

UNIMEDecho

A BIENNIAL NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, ONDO CITY, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA.

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UNIMED
INAUGURATES
NIGERIA'S FULL-FLEDGED
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

AKEREDOLU
SEEKS TETFund's
SUPPORT FOR
UNIMED
OAUSTECH



80 MILLION
WOMEN EXPOSED TO
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

UNIMED
ESTABLISHES CENTRE FOR
HERBAL MEDICINE
AND DRUG
DISCOVERY



UNIMED
RECEIVES FULL
ACCREDITATION
FOR NURSING

MOLECULAR LAB
WILL TACKLE COVID-19
AND OTHER
DEADLY DISEASES
- UNIMED VC

MEET
UNIMED'S
YOUNGEST
LECTURER



UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Laje Road, Ondo City, Ondo State.

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OF
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UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ONDO CITY

MISSION

The mission of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED) is to provide integrated education and research of exceptional quality in all health-related sciences; to expand access to compassionate, comprehensive and high-quality healthcare for under-served population and to lead the scientific pathway for reducing the burden of disease in our society.

VISION

The vision of UNIMED is to be a thriving medical and health sciences University, locally, nationally and internationally recognized for excellence and innovation in health education and research, with ability to translate research findings for the improvement of health.

UNIMED ANTHEM

Creating room to pursue excellence
For research and with care to all
To achieve the best in health
sciences
Build our nation change the world
Touching lives and making impact
in the nation is our goal
Touching lives and making impact
is how we will grow
UNIMED UNIMED giving all for a
better tomorrow
UNIMED UNIMED better health
for greater Nation
Pathway to a healthy nation

Frontiers in medical innovation
And a benchmark in health
education
step by step in one accord
Touching lives and making impact
in the nation is our goal
Touching lives and making impact
is how we will grow
UNIMED UNIMED giving all for a
better tomorrow
UNIMED UNIMED better health
for greater Nation
HAIL.....
UNIMED.....

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EDITOR'S Note



I welcome you to another interesting edition of UNIMED Echo, a news publication of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria. I am pleased to inform you that with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, this magazine will now be published bi-annually, to keep our readers abreast of developments in the University. One notable feat recorded since the last edition of UNIMED Echo is the commissioning of the School of Public Health (SPH) of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo. Once again, the University blazed the trail by becoming the first Nigerian

university with a standalone campus for Public Health undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

The Governor of Ondo State and Visitor to the University, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN along with other dignitaries present at the epoch-making event, laid the foundation for Hon. and Dr. Mrs Abiola Makinde's Health Centre, and also flagged off the Centre for Herbal Medicine and Drug Production, all at the SPH campus in Bolorunduro, Ondo State.

Another noteworthy development in the University is the commissioning of a Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Centre for Molecular Biosciences and Medical Genomics, to facilitate the diagnosis of COVID-19, Lassa fever and other infectious diseases.

The **BIG news** of this edition is the full accreditation of the Bachelor of Nursing Science programme of the University by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN). The full accreditation status is for a period of five (5) years with a yearly intake of seventy-five students, representing a 50% increase in the

total number of candidates approved for the programme.

Among other milestones recorded by the University, this edition also features a spotlight on the National Workshop on Space Technologies and Health, an event jointly organized by the University and the Centre for Atmospheric Research of the National Space Research and Development Agency (CAR-NASRDA).

My hope is that you will spare some time to read the contents of this fourth edition of UNIMED Echo, which has been carefully compiled to keep you abreast of the trail blazing and other various achievements in the University. Thank you.

Temitope Oluwatayo
Public Relations Unit,
Corporate Affairs Department,
UNIMED, Ondo.

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UNIMED INAUGURATES NIGERIA'S FIRST FULL-FLEDGED SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- First in Nigeria with a standalone campus
- Take-off with renowned experts in Public Health

History was made on Thursday 6th May, 2021 as the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State becomes the first Nigerian University to establish a School of Public Health with a dedicated campus.

The campus, which is located at Bolorunduro in Ondo East Local Government Area, was commissioned by the State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN amidst pomp and ceremony. It boasts of an Administrative Block, Digital Skills Laboratory, Lecture Rooms, Public Health Library, an ICT Centre, a Public Health Skills Centre, Environmental Health Museum, Community Health Skills Room among others.

Addressing dignitaries at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi went down the memory lane on efforts to establish the School.

"The journey towards the establishment of a School of



Public Health was initiated by my illustrious predecessor and first Vice-Chancellor of our University, Prof Friday Okonofua, FAS, who convened a meeting of selected stakeholders for that purpose on 11th October 2016 and formally constituted a 12-person Board for the School on 23rd July 2018, of which I was privileged to have been a member," he narrated.

Prof. Fatusi who is also a Professor of Public Health left no stone unturned towards the fulfillment of the dream of the University.

"Coming on board on 10th March 2020 as the Vice Chancellor, the actualisation of the School of Public Health agenda, as may be expected, was one of my greatest priorities but the resources and facilities to take off sounded like an impossible hurdle to cross, at

least for a while, until what I personally titled, "The Bolorunduro miracle!," the VC said.

Fatusi affirmed that the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo UNIMED is the first Nigerian University to dedicate a whole campus to the study of Public Health.

He said: "Just as our University is the first specialised University of



Health and Medical Sciences in the country, this School stands in a class of its own in the world of public health training facilities in Nigeria. While the Nigerian university system has several departments and one or two

faculties focused on Public Health, this new school, for all practical purposes, can rightly be described as the first full-fledged School of Public Health in Nigeria."





The VC noted that the School is fortunate to have leading experts in the world of Public Health as pioneer Staff. This array of experts include Prof. Wasiu Olalekan Adebimpe (Dean), Prof. Emmanuel Oladipo Otolorin, Prof. Michael Chiemeli Asuzu, Dr. Yetunde Winifred Olagbuji, Dr. Olugbenga Osunmakinwa, Dr. Stephen Fagbemi, and Dr. Tuoyo Kennedy Okorosobo. Others faculties include Dr. Aderonke Fagbemi, Dr. Francis Akanbiemu, Prof. Olumide Ogundahunsi, Prof. (Engr.) Ife Adewumi, Prof. Chima Onoka, among others. He said the team has laid a solid foundation for the take-off of the series of programmes in the School.

"The School is structured in the mould of the leading public health schools in the world. With its five (5) academic Departments along with six (6) specialised multi-disciplinary Centres and an Institute devoted to Community Health Development, this school is poised to rapidly advance public health scholarship, science

and practice in Nigeria and make relevant contributions to relevant regional and global agenda," he stated.

Prof. Fatusi lauded Ondo State Governor and Visitor to the University, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN for making the dream come true.

"Simply put, Mr Governor, Sir, without your kind and pragmatic action of approving this facility, originally designed to host a model secondary school, and provision of some financial support to undertake some renovation, the dream of starting this School would still have remained a "paperwork". Indeed, the thought of ever starting a campus in Bolorunduro, in addition to our main campus in Ondo and our other large campus in Akure would hardly ever have occurred to

anyone – certainly not me! We are, indeed, deeply grateful, Sir, for making this dream a beautiful reality," he concluded.

UNIMED Establishes

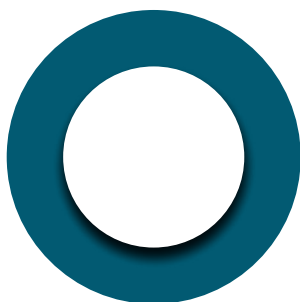
Centre for Herbal Medicine and Drug Discovery



The Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN has officially launched the

Centre for Herbal Medicine and Drug Production of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State. The Centre is one of the facilities located inside the newly commissioned School of Public Health at Bolorunduro Campus of the University.

The new Centre for Herbal Medicine and Drug Discovery has its operational office and herbal farm nursery at the Bolorunduro Campus, while the herbal farm is located on a five-hectare land on Akure-Ondo Road, Bolorunduro Local Government Area of Ondo State.





Addressing the gathering of dignitaries at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi said the centre would help the institution to achieve the desired goal of translating research findings to

the improvement of health. “We hope to use the power of science to unleash the potential of our-God-given plants and thereby drive drug discovery and production. I sincerely thank the Bolorunduro people and leaders

for their generosity. I want to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the gallant effort of our father, Prof Adeduro Adegeye, for his exemplary drive, dedication, and personal investments in our herbal farm vision.”





Ondo raises N800m through COVID-19 Response Fund

AS AKEREDOLU

COMMISSIONS

Molecular Biology Laboratory



Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State has said that over N800m was raised by the State COVID-19 Response Fund. Akeredolu mentioned this at the official commissioning of the Molecular Biology Laboratory of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo. While thanking all the donors during the COVID - 19 pandemic, the Governor said that, the funds from Development

Partners channeled through the Federal Government assisted us in appropriately equipping this laboratory. I hereby express my gratitude and that of our government to all who have contributed towards making the dream of establishing this Molecular Biology Laboratory a reality. In particular, I want to thank members of the Ondo State COVID-19 Response Fund who successfully raised the

funds for the construction of this laboratory. I sincerely thank all corporate organisations, Non-Governmental Groups and individuals who contributed generously to the Ondo State COVID-19 Response Fund. Akredolu said that the new laboratory is unique within the state system in the sense that it will not only provide diagnostic services but will also contribute to expanding the frontiers of knowledge. Our hope is that just like the African Centre for Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases of the Redeemers University, Ede, UNIMED's Centre will provide high-quality services, serve as the reference centre for infectious viral diseases for the State and beyond, and generate high-quality scientific publications. It is gratifying to know that UNIMED has already established a partnership with the Centre at the Redeemers University.

We are on a mission to better the lives of our people and move the State to a higher plane.



MOLECULAR LAB WILL TACKLE

COVID-19 AND OTHER DEADLY DISEASES

—UNIMED VC

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, has stated that the newly established Molecular Biology Laboratory in the university will facilitate the diagnosis of COVID-19, Lassa fever and several other deadly infections.

The establishment of the Laboratory was supported by funds from the COVID-19 Response Fund Committee of the State Government and



Presidential Task Force on COVID-19. The Don, who spoke at the inauguration of the laboratory located on the premises of the

University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital, Ondo, said the laboratory was a key facility in the varsity's vision to utilise “molecular



biosciences to drive health research and training, as well as boost quality health care delivery.” “These facilities will also drive the use of molecular genomic techniques to better understand and address the challenges of diseases like cancer and diabetes as well as diagnose genetic disorders and provide DNA paternity testing,” Fatusi said. The new laboratory was inaugurated by the State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu. In his remarks, Akeredolu expressed his delight over the fight against



the spread of the deadly coronavirus disease in the State, stating that there was no COVID-19 patient in any of the State's isolation centers. He also disclosed that the committee set up by the government to raise funds for the COVID-19 campaign realised a sum of 800m for the fight against the spread of the pandemic in the state.



“ The laboratory was a **KEY FACILITY** in the varsity's vision to utilise **MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES TO DRIVE HEALTH RESEARCH AND TRAINING**, as well as **BOOST QUALITY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY.** ”

Departments

1. Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
2. Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
3. Department of Health Policy and Management
4. Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health
5. Department of Health Promotion & Behavioural Sciences

Centres

1. Centre for Adolescent Health and Development
2. Centre for Data Science and Health Metrics
3. Centre for Global Health and Health Security
4. Centre for Injury Science and Control
5. Maternal, Reproductive, and Child Health (MARCH) Centre
6. Centre for Bioethics, Gender and Health Equity

Institutes

1. Institute of Community Health Innovation and Development

Undergraduate Programmes

1. B.Sc Community Health Sciences
2. B.Sc Environmental Health Science

Postgraduate Diploma Programmes

1. Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health
2. Postgraduate Diploma in Health Statistics
3. Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science and Health Informatics
4. Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Health, Safety and Management
5. Postgraduate Diploma in Adolescent Health

Masters and Doctorate Programmes

1. Master of Public Health (MPH)
2. Master of Science in Public Health (MScPH)
3. Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH)
4. Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health (PhD)



MAKINDE DONATES Health Centre to UNIMED

A Member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Abiola Peter Makinde, representing the Ondo East and West Federal Constituency, and his wife, Dr Rhoda Makinde have donated a Health Centre to the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo.

The facility, which would be constructed within the School of Public Health, Bolorunduro Campus of the University, had its foundation laying ceremony on Thursday 6th May, 2021, as part of activities lined up for the commissioning of the UNIMED School of Public Health.

In his welcome address at the



UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi said the project is a personal contribution of the politician to the development of the University and warmly

appreciated the Lawmaker for the gesture.

Today, we are going to lay the foundation of the Hon. Abiola & Dr. (Mrs) Rhoda Makinde Health Centre, which is a

personal donation to our School of Public Health. Honourable, Sir, we are deeply grateful for your generosity and your support in other strategic ways, as well as your promise to bring your constituency project hopefully, an ultra-modern Lecture Theatre building to this school," the VC said.

The donor, Hon. Abiola Makinde affirmed his support for the University in the drive to provide quality medical education and training for the people of Ondo State.

Following a request from the School Management to provide a Health Centre facility here at the Bolorunduro Campus, my wife and I keyed into it and we



are happy a Centre is ready for ground-breaking today, to the glory of God. This Health Centre is our family contribution, not a constituency project towards supporting the vision of this Institution, Makinde stated.



Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, the Deputy Governor, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the Osemawe of Ondo, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Dr. Victor Adesimbo Kiladejo and other dignitaries at the event joined Hon. Makinde as he laid the foundation for the commencement of the project.



UNIMED

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Approves Prof. Adolphus Odogun Loto as Deputy Vice-Chancellor



The Governing Council of the University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo has approved the appointment of Prof. Adolphus Odogun Loto as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Clinical Services of the Institution. The appointment was ratified at the 11th Statutory Meeting of the Governing Council held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 under the Chairmanship of the Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Temitayo Fawehinmi. Dr. Fawehinmi congratulated Prof. Loto on his new appointment and charged him to use

his wealth of experience for the development of the University. Prof. Loto studied Dentistry at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Lagos State and is specialized in the area of Restorative Dentistry. He is a Fellow of West African College of Surgeons (FWACS). He is also a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. Until his appointment, Prof. Loto served as the Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo.



UNIMED Receives Full Accreditation for Nursing



The University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State has received full accreditation from the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) for the Bachelor of Nursing Science programme.

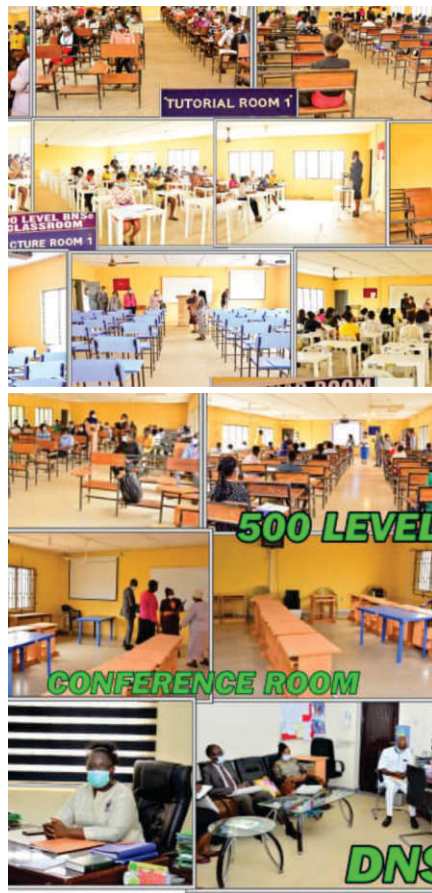
The full accreditation status is also accompanied by an increase in the annual intake from 50 to 75 students.

The approval was conveyed in a letter which was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, by the Secretary-General and Registrar of the Council, Faruk Umar Abubakar, on Thursday, June 10, 2021.

A yearly intake of Seventy-Five (75) students, as approved by the NMCN, represent a fifty percent (50%) increase in the total number of candidates that will be admitted for the programme in subsequent academic sessions.

This development follows the visit of members of the Council to the

University in February 2021 and it means that Nursing Students of the University who are presently in 500 level will graduate as and when due.



Picture Splash

VC'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Members of staff of the Vice-Chancellor's Office organised a surprise party to mark the one year anniversary of the VC, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi in office.

VISIT OF THE CHAIRMAN, ONDO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (ODHA) COMMITTEE ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, HON. FELEMU GUDU BANKOLE TO UNIMED ONDO.



UNIMED Receives Donation of Books

The Jolades donate books to UNIMED

Dr. Elsie Jolade, a Clinical Professor of Nursing Science from Hunter College, University of New York, United States of America has donated books worth millions of naira to the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City. Dr Jolade, an indigene of Ondo Kingdom and a great friend of UNIMED alongside her husband made the donation during a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor on Monday, January 4, 2021.

She revealed that she got the books from her colleagues in Nursing and other health sciences field in the United States based on a book drive agenda she initiated on behalf of UNIMED – an institution she and her husband are very passionate about.

Dr. Jolade, who started her tertiary education at the School of Nursing, Akure, which is now an integral part of the Faculty of Nursing Science of UNIMED, has previously partnered with the University on Basic Life Skills Training, and has reiterated her plan to continue to work with UNIMED to further build capacity in this area and for UNIMED to become a leading centre in Basic and Advanced life skills training.



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo City, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi on behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of the University, appreciated Dr. Jolade and her husband for the donation.





Oduntan donates books to UNIMED



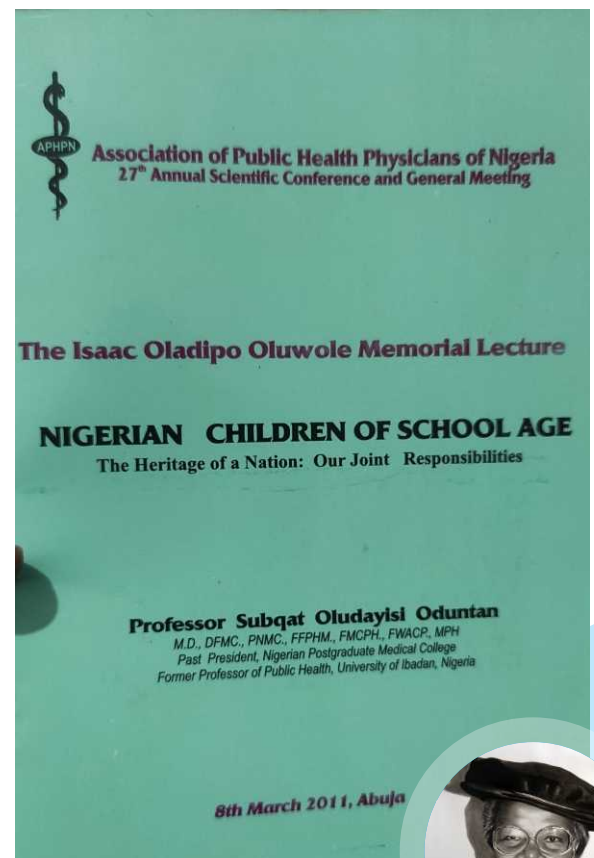
An accomplished Community Health Physician, Prof. Subqat Oludayisi Oduntan has donated several books to the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria. Prof. Oduntan, who retired from the University of Ibadan about two decades ago is one of Nigeria's foremost public health experts and community health physicians and the first female President of the National Postgraduate Medical

College of Nigeria.

She had served on numerous Expert, Research and Advisory Committees nationally and internationally, including the World Health Organization, the International Federation of Hygiene and Preventive and Social Medicine and the Federal Ministry of Health among others.

The books she donated included priceless historical materials in the field of public health that will help build up the history of Public Health and Medicine unit of UNIMED School of Public Health. Other books donated covered various areas of public health and community medicine, and general medical

practise. In addition, she also donated books on anaesthesia from the invaluable collections of her husband, a retired Professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care.



UNIMED

Matriculates 639 Students



No fewer than 639 students took the matriculation oath at the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo as the institution held its 6th matriculation ceremony on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof Adesegun Fatusi said the set was



the largest since he assumed office as the second VC of the University. According to him, UNIMED is the first university in Nigeria to admit students into Bachelor of Science in Community Health Sciences, the second university nationally to start a Bachelor's Degree

programme in Prosthetics and Orthotics, and the second in South-West Nigeria to start B.Sc. programme in Radiology and Radiation Science. Fatusi described the institution as a model of success within the Nigerian University System and

one of the fastest growing universities in Nigeria, saying that the University has a higher conglomeration of health and medical science courses than any university in Nigeria today. The VC added that with the commencement of the Bachelor of



Prosthetics and Orthotics alongside the existing Bachelor of Physiotherapy, which is already in its fifth year, the institution already has the equivalent record of any Nigerian university in terms of the highest number of medical rehabilitation programmes established. Actively working in close collaboration with the National Universities Commission, UNIMED, according to the VC, hopes to be the first university in Nigeria to establish Bachelor's Degree programmes in three other medical rehabilitation fields: Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Audiology. In his words, "our dream of becoming the leading center for medical rehabilitation training in West Africa would become a reality by God's great grace. We are also working towards establishing additional new courses, including Pharmacy and Biomedical Engineering within the next 1-2 years. Fatusi noted that the matriculation has a special place in the annals of UNIMED because it is the first time students would be admitted into twelve new courses recently approved by the

National Universities Commission. The courses include Community Health Science, Environmental Health Science, Environmental Management and Toxicology, Food Science, Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Other newly approved courses include Prosthetics and Orthotics, Radiography and Radiation Science, Science Laboratory Technology, Statistics, Physics, Computer Science, and Information Science. The Vice-Chancellor also thanked the State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu for his continued support that has made the institution's dream a reality, emphasizing the Governor's deep passion for UNIMED, his exemplary encouragement and support towards the University's development, the huge confidence that he has reposed in the School and the solid backing for the Management's developmental agenda. Fatusi congratulated the matriculating students and advised them to be of good conduct at all times. Also speaking at the event, one of

the matriculants, Abiodun Arinmo expressed joy, and promised to work hard so as to come out with good grade in order to become a successful person in future. In addition, one of the parents, Mr. Ife Adedayo commended the efforts of the State Government, urging the government not to relent in supporting the institution, because the school still requires a lot of facilities.



UNIMED

Holds National Workshop on Space Technology and Health with CAR-NASRDA

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, has said that the Institution will continue to explore every opportunity to develop not only as the first specialized University of medical and health sciences in Nigeria but to be recognized for excellence and innovation locally and internationally.

Fatusi stated this during a National Workshop on Space Technologies and Health jointly organized by the University and the Centre for Atmospheric Research of the National Space Research and Development Agency (CAR-NASRDA).

He maintained that UNIMED would be known for the quality of teaching and be at the forefront of cutting edge research and innovations.

“We would also be a good example for other universities to follow in the transformative application of scientific knowledge and scholarly outputs to the improvement of the health and development of our people and society.

“Among others, we have set the record of establishing Nigeria's first Faculty of Medical Rehabilitation and fast becoming the leading centre for Medical Rehabilitation Education in West Africa.

“Recently, our Governor commissioned what can justifiably

be described as the first full-fledged School of Public Health in Nigeria, a Centre for Molecular Biosciences and Medical Genomics that is designed to be a pacesetter in medical research and service delivery, and a Centre for Herbal Medicine to drive our agenda for drug discovery. “We are young but without any apology, we are proudly ambitious and in full pursuit of our vision to be “a thriving medical and health sciences University, locally and internationally recognized for excellence and innovation.

” For us in UNIMED, we hope that this workshop will serve as a springboard to a new research agenda and collaboration that will attract new research funds, including more National Research Fund from TETFund and new funds



from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and international development partners.

“We also hope that the workshop will also serve as a platform to jumpstart our telehealth project to extend higher



quality services to our community outreach centre in Ilutitun in Okitipupa Local Government Area and support our innovative community-based primary health care services in Oke-Igbo and also Bolorunduro area where we are starting a new initiative in Community-Oriented Primary Health Care,” Fatusi said.

Speaking at the event, the Director and Chief Executive, Centre for Atmospheric Research, Prof. Babatunde Rabiú said the objectives of the workshop include identifying areas where space technology can enhance health care and policy in Africa; and facilitating the development of the framework for a work plan on applications of space science and technology in health amongst others.

He said “A workshop of this nature is uncommon and ground-breaking. It is a window of opportunity to imbibe new best practice that has become a new order at the global level.”



Meanwhile, the State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, said his administration is committed to bringing quality and affordable health care to the doorsteps of the citizens and achieving universal health coverage in the state.

Akeredolu who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Princess Oladunni Odu said his administration has prioritised health care and devoted

substantial resources to the School of Public Health and other components of the University of Medical Sciences as well as the associated teaching hospital.

According to him, these facilities are ultimately crucial to the goal of developing critical manpower for the the primary healthcare sector in the state.



Picture Splash

VISIT TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR



VISIT TO SSG



VISIT TO COMM. FOR JUSTICE



VISIT TO COMMISSIONER OF INFO.



UNIMED GOVERNING COUNCIL

Confirms Adebimpe as Professor



Governmental Organisations and was into Public Health programming for about 4 years. He was formerly the Acting Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Osun State University, Osogbo. Upon joining UNIMED in 2017, he acted as HOD, Community Medicine Department, a position he held till his current appointment as the Dean, School of Public Health at the Bolorunduro campus of the University. Prof Adebimpe has over 120 paper publications and six books to his credit.



The Governing Council of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State has approved the appointment of Dr. Wasiu Olalekan Adebimpe as a Professor in the University.

In a statement signed by Temitope Oluwatayo of the Public Relations Unit, the Dr. Temitayo Fawehinmi-led Governing Council gave the approval at the 12th Statutory Council Meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Adebimpe holds a MBBS degree from the University of Lagos, and a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from University of Benin. He has a first Ph.D. degree in Public Health from Central University of Nicaragua, Nicaragua.

Prof. Adebimpe is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and the African Institute of Public Health. Before joining academics, he worked with international Non-



MEET

UNIMED

GOVERNING COUNCIL

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CHIEF (DR) ISAAC AKINTADE
Member



HON (DR) TEMITAYO FAWEHINMI
Pro-Chancellor



PROF TOLU ODUGBEMI
Member



HON (SURV) NIRAN AKINNIYI
Member



DR. YEMI MAHMUD
Member



HON (DR) ADELUSE OBE
Member

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DVC, Admin & Clinical Services

PROF. ADESEYE M. AROGUNJO
DVC, Academic

PROF. ADEDURO A. ADEGEYE
Senate Representative

PROF. SIMIDELE M. ODIMAYO
Senate Representative

PROF. ROSEANGELA I. NWUBA
Senate Representative

DR. WOLEOLA J. EKUNDAYO
Registrar/ Secretary to Council



MR. NIYI KUKOYI
Member



CHIEF ADETOLA WEWE
Member

Akeredolu Seeks TETFund's Support For UNIMED, OAUSTECH

Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN has visited the Abuja office of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to seek the agency's support for the development of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo and the Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, (OAUSTECH), Okitipupa.

Addressing journalists shortly after a closed-door meeting with the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Governor Akeredolu said TETFund's impact has already been felt at the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic (RUGIPO), Owo and Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko.

He noted that his visit was to seek the support of TETFund for the two other institutions in the state in order to ensure that development is spread across the four government-owned institutions. He said: "As you know, Ondo State can boast of four tertiary institutions. In Akungba and Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, the impact of TETFund is felt. They have been there consistently and I want to thank them and to appreciate them.

"But we also have two other tertiary institutions, that is UNIMED and the Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology (OAUSTECH). And I felt I should come in to meet Professor Bogoro who is a good friend. I came formally this time around to ensure that we change our focus to the development of these institutions. "So I came to discuss and expect that sooner than later there will be



intervention in the other tertiary institutions. That's why we came."

Signed:

Olabode Richard Olatunde
Chief Press Secretary to the
Governor of Ondo State.

March 9, 2021.



NUC accredits 12 New courses for UNIMED

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved the commencement of twelve new programmes at the University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo. These new courses include: Community Health Science; Computer Science; Environmental Health Science; Environmental Management & Toxicology; Food Science; and Human Nutrition and



D i e t e t i c s .
Others are Information
Technology, Prosthetics &
Orthotics, Physics, Science

Laboratory Technology,
Radiography & Radiation
Science, and Statistics.
The approval from the NUC came

after the successful resource
verification visit of the
Commission to UNIMED in
December, 2020.



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi who was elated about the development broke the news on the University e-mail portal. “The NUC has approved 12 new courses for which we had resource verification in December 2020,” he wrote. “This feat would not have been possible without the support of our Council, under the leadership of Dr. Temitayo Fawehinmi. The Council, with great foresight and a strong sense of support, allowed us a loan of N100 million to buy equipment and ensure the availability of the needed facilities,” he stated. “And to all our wonderful staff, the pride of this accomplishment is truly yours. Your investment in hard work and great dream made this possible! This success is, indeed, a worthy return for all your sweat, hard work, and commitment to this great institution and a sincere belief in our leadership,” the VC added. Responding to the e-mail, the Dean of Post graduate School and the Chairman, Committee of Deans, Prof. Roseangela Nwuba c

congratulated the VC and the University Governing Council on the notable feat. Others who responded to felicitate and wish the University more development include the Acting Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Abdulazeez Abubakar, the Director of Corporate Affairs, Prof. Augustinah Duyilemi, Head of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Prof. (Engr.)

Ifeolu Adewumi, the Director of ICT, Dr. Ebenezer Olajuyigbe, a Consultant Paediatrician, Dr. Francis Akinkunmi, the Principal Internal Auditor, Mr. Obamuyi Olorunsogo and a Lecturer in Chemistry Department, Mr. Walter Osungbemi.





GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

80 Million Women EXPOSED TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA, says UNFPA

- GBV workers should be categorised as essential workers – UNIMED V.C

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has disclosed that an estimated 80 million women in Nigeria are exposed to gender-based violence (GBV).

According to the Fund, gender-based violence not only strain the health system resources, but also limits women's growth and productivity, impedes the well-being of families and communities, and hinders governments from achieving national goals that lead to health and women's advancement.

It therefore called for an urgent need to bring to the fore, the crucial role of health services in responding to gender-based violence, and



the categorisation of gender-based violence workers as essential workers across the country to enable ease of access to services.

The Country Representative of the UNFPA, Ms Elisabeth Mueller, made these known during the Orange, the World session sponsored by the European Union/United Nations at the 37th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference

of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) in Abuja.

In his keynote address, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Prof Adesegun Fatusi, said: “We must as a matter of priority categorise GBV workers as essential workers and they must always have the access to be able to

provide services for the people.”

Prof. Fatusi stressed the need to entrench issues of gender-based violence and survivor clinical practices into the curriculum of medical and health sciences schools.

“Health workers are at the centre of providing services. We need to look at systematically increasing the capacity of healthcare workers on GBV cases and integrating into the curriculum of our medical schools, nursing schools, and all our health training schools, concerning

the whole issue about GBV and survivor clinical practices,” he stated.

“Many of the women who have experienced violence in Nigeria never have access to such services. We must think about sustainable financing and ensuring budget releases, implementation and put in place accountability mechanisms,” the VC concluded.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi with the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Bowen University, the Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, Dr. T.A.B. SANUSI and the new medical inductees of Bowen University.

Picture Splash

DENTISTRY ACCREDITATION



ITF'S VISIT



LIBRARY WORKSHOP



MDCAN'S VISIT



MLS ACCREDITATION



MOLECULAR LAB INSPECTION



2021 World Oral Health Day: UNIMED Students Sensitize public

A group of students of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo has carried out a medical outreach as part of activities to mark the World Oral Health Day. The theme of this year's campaign is 'Be proud of your mouth.'

The Medical and Dental students of UNIMED, Ondo joined their colleagues around the world to celebrate the day with support from Colgate as well as from the Nigerian Medical Students' Association and Nigerian Association of Dental Students.

The students visited strategic places around the town to give oral health awareness talk to residents of the community especially at the popular Iyalaje market where they distributed free toothpaste to the people.



Students of the University also educated people on the importance of oral hygiene, how to wash the mouth, how to identify early symptoms of tooth problems and how members of the community can get necessary treatment at the University.

The leader of the team, Temiloluwa Ogunleye, a 500 level Clinical Student of Dentistry, UNIMED, Ondo described the outreach as very successful as the students were able to educate hundreds of people to mark this year's world oral health day.





She appreciated the support of the Vice-Chancellor, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, the Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences and the DVC, Administration and Clinical Services, Prof. Adolphus Loto, the Acting Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Dr. Joseph Fatukasi, other members of Staff, Clinical Dental and Medical Students and all other students who participated in the outreach.



The World Oral Health Day is marked on the 20th of March every year to highlight the importance of oral hygiene.



INTERVIEW

UNIMED'S YOUNGEST LECTURER

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Oluwaseun Celestina Olafusi, a first-class graduate of Biochemistry, overall best graduating student in the 2019/2020 academic session, setting the record as the first student to bag a first-class degree from the University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State. I am currently a Lecturer at the Department of Biochemistry at the university and I'm twenty-two (22) years old.

How did you get the appointment?

I give the almighty God all the glory for my appointment. I am, indeed, a first-class degree holder but it is not all schools that compensate students for diligence and hard work but that is not the case at UNIMED. The pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Friday Okonofua promised me automatic employment as a graduate assistant lecturer in the School coupled with a scholarship to the level of Ph.D. and current administration gave me the appointment on the March 1st, 2021 and the University is currently supporting my Masters' studies.



Tell us about your school days, how was the Journey?

How hard I worked through my four years in school! Going down memory lane, I remember where I lodged, there was no power supply throughout those years, I had to transport all my gadgets to school to charge for use at home. Also, having heard from my seniors that biochemistry isn't a child's play, I was a bit scared of the big task ahead of me. I achieved this through persistence and discipline, reading for 8 hours each day, I made it my watchword that before going to play with my friends I must not go with my brain empty. Also through prayers, as a Christian that loves going to church, I believe that God is the

only one that can make you achieve great success. Perseverance is also essential because you can't understand all through books alone. I met my seniors and lecturers for enlightenment about some courses that I'm not conversant with, as well as colleagues from other universities that can put me through.

INTERVIEW



How about your foundation?

My foundation was not very strong, but due to my parents' persistence, I was able to cope, all thanks to them. I was poor academically in primary school. I remember my mum would always tell me that if I fail, I would remain at home for a long time. So I had to buckle up at my alma mater, St Louis Girls Grammar School, Akure where I had my secondary school education.

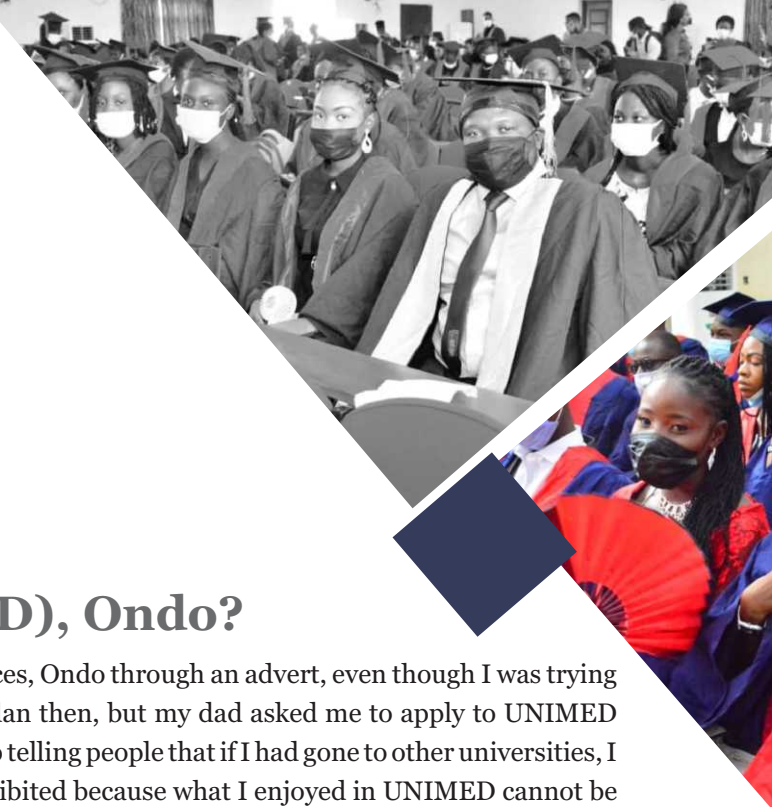
Tell us about your days in the National Youth Service Corps?

I served at the Center of Excellence on Reproductive Health and Innovation, University of Benin, Benin City and at Women Health and Action Research Centre. I was opportune to work with international Master and Ph.D students from Ghana, the Gambia and South Africa. I was able to work with renowned professors like Prof. Omonkhua and Prof. Okonofua. We were able to work on three TETFund

projects, it was an interesting experience for me.

Since your employment in UNIMED as a lecturer, has there been any challenge?

Due to my physical stature and young age, sometimes, I am not respected as a lecturer. It is not about dressing well because even when well dressed, students look down on me and it is really painful. My first class with the students was hilarious, the students were not paying attention to what I was saying, they were wondering how I could be a lecturer at this age. I have to beg them to listen to my lectures and not otherwise. Subsequent lectures improved as testimonies abound that they were enjoying the lectures. Some are even saying that they never knew that Biochemistry was that simple. I make sure I explain every detail to them, they love the techniques I use in teaching them, some of them approached me to be their mentor.



What is your opinion about the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo?

I got to know about the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo through an advert, even though I was trying to process my admission to the University of Ibadan then, but my dad asked me to apply to UNIMED which is in my hometown and I was accepted. I keep telling people that if I had gone to other universities, I don't know if the potentials in me would have been exhibited because what I enjoyed in UNIMED cannot be compared to what other schools would offer me. The school is well equipped and conducive to learning. My dream was not to study Biochemistry, I applied for Medicine but was given Biochemistry. I then wrote another JAMB in my 100 level but after the first-semester result was released and I discovered that I was leading in the class, I decided to go on with the course.

What are your plans for the future?

My plan is to become UNIMED's youngest Professor and help discover drugs that can reduce the burden of diseases in the society. I also wish to mentor others to attain excellence. I benefited from such mentorship and will like to motivate someone.

What is your advice for students of the University?

My advice for the students is to change their orientation about attaining excellence. It is not impossible to be the best in whatever field you choose because records are set to be broken. I came to UNIMED with the mentality that no one in my family had a first-class, I was determined to break this record. I came to the school with the mentality that Biochemistry is difficult and that I as a female, will break the record and become a first-class student. With determination and vision, you can achieve great things. Also, when things are difficult you don't give up, you walk up to people who can guide you and put you through. Be humble, my junior brother taught me chemistry when I was in 300 level and I got an A. People you think are not better than you have vital things that can transform you.

Will you like to share some words of appreciation?

Today, I'm sharing this success story because of some people's contributions and I will mention a few if you permit me. My appreciation goes to the Almighty God and my lovely parents. Also to Professor Friday Okonofua, who gave me a shoulder I could lean on, I'm appreciating him for letting me come back to my Alma mater to serve, thereby motivating others, showing that all this can be achieved. I also appreciate the new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi for his fatherly care and love. I appreciate my HOD for his care, for supervising my project research, even when I was in NYSC he checked up on me. To all the Lecturers in Biochemistry, you all are wonderful, I can't thank you less. To Mr Dare Bada, thank you for being my guardian. To my spiritual mentor, Pastor and Mrs Sule-Boyede Moses, my success story won't have been complete if you weren't there. God bless you all.

Picture Splash

VISIT OF VC, PROF. ADESEGUN FATUSI TO THE SPEAKER, ONDO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, RT. HON. BAMIDELE OLOYELOGUN



NYSC'S VISIT



NASU'S VISIT

A group Photograph of the VC with National, Regional and UNIMED Executives of the of Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU)



FRSC'S VISIT



HISTORICAL NOTES'

Meet EL-PHEMMIE

THE COMPOSER OF UNIMED ANTHEM



Dr. Olaagbende Olufemi also known as El-phemmie is a Nigerian gospel singer-songwriter known for his poetic lyrics and soft voice. In 2017, he composed the school anthem of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State.

He was honored for this composition after which he proceeded to release his debut album titled 'Silent Waters' with 13 tracks. One of the tracks, "How Great You Are" was later nominated for gospel worship of the year in the Hot Sound Music (HSM) Awards that year.

In 2020, El-phemmie was nominated in two categories (Artist of the Year and Collaboration of the Year) at the Annual Gospel Music Award (AGMA 2020) held in Ibadan. Same year, he was nominated in three categories (Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year and Collaboration of the Year) at the Ondo State Gospel Music Awards held in Akure. Dr. Dayo-Olagbende Olufemi is a faculty member of Realize Nigeria (a non-profit organization that is into talent discovery and development). He is a worship leader at Word of Faith Christian Assembly. He has a passion for youths and his music ministry is mostly targeted towards the youth. According to him, the time of strength is during the youthful period and if men can be encouraged to serve and love God at that stage, the world will be a better place.

He has worked with other artists in the music industry, particularly in Nigeria. He is an academic and has a Ph.D. Degree in soil chemistry having many academic publications to his credit. He is married with a child.

What motivated you to compose UNIMED Anthem?

I've always wanted to be a part of something special, something that leaves my footprint in the sand of time. So when I heard that UNIMED needed a school anthem, I jumped at the opportunity.

How did you know that the University needed an anthem?

My father, Mr. Odundayo Olagbende was the pioneer Chief Security Officer of the University. It was through him I got to hear that the school was in need of an anthem.

What informed your choice of words or lyrics used in the anthem?

As at when I got the information, I was working on my debut album and I actually had a tight schedule because of studio session and rehearsal time. At the same time I didn't want to come up with weak lyrics for the anthem. One of those nights, I got back home and stumbled upon one of the publications of the University. Turning the to first page, I was greeted by the vision and mission statements of the University, as well as the core values and goals of the Institution. I took some time to read through and there and then, I concluded that no better source of inspiration can give a better lyrics. Long story short, the lyrics was inspired by the vision and mission statements, as well as the core values and goals of the University.

What do you do presently?

I am currently based in Akure, and I'm a teaching and research assistant in the Federal University of Technology Akure. It's a contract job which will soon terminate, so I'm looking forward to other opportunities. I'm also fully into gospel music.

UNIMED SPH CONVENES PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUND

The maiden edition of the Public Health Grand Round of the School of Public Health (SPH), University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED), Ondo was held on Wednesday, 17th March, 2021 at the University Hall, Odosida Campus, with the theme, 'COVID-19 Research Agenda'.

Presentations were made by Dr. Akinola Fatiregun from the World Health Organisation; Dr Stephen Fagbemi, the State Epidemiologist, Ondo State Ministry of Health; and Prof. Michael Asuzu, a Professor of Disciplinary Public Health in UNIMED and a member of the Advisory Board to the Presidential National COVID-19 Task Force.

The purpose of the Grand Round, as stated by the Dean, UNIMED School of Public Health, Prof. Olalekan Adebimpe, is to establish a routine avenue to educate stakeholders with developments on burning topics of global interest, through presentation of scientific facts. The Public Health forum,



which was an hybrid (physical and online) event was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi. The Forum brainstormed on the research gaps currently existing regarding COVID-19 prevention, treatment and vaccine development, and how they can be addressed in the Nigerian context.

They highlighted the importance of strengthening research collaboration and capacity for COVID-19 among the academia, medical and non – orthodox practitioners.

The presentations were followed by rigorous discussions by the Staff of the University and other participants.

The Grand Round also witnessed poster presentations on Covid-19 research work undertaken by some of the academic Staff of UNIMED and their collaborator.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Authors	Title of Presentation
AA Joseph and OA Joseph	The Use of Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) In Curbing COVID 19 In A Metropolis In North-Central Nigeria.
Fajemisin, Adesoji Michael, Ajibesin, Kola' Kayode and Adewumi, Ifeolu	Standardization Of Herbal Drinks As Treatment For Covid-19 And Other Organ Related Health Challenges.
WO Adebimpe , DO Ibirongbe , AA Abubakar , MM Oladapo , SO Olarewaju , MO Osinubi , MM Fasiku , OS Bolarinwa , A Ibrahim , RA Akindele , MO Gbala , OB Awe	Willingness To Work As Frontline Health Care Providers During COVID-19 Pandemic In Nigeria.
Victoria Oladoyin	Willingness of Nigerian residents to disclose COVID-19 symptoms and take COVID-19 Test.
AA Abubakar, WO Adebimpe , AI Abdulazeez , A Ibrahim	Geographical Distribution, Transmission Dynamics And Fatality Of An E merging Novel Coronavirus Disease.
AO Joseph and AA Joseph	“Easing The Lock But Locking The Vulnerable”: A COVID-19 Experience Of The Aged In Nigeria

WE'RE COMMITTED

To Building A Future Generation of Ethically Responsive Researchers

- *Fatusi*



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi has said the Management of the Institution is committed to building a future generation of ethically responsive researchers.

He stated this during a 3-day Workshop facilitated by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC), Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja for members of the UNIMED Research Ethics Committee, a programme that started on Tuesday 22nd June, 2021.

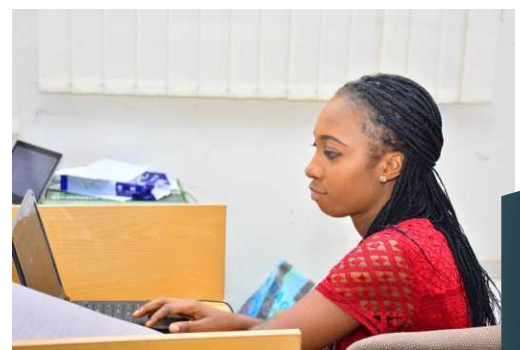
Prof. Fatusi affirmed that the University is well-positioned to prepare graduates and researchers that can tackle what he termed the challenges of the new century.

“We are six years old, but today, in this country, we have the largest number of health and medical courses. So, we believe that we have a historical responsibility to re-create things including the type of research needed. We want to build the capacity of our staff in research and in terms of teaching to ensure that our products are of high quality. We are therefore preparing graduates that are prepared to face the challenges of the new century and without ethics, everything is zero,” the VC said.

“Like I always argue, when you have integrity, there is nothing else to worry about but if you don't have integrity, there is nothing else too. For us, building integrity in research, teaching and

everyday behaviour becomes something we are passionate about and we are very glad that NHREC facilitators are here to help us this week,” he added.

Prof. Fatusi said: “for us as a University, one of the things we have said to ourselves is that there is no need to have another University if we just follow the same pattern and do not do certain things differently. The opportunity of a young University is to re-write things the way you want. One of the things we are enthusiastic about is that we want to raise a crop of academicians, who are not just going to be writing papers



because they need promotion but people who are going to be genuinely interested in research to make considerable changes in the lives of people. Without us having a very strong Ethics Committee, we cannot truly promote very strong quality research work. Once you compromise ethics, quality is compromised and the result is compromised and you put the people you are working with in danger.”

He appreciated the Chairman of UNIMED Research Ethics Committee, Prof. Olugbemiga Adeodu and other members of the Committee, expressing his confidence in them.

“We have absolute confidence in your ability not only to function as members of this committee but also to become people who can then relate this message and build the capacity of others and support them,” the VC stated.

He also appreciated the NHREC facilitators – Prof. Morenike Ukpong Folayan, Prof. Ademola Ajuwon and Mr. Ado Danladi for their commitments.

One of the Facilitators, Prof. Morenike Folayan, noted that the training is a requirement for the Ethics Committee itself not just to build the capacity of its members but to also be registered and licensed to operate by the National Health Research Ethics Committee that coordinates ethics committees in the country.

“I applaud the Management of UNIMED for taking this step; it comes with a cost and many Institutions are unwilling to pay that cost and therefore, they have untrained Committee members and of course, it has its impact. I can only imagine that the training of this Ethics Committee will translate positively because what happens is that they give positive support to the researchers of the institution to do what is right,” she stated.



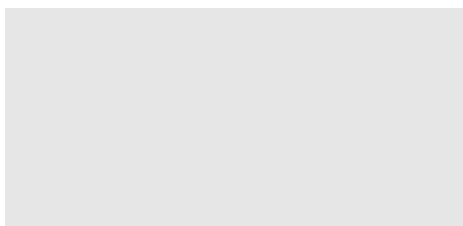
Members of REC:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| I. Oluwagbemiga O. Adeodu | Department of Paediatrics |
| ii. Joshua A. Owa | Department of Paediatrics |
| iii. Joseph I. Fatukasi | Faculty of Clinical Science/Radiology |
| iv. Olumide Akadiri | Dept. of O&G |
| v. Oluseyi A. Adejumo | Dept. of Internal Medicine |
| vi. Oyetunde T. Oyeyemi | Biological Sci. |
| vii. Victoria O. Oladoyin | Dept. of Community Medicine |
| viii. Esosa S. Uzunmwangho | Dept. of Biochemistry |
| ix. Margaret M. Oladapo | Faculty of Nursing Science |
| x. Samuel O. Adeloye | Legal Unit |
| xi. Najimudeen O. Abubakre | Muslim Representative |
| xii. Matthew A. Akinkuade | Registry/Secretary |



Representatives from the Faculties

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| i. Stella A. Adegbehingbe | Faculty of Clinical Science |
| ii. Mary I. Edward | Faculty of Nursing |
| iii. Mr. Akinpelu Moronkeji | Faculty of Allied Health Science |
| iv. Demilade O. Ibirongbe | School of Public Health |
| v. Taofik. O. Afolabi | Faculty of Medical Rehabilitation |
| vi. Mohammed Abdulsalami Obio | Faculty of Basic Clinical Sci. |
| vii. Tayelolu Odesanmi | Central Office for Research & Devpt. |
| viii. Hammed A. Oluboyo | ICT Unit |



Health Research Ethics Committee: **FOLAYAN APPLAUDS UNIMED Management**

■ **Why The Research Ethics Workshop at UNIMED Is Very Important.**



The National Health Research Ethics Committee, Abuja, Nigeria recently concluded a 3-day workshop on “Protection of Human Participants and Responsible Conduct of Research” for the Health Research Ethics Committee of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State.*

In this exclusive interview conducted by the University's

Public Relations Officer, Temitope Oluwatayo, PROF. MORENIKE FOLAYAN, one of the facilitators spoke on the importance of the workshop.*

Prof. Folayan, Board Chairman, Heartland Alliance International Nigeria, works as a researcher with the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria. She also serves as the Deputy Director of the OAU College of Health Sciences' Partnership and Research Advancement Unit and coordinates the Research and Innovation Support Unit of OAU. She is also the Coordinator of the New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHVMAS).

Can you tell us more about your educational and professional background?

I went to the Federal Government Girls' College Akure for my secondary school education and then proceeded to the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), where I was trained as a Dentist. I, thereafter, went to Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital for my specialization training in Paediatric Dentistry. I have a Master's degree in Business Administration at O.A.U and another Master's in Education which I earned at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, Greece; and I am currently doing my Ph.D.

I am a child Dentist and I spend more of my time doing research in pediatric dentistry, what we call early childhood caries. Beyond that, I have done a lot of work around HIV and currently, I'm working on Oral, Mental and Sexual Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Young persons.

What is the significance of this ongoing Research Ethics Workshop?

I am here as part of the team conducting training for the Ethics Committee members of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED) in Ondo, the first dedicated university to medical science training. One would expect that in the University of Medical Sciences, there is going to be a lot of research going on and ethics is a critical element to research. It is not just for science validity but also ethical integrity and that research must be devoid of exploitation and abuse of study participants. So, the Ethics Committee was constituted by the University but the Committee members need to be trained to be able to have the capacity to do the work that was delegated to them by the University. We are here to conduct a three-day training which is a requirement for the Ethics Committee itself, not just to build the capacity of its members but also to be registered and licensed to operate by the National Health Research Ethics Committee that coordinates Ethics committees in the country.

How will this training translate to a positive outcome for the University?

First of all, I will applaud the Management of this University for taking this step, because it comes with a cost and many institutions are unwilling to part with that cost and therefore, they have untrained Committee members that perform this role. I can only imagine that the training of UNIMED Ethics Committee would translate positively because what can happen is that they give positive support to the researchers of the institution to do what is right.

First, the number of quality research that comes out of

the University increases and that will create visibility for the University itself. Second, because of the quality research coming out of the University, it impacts the growth and economic development of whichever environment that they reside or operates. The Ethics Committee becomes a guide for the researchers to do what is ethical and what is ethical is for your research to bring about the development of not only the country but the local government that hosts you.

Is there anything in this for the host community?

One of the highlights at this workshop is that once you are ethical, you don't abuse the communities that host you, instead, they should benefit. You find out that around the world, communities that host Universities are always better off in terms of education and health indices; they become the first respondent beneficiaries of research outcomes. I would only want to believe that UNIMED is going to take that stand and not operate like older institutions that exploit their community, rather, the focus of UNIMED would be to benefit its immediate environment.



Can the students benefit from this training?

The students also benefit in the same way as the staff would benefit because the students' project will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee and they, therefore, at a very young age, start to understand the Ethics of Engagement when it comes to research; that becomes a lifetime pattern. It is something that operates everywhere in the world and they don't become an exception to that. So, I see you starting to build a future generation of ethically responsive researchers by engaging the students through this process.

What is your take on the idea of having a specialized medical university?

I think there are always pros and cons, but within the context of Nigeria, having a specialized university allows for concentrated and focused training to improve health. I think it is a major plus. We have a significant number of universities around the country and sadly, one of my banes about these universities is that you don't have specialization and that is not how you operate around the world.

When you think of Harvard, you think of business. When you think of Massachusetts, you think of engineering. In the past, when you think of the University of Lagos, you think of engineering, when you think of OAU in the past, you think of law but now, we don't have this kind of strength.

So when you think of a University of Medical Sciences like this, I have a lot of expectations especially in a country where the indices around health are consistently poor. I think there is a place for that concentrated need to address that health problem that we have. In other places, they might have other problems not related to health and so they might be looking for other specialized institutions but for Nigeria, at this time, there is a need to address health.



Our general Universities cannot do that because they are not specialized or empowering themselves to do anything that is focused beyond teaching students. When you have a specialized medical university, you are keying into the gap that is happening in the country and you are grooming people. That will in a way address that. Maybe in another 50 years, we might shift away from health and be looking at technology but at this time in the history of this country, specialized grooming of those that can make a difference in the health sector is very appropriate.

Would you agree that the female gender is vulnerable?

I think it depends on the context. When you define the context of vulnerability as not being empowered, I won't go that route. Yes, there is vulnerability because of cultures and norms in the society. The vulnerability also increases because women are socialized not to be empowered, as a significant number of women see their place to be quiet, see their place not to fight, see their place to be second fiddle.

After all, they are socialized to think like that, not because that is who they are. That increases their vulnerability and reduces their ability to fight for the spaces they

otherwise could occupy. I think I have been privileged, not because I haven't received hit backs but because I have been groomed in a way that hit back is just one of those things; I see them as life and not a barrier. I must say also that now that I'm up here, I see a lot more gender inequality than when I was down. In an academic environment, there must be consciousness for the University to create that supportive environment.

Picture Splash

VISIT TO DEJI OF AKURE



AREA COMMANDANT'S VISIT



COVID 19 AUDIT VISIT



UNIMED wins CCIN LABORATORY EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

The University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo has won laboratory equipment donated by the Control Cancer Initiative Nigeria (CCIN), Abuja, Nigeria.

This was contained in a letter addressed to the University on Monday, 15th March 2021, by the Executive team, Coordinators for Laboratory Equipment, CCIN, Abuja, Nigeria. The items donated include a Single-Colour Real-Time PCR Detection System (BioRad), Light Microscope, -20 degree freezer and boxes of laboratory consumables.

According to the team, a number of promising proposals were received from different parts of the country, but are impressed by the efforts made so far by the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo.

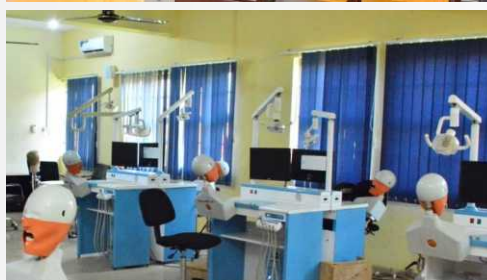
“It is convincing that the availability of these equipment will not only advance biomedical research in your sphere but also make a huge impact on trainees within your facility. We wish to note that these equipment were kindly donated by the University of Luxembourg in Europe to support our efforts for the advancement of biomedical research in Nigeria,” the team said. The Control Cancer Initiative Nigeria (CCIN), Abuja expressed her readiness to partner with the University in the area of research and mentorship scheme.



“It is our hope that this event would kick-start a healthy collaboration between CCIN and your research institute. Beyond the global research impact, we aim to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between us that will facilitate the objectives of CCIN, one of which is our mentorship scheme,” the team

added.

Responding to the news, the Vice-Chancellor, UNIMED, Ondo Prof. Adesegun Fatusi congratulated Dr. Esosa Uhunmwangho and his team for the hard work that led to this exciting achievement.



UNIMED PARTNERS OKE-IGBO, ILU-TITUN, OTHERS ON COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo City, Ondo State, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi has underscored the importance of community or rural healthcare services to improve the health indices of the country.

The VC stated this during the stakeholders meeting of the Institute of Community Health Innovation and Development (ICHID), School of Public Health, UNIMED, Ondo.

Prof. Fatusi submitted that the best in medicine and healthcare can be achieved if the focus is on the strengthening of community health.

“For us in UNIMED, our motto is ‘for learning and community service’ and we are therefore committed to working with our communities to be the healthiest anywhere in the world. If a University is in a place and the people are not changed or positively impacted, such University has failed no matter the number of Professors produced,” he said.



to see people healthier and to see them become a transformed community.”

The VC expressed his believe in the possibility of nipping in the bud, critical health challenges bedeviling the nation with the cooperation and support of the selected

communities.

The Acting Director of the Institute of Community Health Innovation and Development (ICHID), UNIMED, Ondo, Dr. Olugbenga Osunmakinwa appreciated the traditional rulers of Bolorunduro, Ile Oluji, Oke-Igbo, Ilu-Titun for their commitment to the rural health development programme.

He affirmed that the University is ready to provide technical services and all

Prof. Fatusi noted that the mission of the University is to expand access to compassionate, comprehensive and high-quality healthcare for under-served populations and leading the scientific pathway for reducing the burden of disease in the society.

He said: “We are strongly convinced that the best product we can bring out is neither our medical students nor our nursing students but the community that work with us to see lives changed,





necessary support, saying all hands must be on deck to achieve good health for all. Dr Osunmakinwa also noted that

there is an urgent need to decongest the Teaching Hospital which was originally designed to address more critical health

situations while others are cared for at the community level.



Opinion

Adesegun Fatusi: ONE YEAR OF BUILDING HABITAT OF HOPE FOR UNIMED



former Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko. It is the first specialized medical university in West Africa and third in Africa, according to Late Emeritus Professor Oladipo O. Akinkugbe, the University's Pioneer Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council. The vision was to support Nigeria's quest for high quality education, service delivery, research and innovation in the field of medical sciences.

The task of running a specialized public university in Nigeria is an onerous one. It requires not just funding but political will, which is a requisite for development in any institution, public and private alike.

Established in 2015, the University of Medical Sciences in Ondo City, Ondo State (UNIMED) is the brainchild of

It is worthy of commendation that Mimiko's successor, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, in spite of political and ideological differences, carried on with the vision of the founding fathers of this nestling but pace-making university that has come to stay and reaching out for the stars.

Like Mimiko, who appointed a non-indigene, Prof. Friday

Okonofua, as UNIMED's Pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Akeredolu also appointed the second Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, a Community Medicine and Public Health Physician of Ogun State descent, who held sway as Provost of College of Health Sciences at the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife between 2013 and 2017. Clearly, one cannot but applaud this unprecedented style of appointing honchos for the state's tertiary institutions on the basis of merit rather than political, religious and ethnic affiliations. Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, Rufus Giwa Polytechnic Owo

It is worthy of commendation that Mimiko's successor, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, in spite of political and ideological differences, carried on with the vision of the founding fathers of this nestling but pace-making university that has come to stay and reaching out for the stars.



and Olusegun Agagu University Okitipupa are well referenced here.

Needless to say that Fatusi's intimidating credentials, demonstrable leadership skills and stellar performance as Provost made him the candidate to beat of all the eggheads who vied for UNIMED's top job. According to Prof. Okonofua, "we went through a thorough process to select the Vice-Chancellor who succeeded me. I have known him for years, we attended the same medical school. Prof. Adesegun Fatusi is extremely proactive. I am very proud of him. As I wake up everyday, I have no doubts that University of Medical Sciences is in very good hands and I pray that when he finishes, the university will also be handed over to another good administrator."

My first encounter with Prof. Fatusi was on 2nd of May 2020. Prior to that first meeting, I had doubts in the capacity of who will take over the baton of leadership from Prof. Okonofua. From the parking lot to the reception, the VC's waiting room to the convenience, I could see a touch of excellence in the man that was waiting to receive me. We

had a chat for over an hour as he walked me through his vision for UNIMED, which is anchored on his "STARS agenda". STARS is an acronym for Strategic Repositioning, Technological Advancement, Accentuated Capacity Development, Resource Mobilization and Optimization and Sustained Stakeholders' Engagement. I had my jotter full of the breakdown but time will not permit me to x-ray this agenda one by one. What you will find here is a summary of the milestones backed by vox-pops.

Just last month, I came back to Ondo and made a stopover at the University wanting to see the progress made so far. I drove round and saw new buildings

that were just coming up and I had to speak with some staff and UNIMEDics, by UNIMEDics I meant students of the University of Medical Sciences Ondo City (UNIMED) – a term I wish the university could adopt.

Assessing the STARS agenda, I spoke with Prof. Adeseye Arogunjo who is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) of the university and in his words, "the second Vice-Chancellor (Fatusi) has come to build on the foundation laid by the pioneer VC. He has come for the superstructure of UNIMED with his finesse kind of activities. He has the needed temperament, the know-how, the ability, the appropriate gesture and



charisma for the job. He is so perfectly and wonderfully coordinated. He is calculated, ever there, he has a superb human relationship and he is such a humble man. With his kind, UNIMED is going places.”

Under Fatusi, 12 new courses have been accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC) with a number of them domiciled in the new faculty of Medical Rehabilitation, the first of its kind in any Nigerian university, which is a great feat that shows the determination of the new Vice-Chancellor to ensure that UNIMED becomes the leading training centre

together all the research activities of the University in an organized manner.

“We have been able to benefit more from TETFund, if you go to Laje (the University's main campus) you will see some of the new structures there unlike before when TETFund was only accessible to Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba, among all the state universities in Ondo State. One of the most important things I must mention is his administrative acumen. He works according to laid down rules and regulations. He calls meetings and consults widely before taking any decision.

attested to this during my interaction with him. “We want to thank the Vice-Chancellor and other supporting staff who ensured that the resources of the University are channeled toward success because now that the university is expanding and more students are coming in, it means more resources but if the resources are not judiciously used, it will be devoted to white elephant projects and I can boldly say that this is not the case in UNIMED. We are grateful to the new VC (Fatusi) and it is a



for medical rehabilitation in West Africa by 2022.

In just one year, Prof. Fatusi's uncommon leadership style and administrative skills have exposed the university to the international community and positioned it for funding locally, such as the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

According to the University's Registrar, Dr. Woleola J. Ekundayo, “Prof. Fatusi has brought international dimension into the whole thing because of his exposure and intellectual level. Now most of our operations have been internationalized, we have started linking up with other universities abroad. We have established a research unit that puts

He has a participative management style that is very rare in other universities and that is why we are forging ahead”.

I have come to the understanding, while working in the public sector, that funding for any public project will never be enough otherwise, there will be no need for government to exist. I have also observed that a lot of administrators in Nigerian tertiary institutions are always enmeshed in financial slur. Prof. Fatusi's prowess at resource mobilization stands him out. Little wonder his staff call him a man of due process.

The University's Acting Bursar, Mr. Muritala Shittu Oluwanife,



privilege to be working with such a dedicated and hardworking man.” He said.

“He relates with students in a fatherly manner, yet very humble” Oyegbeso Bisola, a final year student in the Department

of Biochemistry, said of Prof. Fatusi, who is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that students of the UNIMED compete favorably with their peers in the developed countries. The University is about one of very few public tertiary institutions in Nigeria that was able to swiftly adapt to online learning during the COVID19 pandemic that paralyzed every aspect of the economy, resulting in a nationwide lockdown.

Ezekiel Adetuwu, a 400 Level student in the Department of Microbiology recounted the experience of using digital learning. According to him “the pandemic could not stop our calendar as virtual classes continued uninterruptedly and they were as interactive as physical classes. I felt on top of the world seeing my school having online classes while my friends in other public universities were at home doing nothing”.

Prof. Simidele Odimayo, the Head of University Health Services said “This University has entered into a super high way of acceleration. With the new Vice-Chancellor, his innovation, zeal and the

dedication of staff, I can see us going very far. With him at the helms of affairs, we will be bridging some important gaps in the industry in a short while in terms of medical services and products”.

Governor Akeredolu's appointment of Fatusi to lead the Ondo State Inter-ministerial Committee on COVID-19 in less than six months after he was appointed VC, following the



demise of the erstwhile Chairman, late Dr Wahab Adegbenro is another eloquent testimony to the acknowledgement of his administrative competence and sagacity.

Fatusi is no doubt convinced and unwavering in his overall future goal for the University as the go-to institution on medical education and a truly top-notch research haven with tentacles spread across Nigeria, West Africa and the globe, especially on excellent teaching,

research and services.

John Paul Akinduro is a Communications Specialist and currently Special Assistant on Media to Former Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State.



Picture Splash

NEEDS ASSESSMENT VISIT OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



INAUGURATION OF UNIMED CHAPTER OF NAAT AND SWEARING IN OF NAAT EXCO



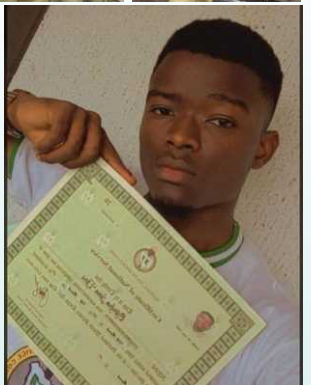
PLANTING OF TREES AT BOLORUNDURO



UNIMED

Pioneer Students complete NYSC Programme

Heartly congratulations to pioneer students of the University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo on the successful completion of the National Youth Service Corps programme. We wish you all the best!



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