

UNIMED *titbits*



A bi-monthly bulletin of the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State.

**Improper funds utilization,
bane of education devt –
UNIMED VC**

**UNIMED takes over
Schools of Nursing
and Midwifery**

**Experts, UNIMED
train healthcare
providers**

EXCLUSIVE NEWS

UNIMED gets full NUC accreditation October –VC

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua has expressed optimism that the institution will get the full accreditation of the National Universities Commission by the end of October 2018.

He made the projection at the 8th Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Conference and General assembly hosted by UNIMED, Ondo in conjunction with Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) and the Interacademy Partnership (iap).

Okonofua, welcoming delegates at the conference said in less than 3 years, the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo has achieved a lot in its bid to be a ‘thriving medical and health sciences University, locally, nationally and internationally recognized for excellence and innovation in health education’.

“It was only in April, 2015 that we got a letter from the NUC that allowed us to start this University with just five courses, and since then we have made many phenomenal milestones including the fact that we now have about 15 disciplines across six faculties”, Okonofua stated.

“In fact, our MBBS and BDS programmes have passed three major hurdles in seeking accreditation of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and by October this year, we are very hopeful to get full accreditation of National Universities Commission”, he added.



L-R: The Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Technology at De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom, Prof. David Mba; Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua FAS; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics, UNIMED, Prof. Adeseye Arogunjo and Ag Registrar, UNIMED, Mr. Adeyinka Adekalu at the 8th Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Conference and General assembly hosted by UNIMED, Ondo

Prof. Okonofua described as apt the theme of 8th NYA conference which is “**MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH: A Cornerstone for sustainable Development**”.

“When I saw the theme of this conference, I said this is very appropriate and this is the right place to be because in the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, we promote excellence in multidisciplinary research. In the next few years, when you are talking about multidisciplinary approach in medicine or health sciences, this will be the University to visit because we work as a single family”, Okonofua said.

Professor David Mba who is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Technology at De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom gave the Keynote speech entitled, “Multidisciplinary research, a cornerstone for sustainable development”.

He explained that multi-disciplinary study is one that draws on knowledge from different disciplines but stays within their established boundaries saying such leads to developments that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Prof. Mba opined that Science should be recognized as a universal public good that lays the foundation for a sustainable world. He recommended acknowledgement of Basic Science as a principal requirement for innovation to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

High point of the occasion was the presentation of awards which started with the Professor Oyewale Tomori National Young Scientists’ Prize for Microbiology bagged by Dr. Dahunsi Olatunde Samuel.

The Professor Friday E. Okonofua National Young Scientists’ Prize for the Health

...cont. on page 2

Improper funds utilisation, bane of education devt – UNIMED VC

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua, FAS, has said that the major challenges facing the education sector in Nigeria are lack of good leadership and improper utilisation of funds. Speaking with newsmen in Ondo, Okonofua also recommended strategies for improving access to education in the country.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for policies and strategic plans, accreditation of programmes, maintenance of regular academic calendar, strengthening of research and research policies in tertiary institutions, university-industry linkage, staff discipline, conflict resolution and work ethics, as well as university autonomy. He said: “The problem of our education system is not entirely funding. Even when the funds are provided, the capacity to utilise them in a way that will advance education in this country is just not there. When you are the leader somewhere, do your best to ensure that you make a difference.

“Look at UNIMED, for example, the state government is doing a lot in terms of funding but they cannot do it alone, so we embark on fund raising drive to support the government and I can tell you, a lot of people are coming on board to support the first University of Medical Sciences that is training health workers in a multi-disciplinary way.

“We have people that we can point to as leaders who have actually changed the condition of their area. That is what every leader in the country should do. You cannot do everything, but the one that is within your capacity to do, do it well.”



Vice Chancellor's Office, University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo

Commenting on the merging of schools of Nursing and Midwifery in Akure with the university, he said the institution was established to train all health professionals and not only medical sciences saying when fully running, it will cover and run all health sciences professions successfully working in a holistic, amorous and multi-disciplinary atmosphere.

“Nursing is one of the critical areas of the health sector that is not equal in teams of human resources and also which programme is not well integrated in the academic curriculum.

“And to actually actualise that, the Ondo State Government decided to merge the existing Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in Akure with the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo and as a result, we have established the facility of Nursing Science which comprise four departments making it a big training institution”, he added. The vice-chancellor also dismissed the claim that Nigerian graduates are not employable.

“I don't think that is the case. However, we need to improve our economy to create jobs. We still depend on one product economy, which is not strong enough because we have many universities producing graduates yearly. We must improve the economy,” he said.

He thanked Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu for his financial, moral and leadership support to the university

describing him as a role model and a father to the institution, saying the school's relationship with the host community remains cordial.

“I have worked in several communities but Ondo is the best; they are accommodating, peaceful and they never make demand. The Osemawe is one of the best traditional rulers in the country; highly knowledgeable, may be because he is a medical doctor, he understands our activities. The chiefs and indigenes have been donating to the school”.

UNIMED gets full NUC accreditation ...

...contd. from page 1

Sciences goes to Dr. Kingsley Nnanna Ukwaja, a senior resident physician and epidemiologist whose interdisciplinary research interest lies at the nexus of tropical medicine, global and respiratory health.

Dr Eseoghene Helen Umuokoro and Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli shared the Professor Kayode Adebowale National Scientists' Prize for the Chemical Sciences.

Experts, UNIMED train healthcare providers

Forty-two healthcare providers comprising of doctors and nurses have benefited from the Basic Life Support (BLS) training at the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo. The training was put together by a team of experts based in the United States of America, led by Dr. Elsie Adedolapo Jolade, a Clinical Professor in conjunction with the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo; UNIMED Teaching Hospital and the Ondo Unity Forum in America.

Vice Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua represented by the Dean, Faculty of Nursing Sciences, UNIMED, Dr. Mrs. O. A. Oluwatosin said the programme was put together in view of the mission statement of the University which is to “expand access to compassionate and high-quality health care for under-served populations”.

Participants received Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training on how to provide basic life support for patients in life threatening emergencies without the use of drugs. According to Dr. Elsie Adedolapo Jolade, the effective CPR given immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chances of survival.

She said up to 90 percent of people who suffer a sudden cardiac arrest die because they do not receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. So failure to act in a cardiac emergency can lead to unnecessary deaths.

“Emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest when the heart stops beating and the person stops breathing due to serious injury can occur anytime. “Such occurrence requires fast action and survival depends on immediately getting CPR from someone nearby, who is knowledgeable and capable enough to provide helpful assistance, hence the need for BLS training”.

The Hope reports that the American Heart Association (AHA) certification card valid for two years was issued to each participant at the end of the two-day event.

The first BLS training was conducted in 2016 and due to continuing collaboration with the University and OUFA, the training has become an annual event given to more than forty (40) healthcare providers.



Models used to train participants on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)



Participants during practical session of the Basic Life Support training Programme.



One of the trainers from the United States, Mr. Fredrick Jolade(left) with some participants during the Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training programme.

UNIMED takes over Schools of Nursing and Midwifery

The Ondo State Government has officially handed-over the State's Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Akure to the management of University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo.

According to a release signed by the UNIMED Public Relations Officer, Temitope Oluwatayo, the event was held at the office of the State Commissioner for Health in Akure on Tuesday.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Wahab Adegbenro said Ondo State is the first in Nigeria to comply with the directive of Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) that all Schools of Nursing and Midwifery should get absorbed to either an existing University or a Polytechnic. He explained that there has been confusion about the status of staff nurse and staff midwife vis-à-vis their career progression in civil service, hence the decision of the NMCN. Also his Education counterpart, Pastor Femi Agagu described the Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu as a visionary leader, saying he had already suggested the affiliation of the schools to UNIMED before the recommendation of the Council. "To me, I see this as an inspiration from God much more than the directive from the Council and I believe what God has done can only be perfect. I congratulate Mr. Governor for this very unequivocal feat.

"And by extension congratulate every one of us, the State Executive Council, members of staff of both ministry of health and education that we are part of this history that has just been made", Agagu said. In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, (UNIMED) Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua, FAS, commended staff of the two schools for their maturity showed during the negotiation process as they choose to put the state first ahead of personal interest.



Ondo State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Wahab Adegbenro (right) handing over documents on the handover of Ondo State Schools of Nursing and Midwifery to the Ondo State Commissioner for Education, Hon. Femi Agagu (left) and the Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo, Prof. Friday Okonofua, FAS.



A group photograph of participants at the official handover ceremony of Ondo State Schools of Nursing and Midwifery to UNIMED, Ondo

"I want to assure you Honourable Commissioners that we are fully ready and within the next few weeks you will see positive action. We established a Faculty of Nursing Science for this purpose and we have started the process of internationalizing the Faculty.

"We are already in contact with several international universities in the United States of America and the United Kingdom as many of them are going to join us in building this Faculty.

"We know that we have some students who are doing diploma courses before now. We are going to give them a very seamless type of transition to enable them complete what they are currently doing", he added.

High point of the event was the signing and handing over of necessary documents signaling the passing of baton to the University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo.

Physiotherapy accreditation: MRTB visits UNIMED

Members of the Medical Rehabilitation Therapists (Registration) Board of Nigeria (MRTB) have visited the University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo as part of accreditation advisory visit of the Board.

The team, led by the Registrar of the Board, Dr. Olufunke T. Akanle visited various facilities available at the University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED, Ondo.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Clinical Services, Prof. Odunayo Oluwatosin received the team on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Friday Okonofua FAS in his office.

Prof. Oluwatosin said the management of the University is fully prepared for the accreditation visit as the department of physiotherapy is considered vital. The MRTB boss, Dr. Akanle said the visit is to prepare the university ahead of the accreditation exercise of Physiotherapy department of UNIMED.

The team thereafter proceeded to inspect the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences as well as the Physiotherapy department and Laboratory to ensure there are enough lecturers and equipment to train the students in the profession.

Dr. Akanle was also at the University Library, e-library, available lecture rooms, UNIMED Teaching Hospital and other facilities in a bid to establish best standard.



Registrar, Medical Rehabilitation Therapists (Registration) Board of Nigeria (MRTB), Dr. Olufunke T. Akanle inspecting the Physiotherapy laboratory of UNIMED.



Registrar, MRTB, Dr. Olufunke T. Akanle inspecting the gymnasium at UNIMED Teaching Hospital



A group photograph of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Admin. & Clinical Services, UNIMED, Prof. Odunayo Oluwatosin; Registrar, MRTB, Dr. Olufunke T. Akanle with other members of the team and some Staff of Physiotherapy department during the accreditation advisory visit

40 UNIMED Nursing Students Complete Clinical Posting

The pioneer Nursing students of the University of Medical Sciences, UNIMED , Ondo have ended their clinical posting with a colorful ceremony.

An Associate Professor from Obafemi Awolowo University, Dr. Adenike Olaogun delivered a lecture titled, "The use of Nursing Process/Standardized Nursing Language: Implication for Clinical Nursing Education.

She urged the nursing students to add empathy to the practice of nursing, saying this is the hallmark of the profession.

In his opening address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Friday Okonofua represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Admin. and Clinical Services, Prof. Odunayo Oluwatosin felicitated the students on the successful completion of the clinical posting.

He said no stone will be left unturned to ensure the students get the best learning experience from the University.

40 students completed the clinical posting at various units of UNIMED Teaching Hospital.

The elated students while narrating their experiences after the six weeks programme described the process as an eye opener to the nitty-gritty of nursing profession.

They lauded the management of the University under the vibrant leadership of the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Friday Okonofua, FAS for the support given to the faculty since its establishment.



An Associate Professor from Obafemi Awolowo University, Dr. Adenike Olaogun delivering a lecture at the End of BNSc clinical posting



A group photograph of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Admin. & Clinical Services, UNIMED, Prof. Odunayo Oluwatosin and Guest Lecturer, Dr. Adenike Olaogun with pioneer Nursing students of the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo.



About UNIMEDtitbits

- UNIMED *titbits* is a bi-monthly news publication of the Public Relations Department.
- Heads of Departments/Units, Deans and Principal officers of the university are hereby encouraged to carry the PR dept along in the planning of events related to the University .

Call for Articles

Articles of not more than 250 words in electronic format are welcomed for publication from both staff and students of the University

For comments / enquiries, please contact the PR dept.

Phone Number: 07030537553

e-mail: toluwatayo@unimed.edu.ng

Stories compiled by:
Temitope Oluwatayo
Toyin Akinwande

Stories edited by:
Prof. Abimbola Akintade

Visit www.unimed.edu.ng for this edition of UNIMEDtitbits and previous editions.