



HSI Journal Celebrate CHS @ 25

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UG-CHS 25th Anniversary logo: Transforming lives through excellence in education, research and healthcare.

The College of Health Sciences (CHS) at the University of Ghana (UG), which hosts and funds the Health Sciences Investigations Journal marks 25 years of impactful contributions to health education, research, and service in Ghana and beyond. Established in 1999, UG-CHS brought together the University's health-related schools, institutes, and centres to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and drive innovation in health sciences training and research. Over the past two and a half decades, UG-CHS has become a hub of academic excellence, nurturing generations of medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals. Its institutions - including the University of Ghana Medical School, University of Ghana Dental School, School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research - have made significant strides in training world-class professionals and conducting cutting-edge research that addresses national and global health challenges. As it celebrates this milestone, the College reflects on its achievements and renews its commitment to shaping the future of health care through innovation, impactful research, and high-quality education. The 25th anniversary is not only a celebration of legacy but also a call to further excellence and collaboration in advancing health outcomes across Africa.

The ode, *Echoes of the Past, Seeds of the Future*, chronicles the journey of the College and commemorates its 25th anniversary

Echoes of the Past, Seeds of the Future: A History of Healing at Legon

From the annals of time, a vision took hold, Sir Gordon Guggisberg, and a story unfolded. Nineteen twenty-three, the whispers began, A proposal for healing, a bold, forward plan. Korle Bu's foundation, a teaching so grand, the seeds of a college, sown in the land. Medical education began in the land of Ghana in 1984. Farquhar and Dr. Richard Cross, with a purpose so true, secured vital funding for dreams to break through. Nineteen sixty-five, a landmark we see, The University of Ghana, embraced destiny. Fifty-one students, a pioneering start, Home-grown physicians, playing a crucial part.

Challenges emerged, like shadows so deep, Economic downturn, and the progress to keep. Staffing shortages, resources so lean, but resilience and aid helped bridge the unseen. British Council support, a lifeline so strong, Restoring the balance, where they truly belong. Yet the path wasn't straight, detours arose, American models considered, as history shows. But a Ghanaian spirit began to ignite, a need for their own, burning ever so bright. The nineteen sixties stirred, a pivotal time, for a medical genesis, in its glorious prime.

Expansion unfolded, with steady increase, More students arriving, bringing inner peace. Dentistry's dawn, a parallel stride, with Manchester's guidance, their futures allied. Socio-economic hurdles, a temporary delay, but the spirit endured, lighting a brighter day.

From time's deep well, a '1993 vision began, sparked by Prof Archampong, the 5th Dean of the Medical School: health united. A Dean's bold dream, a College to rise; passed to Prof S.K. Owusu, through the winding hall it went. Debated, refined - Medicine joined the name. Voices converged, Public Health Research, Nursing's aim. Allied Health's promise then began to gleam. The Collegiate concept, a unifying thread, breaking down silos, knowledge widespread. Interdisciplinary learning, a powerful art where collaboration blossoms right from the start. A shared infrastructure, efficiency's gain, A stronger foundation, weathering every pain. The nineteen-eighties, a period of strain, Economic pressures, causing academic pain. But lessons were learned, adaptations were made, Sensitization grew, and no longer afraid. Logical opinions began to take hold. The collegiate structure, a story to be told. Preliminary discussions, the idea took flight, disseminated widely, bathed in wisdom's light. Enthusiasm surged, a contagious desire, the Ghanaian Medical School, reaching ever higher. Objectives were drafted, with foresight and care, A vision for healing, beyond all comparison.

From Guggisberg's vision to Nkrumah's embrace, through trials and triumphs, they found their rightful place. The College of Health Sciences, a history defined, located in the heart of Ghana, for all humankind. Through process and pact, the University council's nod, at least, was affirmed on 18th July 1998. Provisional approval by the University Council on 4th August 1999, a day for the vision to begin. The College of Health Science was born with the elevation and upgrading of the departments of Nursing and the public health school, emerging into schools, and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research was given Faculty status. On 10th December 1999, the university Council approved the establishment of the College of Health Sciences. The decision conveyed in a letter dated 17th December 1999 saw the conception of the College of Health Sciences with six (6) schools: University of Ghana Medical School, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and the newly established University of Ghana Dental School and School of Allied Health Sciences. The School of Pharmacy joined in 2007, and the West African Genetic Medicine Centre (WAGMC) in 2019.

A College established to be headed by a provost, supported by Deans of the Schools. A legacy to begin with the first provost, Rev. Prof. A.S. Ayettey's early might, then Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe's guiding tact. Through Prof. Aaron L. Lawson's steady hand, and Prof. Yao Tettey's focused aim, Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi's vision bright, to Prof. Julius N. Fobil's respected name. And 25 years on, Prof. Alfred Edwin Fiifi Yawson continues the legacy, celebrating 25 years of Transforming lives through excellence in education, research, and healthcare. To the vision bearers and founding fathers, we say "ye da mo ase", "akpe na mi" to the members of the first College Council, deputy provosts and registrars, and all who have made the College of Health Sciences a success. *Ayekoo!!!* College of Health Sciences a legacy for training scientists and healthcare professionals, not only healing Legon but the Nation Ghana and sending Stars to brighten the World.

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