theatre space. Here, major as well as minor trauma and orthopaedic surgeries are performed. Out-patient services in the Directorate are provided at Surgical Specialist Consulting Room 9 by appointment system. Clubfoot and cerebral palsy clinics are located at the Physiotherapy Unit of KATH. It is a multi-disciplinary clinic in collaboration with Physiotherapy Unit.

SERVICE AVAILABILITY
Trauma and Orthopaedic emergency care services are offered 24 hours a day whereas Orthopaedic/Trauma clinics run every working day.

OUTREACH SERVICES
The Directorate runs National and International outreach programmes and courses on non-operative and operative principles of fracture treatment with sponsorship from AO Alliance, an international non-governmental organization based in Switzerland. The beneficiary healthcare groups of these courses are doctors, nurses, physician assistants and plaster-room technicians, particularly those in primary and district healthcare facilities.
TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS DIRECTORATE

Subspecialties and Scope of Service Delivery

- Arthroscopy and sports orthopaedics.
- Arthroplasty.
- Trauma.
- Paediatric orthopaedics.
- Foot and ankle orthopaedics.
- Limb reconstruction.
- Hand orthopaedics.
- Orthopaedic oncology.

Arthroscopic anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction and arthroscopic labral and cuff repairs are the newly introduced specialist services at the Directorate.

Training

Fellowship training of residents of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and the West African College of Surgeons are the key training activities that occur at the Directorate. In addition, the Directorate is accredited for the training of operating room personnel in collaboration with the AO Alliance. It is, in addition, gearing up to commence a specialist orthopaedic nursing training school with the goal of producing specialist nurses to augment orthopaedic trauma care at KATH in particular and the Sub-region as a whole.

Research Activities

The Trauma and Orthopaedic Directorate of KATH has set up a Trauma Registry which is aimed at generating quality database and developing priority indicators to improve trauma care quality and equity.

The Directorate is part of several national and international multi-centre studies such as the Trauma Network of Ghana; International Orthopaedic Multicentre Study in fracture care (INORMUS);

Evaluating the predictors of quality of life after open tibial shaft fractures and the Paediatric Fracture Solutions for Ghana Project.

External Collaborations

The Directorate enjoys a mutually beneficial collaboration with many international institutions. Notable among them are the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), USA; The San Francisco General Hospital Orthopaedics Centre of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) USA; The University of Utah Orthopaedic Centre, Saltlake City, USA; Health Volunteers Overseas (HVOs), USA; A.O Alliance, Switzerland and The Apollo Group of Hospitals, India.

Contacts: The Directorate can be contacted by email: traumaandorthopaedics@kathhsp.org, telephone: +233-500269124, +233595637575

Story by Dr. Dominic Konadu Yeboah, Head of Directorate, Trauma and Orthopaedic
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS DIRECTORATE

The Trauma and Orthopedic Directorate is one of the clinical Directorates of the Hospital. Its mission is to provide the best quality Trauma and Orthopedic surgical care through skills and capacity improvement of all health personnel. The directorate is made up of a 6-member management team: Head, Lead clinician, Nursing manager, Pharmacy manager, a Business manager and an Accountant and other resource personnel totaling two hundred and twenty-three.

Directorate meetings are held each morning from 8:00am-9:00am and the purposes of these meetings are to evaluate current situations, take stock of activities and plan ahead. Special meetings are organized as and when necessary and management meetings held once in a month.

The core functions of the directorate are:
- Provision of specialist surgical care
- Conducting research that would benefit the hospital as a whole in the field of practice
- Training of undergraduate and postgraduates students
- Visiting local media houses to strengthen media relationship
- Regular visits to local FM stations for public education on the operations and achievement of KATH
- Seeing to the institution of robust feedback mechanisms between the hospital and all its major stakeholders.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

The Public Affairs Unit (PAU) is principally concerned with building and maintaining a positive image for the Hospital through the creation and maintenance of mutually–beneficial relationship with all stakeholders. This is in acknowledgement of the fact that, a positive image is very essential for the survival and progress of every organization, irrespective of its area of operations.

The Unit is tasked with the essential duty of building a good public image by ensuring public understanding, appreciation and confidence in the clinical, research and training capabilities of the hospital. The essential functions of the unit include:
- Managing media and public enquiries about operations of KATH
- Organizing and facilitating official and special events in the hospital
- Provision of protocols and immigration assistance to guests and staff of the hospital
- Undertaking media relations activities to generate publicity and maintain good rapport with the media
- Collaborating and coordinating activities of all foreign medical missions to the hospital
- Visiting local media houses to strengthen media relationship
- Regular visits to local FM stations for public education on the operations and achievement of KATH
- Seeing to the institution of robust feedback mechanisms between the hospital and all its major stakeholders.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE DIRECTORATE

The Emergency Medicine (EM) Directorate is one of the clinical directorates at KATH, established in the year 2009 and the only centre in West Africa accredited for the training of Emergency Physicians and Emergency Nurses.

It is located on the ground floor of the Accident and Emergency Centre at KATH. The Directorate comprises eight functional areas and a six member management team with staff strength of two hundred and eighty-nine.

The functions of the Directorate include:
- Provision of world class emergency medical services to the population through well motivated staff.
- Training of health professionals in EM.
- Conducting research that adds to the knowledge of the specialty.
- Provision of support to both primary and secondary institutions and national disaster/emergency.

The Directorate comprises eight functional areas; Triage, Red, Orange, Yellow, Clinical Decision Unit (CDU), Pharmacy, Procedure area and Special ward.

It has two (2) main research units that deals with various research activities in the Directorate. Current researches ongoing in the Directorate include: ACESO, Traumatic brain injury, DEMBO, Trauma Registry and many other Emergency Nursing Student projects.
FAMILY MEDICINE DIRECTORATE

Dr. Kathryn Spangenberg
Head

The Family Medicine Directorate provides 24-hour general and specialized primary care services to patients of all categories. Formerly known as the Polyclinic Directorate, it is the first point of contact to the hospital. It is made up of a seven member management team, comprising the Head of Directorate, Lead clinician, Business manager, Pharmacy manager, Accountant, Physiotherapy and Nursing manager with a staff strength of hundred and eighty-six.

The Directorate has two major clinics; Family Medicine with eleven sub clinics, and Physiotherapy Unit which provide nine services, some in collaboration with other Directorates and Units of the hospital. The Directorate serves as a training centre under the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons for the training of Specialist Family Physicians. Current researches ongoing include:

- Prevalence of hepatitis B and C viral infection among patients seeking primary care at KATH.
- Depression and risk factors for depression among mothers of sick infants.
- Contraceptive use and unmet need for family planning among HIV positive women on antiretroviral therapy in Kumasi.
- Perception and risk factors for cervical cancer among women in northern Ghana.

INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

Mr. Thomas Kwarfo
Head

The Internal Audit Unit of KATH is governed by Internal Audit Charter and the Audit manual approved by the Hospital Board. It was initiated in November 1995 with three staff from the Accountant General’s Department and currently made up of eleven staff who report to the Chief Executive. They work with Internal Audit Agency, Ghana Audit Service and Ministry of Health Internal Audit.

The Unit consists of sections with specific function including:

- Human Resource Related Correspondence and Controls-tasked to review and control salary administration and employment.
- Revenue-responsible for routine revenue pre-audit, provide assurance on lodgment of cash collections and execute audits on accounts receivables.
- Payments-responsible for execution of payments, pre-audits and follow up on extraordinary payments.
- Procurement and Verification-responsible for the initial review of contract documents and ensuring that deliveries to stores conform to contracts/donations policy.
- Regulatory Affairs- acts as a link between the Internal Audit Unit and Regulatory Bodies and executes post payment reviews.
- Planned Audit and Risk Management-executes approved risk based annual audit plan and assesses risk management practices in the hospital.

SURGERY DIRECTORATE

Prof. Giasi-Sarpong
Head

The Surgery Directorate has the mission of providing the best quality surgical care through skills and capacity improvement of all health personnel. The Directorate is accredited by the Ghana and West Africa Postgraduate Medical Colleges and the Ghana Postgraduate Nursing College for the training of resident doctors and nurses in surgery.

The Directorate has a 6-member team comprising the Head, Lead clinician, Nursing manager, Pharmacy manager, a Business Manager and an Accountant, with staff strength of three hundred and thirty-four.

Directorate meetings are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am-9:30am. These meetings are held to evaluate current situations, take stock of activities and plan ahead. Special meetings are organized as and when necessary and management meetings held once in a month.

The Directorate is mandated to undertake the following key functions:

- Provision of specialist surgical care
- Conducting research
- Training undergraduate and postgraduates students in surgery and its subspecialties
- Other specialties of the Directorate include General Surgery, Pediatric surgery, Neuro surgery, Plastic surgery, Genito-urinary surgery, Cardiovascular and Thoracic surgery.
The Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, disclosed that out of the 18 projects approved by Parliament in 2020, the Ashanti Region will benefit from seven out of the total projects which includes the Maternity and Children’s block project. He was hopeful that these developments would complement healthcare delivery, especially at the district level, urging the contractors to work diligently to complete those projects as scheduled.

The Ashanti regional Minister also stated that he was very optimistic and has a great conviction that the contractor of this project will definitely deliver up to the expectation of the President, Otumfuo Osei Tutu, the people of Ashanti Region and Ghana in general.

Dr. Oheneba Owusu-Danso, Chief Executive of KATH, also lamented on the hardships pregnant women went through in their bid to seek healthcare due to lack of adequate facilities until the first lady, Her Excellency Rebecca Akufo-Addo constructed the Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampem (NAKSA) block for the hospital as an interim solution to the congestion problem at the hospital.

Until the First Lady’s intervention, pregnant women queued to have critical maternal surgeries while two to six babies were kept together in one baby’s cot due to lack of space at the Hospital, he stated. Dr. Owusu-Danso posited that, the hospital would boast of one of the most modern women and children’s medical facilities in the world when this project is finally completed. The 800-bed capacity project, among others will have an emergency reception for children and pregnant women, ten theatres, Intensive Care Units (ICU), an In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) Unit, Breastfeeding Centre, Paediatric Surgery Unit, Pharmacy, dedicated Medical Oxygen Plant, Lecture halls, Cafeteria, Gift Shop/Bank and other specialist facilities. The blatant neglect of the project attracted public outcry after the broadcast of the special documentary “Next to Die” by Seth Kwame Boateng of the Multimedia Group which was aired first on Joynews channel on 24th March, 2017. The documentary among other things highlighted how babies and mothers were dying as a result of congestion at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital due to lack of space arising out of lack of expansion of facilities since its construction in 1954. Other dignitaries who graced the colourful ceremony were, Hon. Dr. Afriyie Akoto, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Francis Asenso Boakye, Deputy Chief of Staff, Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah Minister for Water Resources, Hon. Simon Osei Mensah, Ashanti Regional Minister, members of the security forces, representatives of the clergy and other dignitaries.

Story by Mr. Kwame Frimpong and Ms. Ama P. Adu-Pakoh

THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF OXYGEN ATTENDANTS IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AT KATH

Oxygen is one of the most important gases created by God to sustain life on planet earth. It is freely provided in the atmosphere which constitute about 21% of the air surrounding us to be used by both humans and animals to keep them alive. Unfortunately for some people, they are unable to breathe the atmospheric oxygen naturally due to some medical conditions and will require assistance to do so.

The importance and use of medical oxygen in hospitals cannot be underestimated as it is used extensively for resuscitation or inhalation therapy. It is therefore clear that the use of oxygen is inevitable in modern day medical practice. Medical oxygen in a hospital is provided to patient through a central piping system or in high pressure oxygen bottles. In the case of Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital we use both sources to supply oxygen to our patients. About 90% of our wards are connected to the central oxygen piping system which take their source of supply from either the oxygen plant or our reserve oxygen manifold system.

Due to the importance of oxygen in our Hospital setup, we have an oxygen section under the Mechanical Engineering Unit of Technical Services Directorate solely responsible for the supply of oxygen and other medical gases for clinical care. The section has a staff capacity of eight (8) who run on a 24hr three-shift system daily to ensure oxygen is readily available for patient care at all user ends.

All wards, theaters and ICUs are provided with mobile oxygen which are used for transporting oxygen dependent patients from one location to the other especially for diagnosis purposes. The attendants are called at any time from all locations whenever oxygen is needed and since this is a life dependent gas, they respond to the calls as quickly as they can to ensure clinical care is not interrupted. The role of the oxygen attendant is so important in our healthcare delivery here at KATH due to the fact that when patients are deprived of this important gas, the end result is fatal.

Continue on page 11
The newly constructed 24-Hour Pharmacy at the Accident and Emergency Centre of the hospital has been officially commissioned. The Board Chairman of KATH, Ambas- sador Nana Effah-Apenteng, supported by the Chief Executive, Dr. Oheneba Owusu – Danso, cut tape to officially commission the Pharmacy.

Other dignitaries present at the function were Mrs. Issabella Naana Akyaa Asante, Mr. Charles Dontoh and Prof. Daniel Ansong, Dean-SMD-KNUST, all members of the KATH Board and members of the KATH Management. Briefing newsmen after the commissioning, Dr. Oheneba Owusu-Danso, disclosed that the current Board upon as- sumption of office inherited a low percentage of general medicines and emergency medi- cines availability which was impeding the smooth management of patients’ care.

He stressed that the 24-Hour Pharmacy started in a small area within the premises of the Accident and Emergency Centre with the objective of ensuring the availability of critical medicines and non-medical consumables, equipment and gadgets for the treatment of patients in the hospital.

He pointed out that in the quest to serve patients and the general public better, there was the need to acquire a bigger space for the construction of a dedicated edifice for the pharmacy. Works on the construction of the new 24-hour Pharmacy was executed at the cost of GHS 5,123,38.38 by Frada Engineering Construction Limited under the supervision of the hospital’s Estates Unit.

He pointed out that the impact of the 24-

Hour Pharmacy has been enormous as general medicines availability in the hospital in 2017 which was 41% rose to 69% at the end of 2019. On the other hand, the emergency medicine availability has moved from 83% in 2017 to 93% by close of 2019.

Dr Oheneba Owusu-Danso reiterated that the 24-Hour Pharmacy has become a game changer by reducing the volume of drug prescriptions which hitherto had to be sent out.

He said, the total sales of medicine for the whole hospital for the year 2019 was GHS 13,768,223, and out of this, 24-Hour Pharmacy’s sales contribution was GHS 4,625,819.16 representing one-third of the total sales.

He stressed that, the establishment of the 24-Hour Pharmacy has not replaced Health Insurance services at KATH and pointed out that, there are other Pharmacies at the various Directorates of the hospital taking care of Insured drugs.

Story by Ms. Ama P. Adu-Pakoh

THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF OXYGEN ATTENDANTS.

Continued from page 10.

It is therefore obvious that the contribution of the oxygen attendants to healthcare delivery at KATH is enormous as theater operations, ICUs, wards, Dialysis and diagnostic visits all depend on the work of these attendants. With the COVID-19 pandemic, their work has become even more strenuous as COVID-19 is a respiratory related infection for which patients require a lot of oxygen.

Story by Ing. Gregory Atta Peters
UPDATES ON CASES

It is now a reality that community spread of Covid-19 is occurring in the country. While a larger percentage of these are asymptomatic, we have quite a number who have underlying comorbidities and therefore need hospital admission for management.

As at mid-June, 2020 the hospital had taken samples from 1,662 patients, staff and contacts for testing, out of which 261 have returned positive, giving a positivity rate of 15.7%.

The Special Triage Area created at the Emergency Medicine Directorate has continued to segregate and isolate suspected cases for testing. This has ensured minimal mixing of contacts for testing, out of which 261 have returned positive, giving a positivity rate of 15.7%.

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The number of patients that have been admitted to the Highly Infectious Disease Isolation Unit (HIUU) by mid-June was 45: Six have been declared cured and discharged, 13 have been stepped down and transferred to Kumasi South Hospital, and 14 patients have unfortunately lost their lives. Currently there are 12 patients on admission at the HIUU. It is instructive to know that all these patients have at least a comorbidity.

The Pathology Unit have conducted the first autopsies on two of the patients who died at the HIUU. We are awaiting their histopathology report after which a formal pathology report will be issued on them.

Our gallant and able staff unfortunately have not been spared the brunt of this disease as some have tested positive to the disease. At the last count, 96 of our staff have tested positive of which 34 have had a single or double negative re-testing. The good news is that none of our staff has been admitted for Covid-19 as almost all have been asymptomatic or shown just mild illness. Directorates that have been worst affected by this include Child Health, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Those who have tested positive have been managed in self isolation or at the Region’s Isolation Centres.

The hospital continues to empathize with affected patients that have been worst affected by this include Child Health, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Those who have tested positive have been managed in self isolation or at the Region’s Isolation Centres.

The number of beds at the HIUU has been increased from 5 to 13. Another ward containing 8 beds is being prepared for any unexpected increase in numbers that may need admission.

The Holding Area at the Accident and Emergency (A&E) is also being expanded to add on 12 more beds to accommodate the rising number of suspected cases reporting to the hospital. Four (4) of these beds are earmarked for staff who may need to be held while waiting for their test results.

In the past week, we have had the unfortunate situation of a couple of babies testing positive to the disease. Management has therefore urgently converted a room on Ward B5 into a Paediatric HIUU to accommodate these babies and their mothers. The special Covid-19 response laboratory that was set up by the Laboratory Services Directorate is in full operations now. This lab currently runs all test requests from suspected cases within the hospital. The turnaround time for test results is between 24-48 hours. The challenge we are having is the irregular supply of extraction kits. For this reason, samples from staff and contacts are currently not accepted by this lab.

Management will review this policy as soon as the supply of reagents allow that.

OTHER MEASURES

1. All clinical directorates are encouraged to continue offering services to patients and clients requiring them by using the hotlines that have been publicized.
2. Elective surgical operations are permitted after discussions with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Management is doing all it can to ensure appropriate PPEs in enough quantities are available to staff all the time. We will entreat staff to bear with us in these challenging times as most of the PPEs are supplied to the hospital from the Ministry of Health.

APPRECIATION

My profound appreciation goes to ALL staff who have helped manage the situation till date under these trying moments. Special mention is made of staff who have tested positive and declared recovered and who are back to work to help save the lives of patients. The Emergency Medicine Directorate is commended for being able to run full services despite the number of their staff who have tested positive.

We are forever grateful.

We are working under incredibly stressful conditions, but together we shall surely succeed.

God bless us all!!!
COVID-19 TESTING CAPACITY OF KATH

The KATH COVID-19 Response Laboratory was initially set up to run tests from suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients whose samples could not be analysed in the general laboratories for biochemical, haematological and microbiological assays because of the biorisk involved. The laboratory is also able to conduct immunohaematological (grouping and cross-matching) assay and issue blood for patients at the various holding areas who need to be transfused.

By the collaborative effort of the Laboratory Services Directorate and Transfusion Medicine Unit, and with the support of other technical heads of the various LSD units, the laboratory have been upgraded to a Biosafety Level-2, with two Class II biosafety cabinets, a PCR room having a PCR amplification equipment which now provides the place with the capacity to test for SARS-CoV-2 (nCoV - 2019) using Real-time PCR (RT-PCR).

In preparation for the nCoV-2019 testing, Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR) provided consultative service, training for staff and validation of our system for the RT-PCR testing for the virus.

After a hectic day of long process RNA extraction, Master-mix preparation and template addition, and the real-time amplification process, the first batch of results was produced on Thursday, 28th of May 2020 following validation by KCCR. Since then 845 cases, mainly from A&E, O&G, PEU, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine have been tested as at end of June, 2020. Due to limited availability of logistics clinical case testing is now the focus but have the capacity to run tests for contacts also.

Story by Laboratory Service Directorate

COVID-19 ANTI-STIGMATISATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Covid-19 continues to have an impact on people all over the world due to the devastation of the infection and the death toll recorded daily. Thus, being declared Covid-19 positive appears a death sentence and as a result, interacting with recovered patients increases fear and anxiety leading to Stigmatization. Stigmatization is the social process where a mark, condition, status or person is subjected to prejudice and discrimination by others. Affected individuals are socially devalued and often lead to inequality, low self-esteem and other harmful feelings which serve as precursors for suicide and other long-term mental disorders".

In view of this, the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly in Collaboration with KATH launched the Anti-Stigma Campaign Of Patients infected with Covid-19, on 3rd June,2020 at KATH. This was graced by Dr. Ruth Owusu-Antwi, Head of Psychiatry, KATH, the Hon. Regional Minister, Mayor of Kumasi, CEO of KATH, Metro Director of Health services and some invited guest including the media. The AntiStigma Campaign of patients infected with Covid-19 is the first of its kind at the regional level with the aim of contributing to national efforts to understand and change attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards persons who are diagnosed with Covid-19 and their families.

Story by Manufacturing Unit

KATH ALCOHOL HAND RUB/WHO STANDARD HAND SANITIZER

The KATH Manufacturing Unit started the production of alcohol-based hand sanitizers in the year 2007 with the production of gel-based alcohol hand sanitizers. In 2014, the manufacturing unit switched from the preparation of gel-based sanitizers to non-gel based ie, the new WHO recommended formula which ensure a minimum of 80% alcohol concentration.

Averagely, about 250Litres of hand sanitizers were produced per week, however with the advent of COVID 19, demand shot up leading to an average of 1000Litres per week. The KATH alcohol hand rub has been useful to the hospital for the past 13years and is duly registered with FDA-Ghana with FDA registration number FDA/C.20-51077.

Story by Ms. Catherine Korankye Eastwood
LOW BLOOD PRESSURE LEVELS & INCIDENT STROKE RISK AMONG ELDERLY GHANAIANS WITH HYPERTENSION

Fred Stephen Sarfo a,b, Linda Meta Mobula c, Titus Adade b, Yvonne Commodore-Mensah a, Martin Agyei a,b, Collins Kokuro a,b, Rexford Adu-Gyamfi b, Christiana Duah d, Bruce Ovbiagele e

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d Kumasi South Regional Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana
e University of California San Francisco, USA

Background: Clinical trial data indicate that more intensive blood pressure (BP) lowering below standard cut-off targets is associated with lower risks of strokes in the elderly. There is a relative paucity of real-world practice data on this issue, especially among Africans.

Objective: To assess BP control rates, its determinants, and whether a lower BP < 120/80 mmHg is associated with a lower incident stroke risk among elderly Ghanaians with hypertension.

Methods: We retrospectively evaluated data, which were prospectively collected as part of a cohort study involving adults with hypertension and/or diabetes in 5 Ghanaian hospitals. BP control was defined using the JNC-8 guideline of < 150/90 mmHg for elderly with hypertension aged > 60 years or 140/90 mmHg for those with diabetes mellitus. Risk factors for poor BP control were assessed using multivariable logistic regression models. We calculated incident stroke risk over an 18-month follow-up at 3 BP cut-off’s of < 120/80, 120–159/80–99, and > 160/100 mmHg.

Results: Of the 1365 elderly participants with hypertension, 38.2% had diabetes mellitus and 45.8% had uncontrolled BP overall. Factors associated with uncontrolled BP were higher number of antihypertensive medications prescribed adjusted odds ratio of 1.45 (95% CI: 1.27–1.66), and having diabetes 2.56 (1.99–3.28). Among the elderly, there were 0 stroke events/100py for BP < 120/80 mmHg, 1.98 (95%CI: 1.26–2.98) for BP between 120 and 159/80–99 mmHg and 2.46 events/100py (95% CI: 1.20–4.52 at BP > 160/100 mmHg.

Conclusion: A lower BP target < 120/80 mmHg among elderly Ghanaians with hypertension is associated with a lower incident stroke risk. Pragmatic trials are needed to evaluate lower BP targets on stroke incidence in Africa.

For full article, click on the link below:
https://www.jns-journal.com/article/S0022-510X(20)30106-4/pdf
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2020.116770
DONATIONS

CAL BANK DONATES ITEMS TO KOMFO ANOKYE TEACHING HOSPITAL
CalBank Ghana has donated some items to the Komfo Anokye Hospital (KATH) towards the Management of combat on the COVID-19 cases. According to the bank's Corporate Manager for the Northern sector, Mr. John Akoto Inkoom the institution deemed it a privilege to donate the items to the hospital as its contribution to the national fight against the COVID-19 pandemic which has become a national burden. The items donated by the institution included 61 packs of gloves, 40 pieces of face shields, 30 of the 300ml bottle hand sanitizers, 24 of the five litre bottle of hand sanitizers, 40 pieces of nurse caps and 82 boxes of surgical masks. The Chief Executive of KATH, Dr. Oheneba Owusu-Danso, on behalf of KATH Board and Management received the items and thanked CalBank for the donation especially in this needy time of the hospital. “As this pandemic has affected the country and its institutions economically, institutions and individuals with the capabilities should support hospitals with more donations to enable staff the fight against this pandemic” Dr. Oheneba Danso appealed.

PHARMANOVA DONATES MEDICAL ITEMS TO KATH
Pharmanova Limited, a pharmaceutical company in Ghana, has donated a Laminar Air Flow Machine and some quantities of essential drugs to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH). The Chief Executive of Pharmanova Limited, Mr. Dhananjay Tripathy, stated that the donated items would help the hospital in its treatment of COVID-19 cases. Mr. Tripathy put the value of the donation at GHS 102,000. He said it forms part of the company’s corporate social responsibility. The essential donated medicines included hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine tablets, Azithromycin tablets, paracetamol suppositories and some infusions. The Chief Executive of KATH, Dr. Oheneba Owusu-Danso expressed his profound gratitude to Pharmanova Limited for the gesture. He also urged others companies to support the hospital to achieve its aim of providing quality healthcare to the public.

OLD MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD DONATES TO KATH
Old Mutual Life Assurance Company Limited has donated 100 boxes of hand gloves and 40 boxes of nose masks to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH). The Sales Manager, Mr. Abdul-Jafaro Bukari, together with the Client Services Consultant Mr. Sylvester Wiredu Boateng made the donation on behalf of the company. They stated that it is their hope that the donated items would support the hospital in the treatment to COVID-19 cases at the hospital. The Medical Director of KATH, Prof Baafuor Kofi Opoku on behalf of KATH Board and Management received the items and expressed his profound gratitude to the company for the gesture.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KNUST-KUMASI DONATES TO KATH
The College of Health Sciences of KNUST donated 60 of the 4.5 litre gallons of hand sanitizers to the hospital. They were presented by Prof. Daniel Ansong Dean, of School of Medicine and Dentistry, KNUST on behalf of the College of Health Sciences to help the hospital improve the precautionary measures instituted to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
KATH ROADS AND CAR PARKS UNDERGOING MAJOR FACELIFTS

The road network and other ancillary facilities at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) are set to undergo major facelifts with the commencement of work on the construction and rehabilitation of all roads, car parks and drains at the hospital under the Kumasi Roads project of the government. The works which constitute the largest project of its kind in the history of the hospital will involve the construction of new drains to control flooding, asphalt overlay on all the car parks and the expansion of roads at the hospital and the adjoining Doctors Flats and Nurse's Quarters. There will also be the construction of pedestrian walkways.

The Minister for Roads and Highways, Hon. Kwesi Amoako Atta, has paid a working visit to the hospital to inspect progress of work on the execution of the project. He said the hospital's inclusion in the Kumasi Roads project follows a special appeal made by the Management and Board of the hospital over the past couple of months.

"We carefully considered the request for assistance from the hospital given its strategic importance and position in the healthcare delivery system of the country. As the biggest referral health facility in this part of the country, it is important the road infrastructure of the hospital should be of standard quality to facilitate access for both members of staff and patients". Hon. Amoako Atta said the current state of roads, car parks and drains at the hospital was not befitting of its status as the premier referral facility hence this massive intervention by the government. He advised the contractor, JOSHOB Construction Limited, to cooperate with the hospital to ensure that the project was executed to expectation. The Chief Executive of KATH, Dr. Oheneba Owusu-Danso, expressed the appreciation of the hospital to the Hon. Minister, Hon. Ashanti Regional Minister, the Chief of Staff and the government for the strategic intervention on the repairs, expansion and construction of the road and ancillary facilities at the hospital.

He said all car parks at the hospital including those at the A&E Centre, Oncology, Doctors' flats and Family Medicine will receive asphalt overlay. Certain portions of the hospital's road network especially at the 'D' block and Pathology unit too will be expanded whiles new drains will be constructed at the designated sections to facilitate the draining of flood water in those areas.

Story by Public Affairs Unit

The outbreak of COVID-19 has reduced blood supply to the Blood Bank drastically. All mass blood collections aren't possible because schools, colleges and religious bodies with majority of blood donors are closed.

PATIENTS CANNOT WAIT FOR BLOOD
DO WALK IN TO DONATE BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES
OR CALL 0508874351
Transfusion Medicine Unit - KATH