MAIDEN EDITION

ST. DOMINIC TODAY

A quarterly bulletin from the St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020



Main Entrance to St. Dominic Hospital

EDITORIAL

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish to extend a warm welcome to the readers of this maiden edition of the St. Dominic Today bulletin. This quarterly bulletin aims to provide a regular update for staff, partners and the general public on various activities and engagements of the hospital in its quest to deliver high quality healthcare. As the good book says, "a city set on a hill cannot be hidden", this serves as a means to showcase what we have to the outside world. This bulletin is expected to cover various aspects of health care delivery such as clinical services, administration, education as well as other corporate social activities of the hospital. Topics to be captured include services and infrastructure, performance, events, achievements, awards and recommendations. It is our hope that this will serve as a platform to celebrate our achievements and strengthen our shortcomings.

Welcome aboard!

Dr. Foster Osei-Poku (*Editor in chief*)

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Management cannot hide the excitement which greets the coming to life of one of its long-envisaged ideas on bridging the gap of communication among stakeholders of the St. Dominic Hospital (SDH). Having successfully launched the Hospital's website (www.sdhakwatia.org) in June, 2020, the publication of a periodic bulletin is yet another medium to disseminate the SDH story which still resonates beyond its 60 years of existence.

Both in Ghana and abroad, people are aware of the existence of St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia yet others still are not aware of its existence. Given the tall role SDH plays in the healthcare industry, it is only expedient that those who are unaware of its story are told about it. Quite interestingly, St. Dominic Hospital is a household name for the people of the Eastern Region of Ghana, especially in the Denkyembour District; Kwaebibirem District; West Akyem District; Birim South District; Birim North District and Birim Central Municipality. Several activities happen within the frontiers of St. Dominic Hospital, some of which are known to stakeholders both within and without the Hospital. Meanwhile, there are still other activities which sometimes slip through unnoticed by collaborators. This phenomenon certainly is a source of great concern for the Hospital Management Team; the gap needs to be bridged.

The idea of a bulletin was conceived in regard of the above as one of the means to bring the attention of partners to the many activities happening at the Hospital. Among other things, it is to serve as a medium to tell the SDH story and more importantly to keep all interested colleagues informed about events happening at SDH. Already, by the inauguration of a website www.sdhakwatia.org, the external stakeholders are able to largely access information on the Hospital. The quarterly bulletin is yet another way to further engage partners and to let them further inn the frontiers of SDH.

Management intends that the bulletin shall present to the wider world the St. Dominic Hospital (SDH) Story and all the readers of the bulletin are by this, invited to journey with the Hospital towards delivery of accessible, quality and affordable healthcare. Management is largely aware of how fast technology is developing by the minute and desires that by this gesture the wider community shall be well informed about St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia. Hopefully, the bulletin shall facilitate efforts to rapidly sell the SDH story to all minded customers.

ST. DOMINIC HOSPITAL AT 60 YEARS



Inauguration of the Main Entrance

Established in 1960 by the Dominican Sisters from Germany, St. Dominic Hospital (SDH) has consistently provided quality and affordable health care services to the inhabitants of Denkyembuor district and its environs. Starting as a small community clinic with four rooms and a bed capacity of 20, the hospital, currently certified as a secondary facility by the Health Facility and Regulatory Agency operates as a 24-hour, 357 bed capacity hospital.

It also provides many specialized services including an

- Ultramodern Emergency Service,
- Intensive Care,
- Neonatal Intensive Care,
- Gastroenterology,
- Radiology,
- Neurology,
- Family Medicine
- General Internal Medicine,
- Paediatrics,
- Ophthalmology,
- Cervical Cancer Screening,
- Surgery,
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
- Maternal & Child Health Services,
- Palliative Care,
- Endoscopy Services,
- Public Health,
- HIV and EMTCT Services,
- Pharmaceutical Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Physiotherapy Services,
- Nutrition Services,
- Dental Services,

These services are complemented by its partners the German Rotary Volunteer Doctors from Germany who provide Urology services quarterly. St. Dominic for the past 60 years has functioned as an excellent healthcare institution and delivered on its mandate to the people as well as fulfilling its corporate social responsibility by supporting the socioeconomic development of the community in which it operates.



Clean-up Exercise at Boadua - Akwatia

Consequently, the Community Development Unit of the hospital which has operated for the past forty years has provided more than forty-eight housing units, 531 wells and 164 toilets in different communities. The planned establishment of a Physician Assistant Training School, anticipated to be completed in 2025 is one expected to help improve the human resource needs of the hospital and the country by extension.



SDH @ 60 Float

St. Dominic Hospital will continue to fulfil its core mandate of quality healthcare provision while venturing into other initiatives to make its operations sustainable. ***St. Dominic Hospital: Enhancing Life, Excelling in Care!!!***

THE ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL



Entrance of St. Dominic Roman Catholic Basic School Akwatia

St. Dominic School was established in October, 1995 by the Dominican Sisters and was blessed and commissioned by Rev. Fr. Sylvester Kwasi Agyapong on the 19th of October, 1995. St. Dominic School is a mission school, which provides quality and holistic education to the pupils from all nationality and religious background. It started with 19 boys and 17 girls and it has produced many prominent people across the globe. The aim for the establishment of the school was to sustain the workforce of the hospital community by giving quality education to the children of the dedicated staff and the Akwatia – Boadua Township .

VALUES: the school's motto 'Truth and Knowledge' reminds pupils to be truthful in all things and aspire to have intellectual understanding and to also show the appreciation of truth and practice it their lives.

The school has hardworking teaching and non – teaching staff who have always worked around the clock to produce great and remarkable results.

The school has recorded 100% pass in all the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) from 2004 to date and students have had the benefit of attending their preferred school of choice. The school had maintained first position in the District of the BECE analysis from 2013 to date.

It has received numerous awards. Some include presidential awards on two consecutive times 2015 and 2016 by pupils, The Most Outstanding Teacher in Ghana (National Best Teacher) 2019 of the Ghana Teacher Prize award.



Ms. Sabina Koba Dosu
2019 Ghana's Most Outstanding Teacher
(National Best Teacher 2019)

The St. Dominic school has also participated in many sporting activities in the district. The school girls team in 2018/2019 won the inter – schools under 15 girls soccer. The boys won the inter schools under 15 volley ball boys in the same year.

The school had also been taking part in other national competitions in the country which includes junior graphic essay writing competitions, reading and spelling 'B' etc. Most pupils emerged winners in these competitions which had lifted the name of the school higher.

The Red Cross Society of the school took part in the Eastern Regional HIV/AIDs awareness walk and rally and the school was adjudged the overall best in participation and was awarded. The school has lived up to expectation from the onset of it establishment and will continue to execute its core mandate in the society.



Ohenmaa Bonsu Yeboah
(Presidential Award 2017)

Osei Bonsu Junior
(Presidential Award 2016)

PARTNERS AND DONATIONS

Due to its continuous strive for excellence in the delivery of health care, the St. Dominic Hospital has over the years formed strong partnerships with both local and international organizations. Notable among them are the **Dominican Sisters of Speyer (Germany), Rotary Club Otterndorf-Land Hadeln, Ärzte für Afrika, Rotary Club Accra, Ruebsam Foundation and the Hasselmann Foundation**. Their diverse areas of support for the hospital in relation to equipment and infrastructural development include the renovation of the laboratory by the Rotary Club, construction of the oxygen plant with support from the Dominican Sisters, Ruebsam Foundation and the Hasselmann Foundation as well as the sinking of additional boreholes in the hospital and staff village among several others.

On the 26th of June this year, four districts of the rotary club from Ghana and Germany i.e **Accra Dansoman, Rodgau, Dreiech-Isenburg** and **Schollkrippen-Kahlgrund** as well as the **German Rotary Voluntary Doctors (GRVD)** handed over various sophisticated equipment to the newly built ultramodern laboratory department of the hospital. These different equipment are expected to augment work in the Clinical Chemistry, Haematology, Microbiology and Blood Bank units and in some cases run new tests that were not previously performed due to the unavailability of such machines.

The Management and staff are eternally grateful to its donors and partners as well as all stakeholders and look forward to more of such essential collaborations in the coming years.



Some Laboratory Equipment Donated By The Rotary Club

PARTNERSHIP AMID THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Our partners are playing numerous roles during the pandemic, from providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers to screening and supporting responses aimed at educating the communities we serve on preventive measures.
Hospitals and health systems are stressed during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to a limited supply of PPEs, challenges with testing and inadequate space to hold suspected and confirmed cases. Collaboration with our partners and stakeholders has been essential in leveraging our collective resources and expertise to provide an effective response in the hospital.



MSC-Advantage Class II Biological Safety Cabinet from our German Partners



PPEs from the German Partners

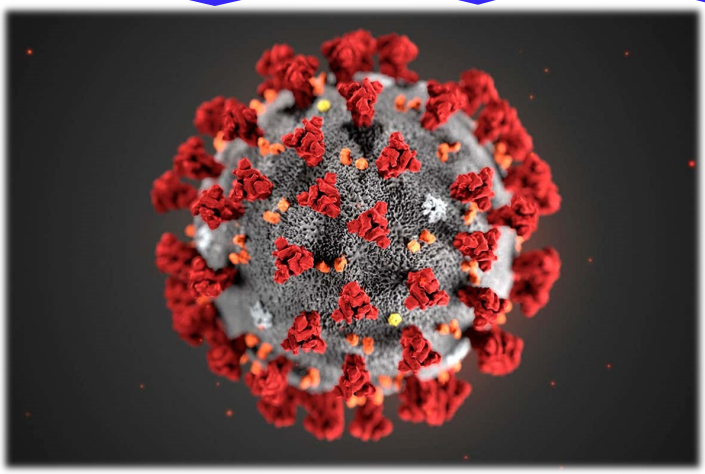


Support for Screening and Education at St. Roses SHS



Community Engagement on COVID-19 with Educational Materials from CHAG

ROBBED OF SMELL AND TASTE: A HEALTH WORKER'S EXPERIENCE



It all started with piercing eye pain which persisted despite medications. A few days later, I developed aching joints, pain in my throat and ears and started shivering like a bird in the rain. This pain felt like driving a nail through my joints, eyes and ears. I tried some pain medications which reduced the pain temporarily only to resurface after a few hours.

Five days later, I was terrified by what I experienced. I could not smell or taste anything! As a fun of fragrance, I tried smelling every single perfume and soap at home but to no avail. I quickly went to the kitchen and tried all sorts of things but these were absolutely tasteless. Often, I asked my children, "is there salt in this food" and they answered yes but I could taste none. I decided to take the covid test which came out positive. I felt so downhearted and spent my quiet moments saying to myself," How will the rest of my life be without smell and taste? Will Covid ever return what it had stolen from me?". After 10 days of no smell and taste, it started returning gradually and by the 16th day I was back to baseline.

With this experience, I wish to reiterate the fact that COVID-19 has diverse presentations and this include loss of smell and taste which is a result of injury to the nerves that control these senses by the virus. You will agree with me that adherence to covid prevention protocols are rapidly fading. Let's help stop the spread by going back to what we started i.e. wearing our face mask, washing hands with soap and water, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers and adhering to asocial distancing protocols. COVID is real and no respecter of persons. Together we can fight this.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

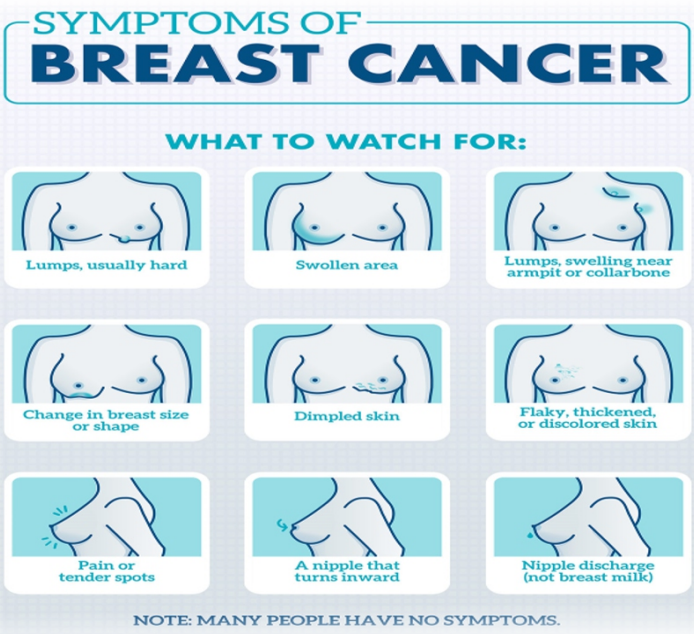


Breast Cancer Awareness Month is marked from October 1 to 31 globally to increase awareness about early detection, treatment and palliative care for persons with breast cancer.

Breast cancer, the commonest cancer in women across the world can be treated and cured when diagnosed early. However, many women particularly in low- and middle-income countries die from the disease because they are diagnosed late due to insufficient knowledge about the disease and barriers to healthcare. Every year, there are about 1.7 million new cases and 522,000 deaths from breast cancer.

(https://www.iarc.fr/infographics/breast-cancer-awareness-month-2019-inequalities-in-incidence-and-mortality/)

Early detection strategies include clinical breast examination, breast ultrasonography and mammography. All women are encouraged to speak to their health care providers about breast cancer screening today!.



NEW PROJECTS





Inauguration of the New Laboratory



Intensive Care Unit



Ultramodern Emergency Unit



Official Launching and Commissioning of the Oxygen Plant



Oxygen House

GALLERY



Official Handing Over of Laboratory Equipments



Locally produced PPEs with German Partners Collaboration



COVID - 19 screening at St. Roses SHS



Old Entrance of SDH



New Entrance of SDH

SPECIALISTS SERVICES AT ST. DOMINIC HOSPITAL, AKWATIA

website: www.sdhakwatia.org



GASTROENTEROLOGY/HEPATOLOGY
Wednesday
Dr. Amoako Duah
(Gastroenterologist, Snr Specialist)



OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
Tuesday/ Friday
Dr. Mawuse Kanfra (O & G, Specialist)



NEUROLOGY
Tuesday
Dr. Foster Osei-Poku
(Neurologist, Snr. Specialist)



SURGERY
Monday/ Thursday
Dr. William F. Bonney
(Surgeon, Specialist)

Dr. Jeffrey Owusu Ansah
(Surgeon, Specialist)



HYPERTENSION & DIABETES
Tuesday to Friday
Dr. Maite Alfonso Romero
(Family Medicine, Snr. Specialist)



RADIOLOGY
Monday to Friday
Dr. Josplim M. Karikari
(Radiologist, Specialist)



PAEDIATRICS
Monday to Friday
Dr. Gabriel K. Ayikutu
(Paediatrician, Specialist)



OPHTHALMOLOGY
Monday to Friday
Dr. Mercy Dawson
(Ophthalmologist, Specialist)

CONTACT: 0243559076, info@sdhakwatia.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breast Cancer Awareness at St. Dominic Hospital - 14th to 30th October, 2020

This October, there will be a clinical presentation on breast cancer by the Department of Surgery.

TOPIC: BREAST CANCER PREVENTION - UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS
SPEAKER: Dr. Jeffery Owusu-Ansah
DATE: 15th October, 2020
TIME: 7: 30am
VENUE: St. Dominic Hospital Library

Clinical Breast Examinations will be conducted from 14th to 30th October, 2020 for staff and clients.

Urology Services & Surgery – February, 2021

St. Dominic Hospital will receive visiting Urology Specialists from Germany in February, 2021. They will review urological cases and perform surgeries. Ahead of their visit, there is an opportunity to come for screening and book an appointment.

Further enquiries and appointments can be made by calling 0243559076