

GHANA PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS FOUNDATION 23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Effects of Climatic and Environmental Changes on Health

Friday, April 17, 2026

Time	Topic/Title	Speaker
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	Dr. Louisa Lawson Ms. Ellen Horne
	Moderator: Dr. Kwabena Boakye	
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Opening Prayer and National Anthem	
8:15 AM – 8:25 AM	Welcome	Dr. Akwasi Amponsah <i>President, GPSF</i>
8:25 AM - 9:10 AM	Exploring Stakeholder Support for Student-Run Free Clinics to Address Gaps in Non-Communicable Disease Care in Ghana: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed-Methods Study	Dr. Brian Flesicher <i>PGY-1, Internal Medicine (Primary Care) Yale University/Yale New Haven Health</i>
9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	Survival Trends of Liver Cirrhosis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital from 2020-2025	Dr. Clinton Mensah, MBChB <i>Medical Student University of Ghana Medical School</i>
9:55 AM – 10:20 AM	BREAK	
10:20 AM - 11:05 AM	Challenges In The Provision of Endoscopic Services in Ghana	Mr. David Armah <i>Medical Student University of Cincinnati</i>
11:05 AM - 11:50 AM	Think Dengue: An Unusual Gastrointestinal Presentation in a Returning traveler	Dr. Dzidzo Afi Anaglate <i>Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, Georgia</i>
11:50 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH	
	Moderator: Dr. Francisca Abanyie	
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	An Evaluation of the Relationship Between Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Psychological Health	Ms. April Kennedy, MPA <i>Doctoral Student (DrPH) Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University</i>
1:45 PM – 2:30 PM	Barriers to Exclusive Breastfeeding Among Nursing Mothers at Tamale West Hospital, Ghana: A Cross-Sectional Study	Mr. Edward K. Sarfo <i>Medical student Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai</i>
2:30 PM – 2:50 PM	BREAK	
2:50 PM – 3:35 PM	Predictable No More: Pediatric Viral Seasons After COVID Implications for Epidemiology, Clinical Care, and Preparedness in a Changing Environmental Landscape	Dr. Charity Adusei-Baah <i>Pediatric Hospital Medicine Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta</i>
3:35 PM – 4:20 PM	Update on Medical Mission to Ghana	Dr. James Aikins <i>Chief, Gynecologic Oncology Division Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey</i>
4:20 PM – 5:20 PM	Panel Discussion: What is the diasporan Physician’s role in Medical education, Research and Clinical care	Panelists: Dr. Divine Banyubala, Dr. Ernest Yorke, Professor Richard Adanu
4:20 PM – 5:20 PM (Breakout Session)	Breakout Session: Career Directions: Young Professionals; Medical Students/Premedical Students	Dr. Francisca Abanyie Dr. Akwasi Amponsah

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Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time	Topic/Title	Speaker
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	Dr. Louisa Lawson Ms. Ellen Horne
	Moderator: Dr. Ernestina French	
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Centering People in Health Systems: The 'Caring for Providers to Improve Patient Experience' Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial in Ghana and Kenya	Dr. Patience Afulani <i>Associate Professor, Departments of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences & Epidemiology and Biostatistics University of California, San Francisco</i>
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM	Toxic by Design: From Cancer Alley to Agbogbloshie - <i>Climate Change, Environmental Deregulation, and the Deepening of a Public Health Crisis</i>	Dr. Rachel Bervell <i>Psychiatry Resident (PGY-2) Tulane University New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Assessment of Heavy Metals in Maternal Cord Blood Among Adult Postpartum Mothers in the Bibiani Anhwiaso-Bekwai Municipality in the Western North Region of Ghana.	Ms. Rosetta Ntriwaah Boakye Dr. Emmanuel Nii Otoo Dodoo, MLS.D <i>Lekma Polyclinic Accra, Ghana</i>
10:15 AM - 10:35 AM	BREAK	
10:35 AM - 11:05 AM	Presidential Address	Dr. Akwasi Amponsah <i>President, GPSF</i>
11:05 AM - 12:00 PM	Healing in a Changing Climate: Traditional Medicine in Ghana	Dr. Evelyn Abayaah-Issah <i>Acting Administrative Secretary Traditional Medicine Practice Council Accra, Ghana</i>
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH	
	Moderator: Dr. James Aikins	
1:00 PM - 1:40 PM	Update Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons	Dr. Richard Adanu <i>Rector Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons</i>
1:40 PM - 2:20 PM	Mental Health and Climate Change: The African Context	Dr. Thaddeus P. Ulzen <i>Professor & Chair Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine College of Community Health Sciences University of Alabama School of Medicine Tuscaloosa Regional Campus, Tuscaloosa, AL</i>
2:20 PM - 3:00 PM	Climate Change and Skin Cancer: Assessing the Rising Risk in a Warming World	Dr. Aida Feda Vanderpuye, MBChB <i>MPH Candidate University of Iowa of Public Health</i>
3:00 PM - 3:20 PM	BREAK	
3:20 PM - 4:00 PM	From Waste to Wellness: Improving Hospital Waste Management to Protect Staff, Patients, and the Environment	Dr. Richard Dodoo <i>Medical Superintendent Nsawam Government Hospital</i>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Panel Discussion: Current healthcare system assessment and recommendations for lasting improvement in Ghana	Panelists: Dr. Ernest Yorke, Dr. Divine Banyubala, Professor Richard Adanu
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	General Membership Meeting	Dr. Akwasi Amponsah, <i>President</i> Dr. Ernestina French, <i>President-Elect</i> Dr. Patience Afulani, <i>Vice President</i> Dr. Louisa Lawson, <i>Treasurer</i>

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