

GPSF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS 2017

Mrs. Samira Bawumia, Second Lady, Republic of Ghana, our GUEST OF HONOR expressed her appreciation for the efforts and assistance that GPSF has been providing to the health system of Ghana. She capitalized on the outstanding initiative of the RITE program of the GPSF and its numerous benefits that will come along with it. She also addressed the maternal and infant mortality currently at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. She appealed to the doctors in attendance to get involved and help provide medical logistics and necessary medical knowledge to eradicate the problem. She also made a suggestion that the association should take initiatives to assist the three Northern Regions of Ghana. She stressed that these three regions are the most impoverished part of the country and we should be more ready to assist them. In concluding her speech, she made mention of doctors in the Diaspora engaging in telemedicine, as a way of extending expensive medical knowledge to fellow health practitioners in Ghana.

Dr Badu Sarkodie, our keynote speaker spoke on Emerging and re-emerging Infectious Disease: The Ghana Experience.

Our generation has experience three pandemics including cholera in 1970, HIV in the 80s. Infectious disease continues to be the largest cause of death in Africa.

Drivers for this include population growth/urbanization, increased international travel, bioterrorism, unsafe sexual practices, etc.

In Ghana, we face meningitis, cholera, yellow fever, lassa fever, anthrax, rabies, avian, Polio. He gave an update on the status of meningitis in the Northern Region. Vaccines have reduced the incidents.

Dr Chastity Walker talked on Global Health Security, Protecting lives, Stopping Disease where they start.

The CDC Goal of protecting Americans and people around the world. The Division of global Health Protection has six programs. Recently established global response team, as a result of the Ebola epidemic. She discussed the threats of public health and preparedness for emergencies. GHSA tenets include prevent, detect and respond and multi-sectional team approach to address issues at the animal-human-ecosystem interface. GHSA Core areas include laboratory, surveillance, emergency operations and workforce development.

She shared their achievements in Ghana including meningitis eradication in the North of Ghana, vaccine development, establishing rapid response teams.

Dr Rachel Idowu, CDC Africa presented on a new era of public health in Africa She discussed data on how the Ebola crisis uncovered weak health system and need to improve disease prevention and control activities in Africa. She expressed how the Africa CDC is putting measures in place to enhance its relations and collaborations with other health institutions to improve health across the continent. This initiative will involve providing rapid response to grade 1 infectious diseases, providing lab facilities and equipment that are equipped with latest technology and

in addition, extending help to the countries that are currently facing the yellow fever pandemic. She concluded by advocating for volunteers and donors who are interested in helping the Africa CDC to meet its goals, vision and mission.

Dr Aku Ampadu, Founder of the Healing Words Foundation gave a presentation focused on healing through literacy items for hospitalized children in Ghana. Her foundation is more focused on providing educational items, especially books for children's hospitals in Ghana. She talked about her experience at the Korle- Bu teaching hospital, indicating that the children lacked the necessary logistics to enhance their literacy level. She will be working with FOCOS hospital in the coming months in order to be of assistance in curbing the problem of low literacy levels associated with hospitalized children at the hospital.

Dr Emmanuel Sarpong, Founder of the Sarpong Foundation talked about improving the lives of disenfranchised population in Ghana. His foundation is more focused on providing financial and medical assistance to those in need, especially in Ghana. He urged the government to grant immunity to individuals who have stolen resources from the country, in that they can invest the resources in back into the country. His family enterprise have been providing medications by engaging religious organizations in the country and liaising with medical professionals such as pharmacists and nurses. He entreated the audience to utilize their tax refunds in engaging in an activity that drives the passion of helping individuals in Ghana.

Dr Alex Boafo, Founder of the Kwakwaduom Association Incorporated presented efforts on improving the socio-economic health, education and cultural lives in Ghana, engaging in providing scholarships, global education, research activities and family support initiatives such as giving out low interest loans to its members. He elaborated on setting up water resources in the eastern part of Akropong, which initially lacked potable water source, providing laptops, books and medical logistics to midwives in the Eastern Region

Dr Bertha Ayi, infectious disease specialist addressed water sanitation: role of African Diaspora in preventing outbreaks in cholera. She discussed recent cholera outbreaks in the cities of Accra, Tema and how it spread to other parts of the nation, engaged the audience in seeking answers to the problem of cholera outbreak including our water sources, buying from vendors on the street, the lack of planning for places of convenience and drainage systems for sewer and domestic waste. Education on personal hygiene and refraining from open defecation into our water bodies should be punishable offences.

Dr Irene Wulff, Chief, Dept of Anesthesiology, FOCOS Hospital engaged the assembly on how to prepare for a new disease outbreak with limited resources. The Ebola scare, the community response and how a local hospital dealt with it in Ghana. Dr. Wulff commenced by elaborating the how equipped and ready FOCOS hospital was ready for the Ebola epidemic, they set up an 11 member committee that sought to

provide education on infection control and the right way to wear PPEs, set up a screening location in the hospital and for people with symptoms of fever who were isolated and given special care. In addition, they collaborated with the GHS and Karle-Bu Teaching Hospital, screened over 13,000 patients and provided the necessary education and screenings for their international clients some the three major African nations that were heavily hit by the Ebola virus.

Dr Bertha Ayi looked forward to the day When Malaria be Eradicated and cher childhood frequent battles with malaria. She discussed malaria eradication in the USA in 1949 through DDT and education. DDT worked because after spraying, it stays for 2 years. She mentioned malaria eradication is possible in Ghana and around the world with new push on vaccination and genetic modification of mosquitoes.

Dr Ayers discussed the concept of One Health, Changing Paradigm for an Academic Department Based on bond between human, animal and environment. One Health aims to improve diagnoses and prevention of infections, early detection of environmental hazards, improvement of communications of potential threats to humans, animals and the environment, improve the patient experience. Six out of ten infectious diseases were spread by animals.

Dr. James Aikins spoke on Cervical cancer is a preventable disease. He presented statistics in Ghana, stating that about 8.6 million women aged 15 and above are at higher risk of getting the disease, discussed how HPV is acquired through sexual and nonsexual routes, HPV and cervical cancer and treatments of cervical cancer which includes; cone of cervix, simple hysterectomy and radical trachelectomy .

He concluded by providing future directions of preventing cervical cancer, which includes providing affordable HPV test kits and effective HPV vaccines, which has proven to prevent cervical cancer. interested in helping the Africa CDC to meet its goals, vision and mission for which they are in Africa.

Dr Lewis R Roberts spoke on Viral Hepatitis killing more than HIV, TB or malaria Liver cancer, the 6th most common type of cancer and the 2nd most common cause of death from cancer. Data on 95% diagnosed with liver die within the first year of their diagnosis and that the most causes of liver cancer are hepatitis B and C and the role of aflatoxin as cofactors in the cause of viral hepatitis by inhibiting the p53 gene from undertaking apoptosis. He discussed early recognition of HCC in Taiwan and Japan and expressed concern on how there is higher prevalence of HCC in Egypt than other African nations, yet more patients have an average survival of 11 months in Egypt compared to the 3 months survival in other African nations. He encouraged creating awareness and educating the mass population on the issue of viral hepatitis.

Dr Oheneba Boachie-Adjei discussed creating sustainable and preventative treatment program for TB Spondylitis in Africa, An old disease that continues to ravage children of Africa. Predisposing factors include malnutrition, poor sanitation, poverty, civil unrest.

Radiographic diagnosing: CT, plain x-ray, MRI presentation on spine deformation, TB Kyphosis and urged the audience to implore the usage of BCG vaccines to prevent TB of the spine.

Prof. Jacob Plange-Rhule gave an outline of the mission and vision of the GCPS and future plans to decentralize training centers across Ghana. He indicated that they have made most district hospitals a center of training for emerging health professionals. He talked about new training programs that include fellowship in geriatrics and rheumatology, and brought to light the college's intention to create training programs for fellowships in other areas such as anesthesiology and maternal fetal medicine. He said that the college is now looking into fostering medical research in the country in order to advance medical knowledge. He concluded on the college's intention to providing a 10 year strategic plan for the college.