

ST. DOMINIC TODAY

Enhancing Life, Excelling in Care!!!

2ND EDITION
(JANUARY - MARCH 2021)

A quarterly bulletin from St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia

A NEW HOPE FOR MOTHERS WITH HIV

Rotary Club Otterndorf Land Hadeln has partnered St. Dominic Hospital to improve on its efforts in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Ghana.

COVID - 19 TESTING AT OUR DOOR STEP

The St. Dominic Hospital Laboratory was chosen by the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) for it's first training of medical laboratory scientists on the use of PCR machine for Covid-19 testing as part of its Covid-19 Response and Institutional Capacity Building (CRIB) Project. As a result, St. Dominic Hospital currently is a testing facility for covid - 19 virus

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first new year's edition of St. Dominic Today Bulletin. Indeed you will agree with me that the year 2020 was marred with many challenges. However, a new year marks a new beginning and offers hope for new opportunities.

St. Dominic Hospital Akwatia
Enhancing Life, Excelling in Care!!!

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024-3559076



BUSTS OF FOUNDING SISTERS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first new year's edition of St. Dominic Today Bulletin. Indeed you will agree with me that the year 2020 was marred with many challenges. However, a new year marks a new beginning and offers hope for new opportunities.

This edition of St. Dominic Today covers various aspects of healthcare delivery and education. This includes highlights from radiology unit which is a relatively novel department. Moreover, in an attempt to improve upon staff participation, the scope of the bulletin has been expanded to include suitable articles from staff.

It is my wish that 2021 will be much more peaceful and productive than the former.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Management is happy that St. Dominic Today Bulletin is gradually picking up on its mandate; this being the 2nd edition, it offers much pleasure and excitement.

Over the last quarter of the year, 2020, a lot has happened. Although quite a challenging year by all standards, the SDH brand has prevailed. Thanks to God who enables us!

Management wishes to sincerely thank all staff for their dedication and commitment to duty due to which the SDH story continues to sell.

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to push a change agenda in the healthcare landscape, in particular, with resolutely consented effort from the generality of the SDH membership, great exploits have been achieved and we can only be thankful to all.

Special mention is made here of the team of great and spirited individuals who work day and night behind the scenes to have this work published. Management is grateful to you, one and all, for your unwavering support in this direction.

Lastly, the Management Team continues to request of all staff a deepening sense of collaborative and team spirit as we journey together on this treacherous path created by the novel corona virus and surely, we shall successfully sail in admiration of all our clientele.

Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban (Hospital Administrator) for Management



Dr. Maite Alfonso Romero (Medical Director)



Mr. Hayford Asare-Williams (Deputy Administrator)



Miss Elizabeth Martine Ahiamadjie (DDNS) (Nursing Matron)



Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban (Hospital Administrator)



Msgr. Paul Abankwa (Financial Controller)



Mrs. Susie Kabe (Chief Pharmacist)



Miss Yayra Nyamador (Head of Finance)

WORK AND HAPPINESS

ENDING THE YEAR, 2020 A MEMORABLE WAY

As 2020 was a tough year for everyone especially health care workers, the Hospital Management Team thought it wise to end the year on a memorable note for both staff and patients with series of activities. These included appreciation Days organized for head of departments, ward in-charges as well as their deputies, end of year corporate dinner for management, head of departments, night of nine lessons and carols service and an annual thanksgiving mass for staff and patients. Gift items were also given to in-patients.







Night of nine lessons and carols service







End of year corporate dinner for management and head of departments







End of year Thanksgiving Mass



Daily Morning Service

A NEW HOPE FOR MOTHERS WITH HIV



Sampling for Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV

Rotary Club Otterndorf Land Hadeln has partnered St. Dominic Hospital to improve on its efforts in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Ghana. Starting in 2004, the EMTCT programme has offered financial, social and nutritional support to thousands of women living with HIV and their babies. These initiatives have improved access to care and mitigated some of the major obstacles that hinder HIV-positive mothers from adhering to treatment, resulting in a substantial decrease in new mother-to-child infections.

In addition to the EMTCT initiative, the Rotary Club Otterndorf-Land Hadeln has supported St. Dominic to become one of the first hospitals to introduce a point-of-care, Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV in the country using the Gene X'pert Analyser. Early infant HIV diagnosis provides an opportunity for the early detection of HIV among exposed babies with the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality among them.

With the test readily accessible in the hospital, mothers are able to know their baby's status early, minimizing anxiety and psychological trauma, while clinicians are able to assess the baby and deliver the required treatment. The hospital appreciates the tremendous role played by the Rotary Club Otterndorf-Land Hadeln in its EMTCT efforts.

Dr. Maite Alfonso Romero
(Medical Director)



GeneXpert® HIV Catridge

COVID - 19 TESTING AT OUR DOOR STEP

The St. Dominic Hospital Laboratory was chosen by the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) for it's first training of medical laboratory scientists on the use of PCR machine for COVID-19 testing as part of its COVID-19 Response and Institutional Capacity Building (CRIB) Project. This was a two-day residential workshop held on the 30th of November and 1st December, 2020 with 22 participants from 11 CHAG hospitals across the country. The workshop was facilitated by scientists from the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) both in Accra.

Participants showed admiration for the status of the St. Dominic Laboratory and look forward to being able to modify their laboratories with some new ideas obtained.

Currently, testing is being done free at the hospital for suspected patients with COVID- 19.

Vida Angmorkie Eshun



THE PCR MACHINE



THE PARTICIPANTS



PARTICIPANTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE HMT AND SOME CHAG OFFICIALS

RADIOLOGY – THE EYE OF MODERN MEDICINE

The SDH Radiology Department provides the highest quality imaging and diagnostic accuracy in the Denkyembour district and surrounding communities. Within the hospital it is located at the ground floor of the eye clinic building.

The breakdown of the various categories of Human Resource in the department: Radiologist, Sonographers, Radiographers, Technical Assistants, Nurse and Secretary.

Most people who turn to St. Dominic Hospital for help with serious conditions benefit from the exceptional care, advanced technology and expertise of the Department of Radiology. Successful treatment starts with an accurate diagnosis, and our experts take the time to get it right. The Department of Radiology provides diagnostic services for both in and out patients employing various imaging modalities such as the following:

- Digital X-ray machine for general radiography such as chest, spine and extremities, etc.
- Special examinations such as barium studies, Hysterosalpingogram (H.S.G), urethrogram, Intravenous Urogram (I.V.U) etc.
- Mobile equipment for portable X-ray at Emergency
- Two (2) ultrasound machines for general and pregnancy scans
- Doppler scans
- Interventional Radiology such as ultrasound guided drainages and biopsies
- Computerized tomography (C.T.) scanning
- Reporting of X ray and CT scans.

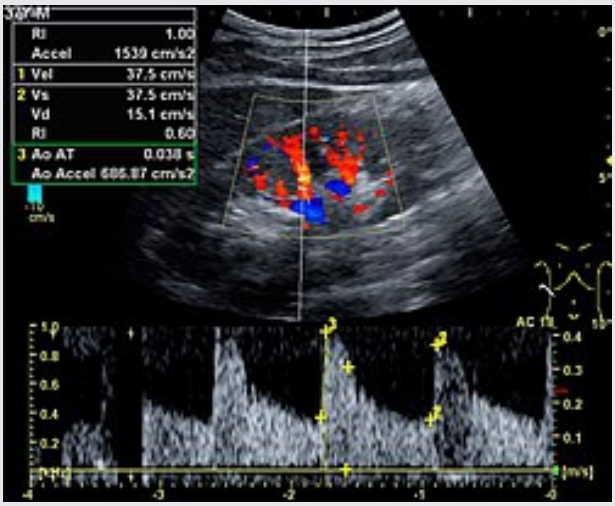
C.T Scan to begin by end of first quarter of 2021.

Dr. Jophlim K. Mensah





ULTRASOUND SCAN PROCEDURE



ULTRASOUND RESULT



X- RAY MACHINE

CERVICAL CANCER: KNOW THE FACTS



CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AT COLPOSCOPY UNIT

Cervical cancer burden across the world has continued to rise with the disease noted as a leading cause of death globally. It has also been projected that 70% of all cancer deaths occur in low and middle-income countries, such as Ghana, where there are limited resources for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer with cervical cancer being a leading cause. It is currently estimated that more than 3151 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in Ghana out of which about 2119 (68%) will die. (https://hpvcentre.net/statistics/reports/GHA_FS.pdf). These statistics are also widely acknowledged as **understated,** as many cancers are not captured in the hospitals' health information systems because many patients do not present for treatment and many families do not register the deaths of their relatives. Cervical cancer is largely preventable through vaccination, regular screening for early detection and treatment

What is Cervical Cancer?

Cervical Cancer is caused by persistent infection with high-risk Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The cervix is the lower part of the uterus (womb) which connects the vagina to the upper part of the womb

HPV are common viruses that are mostly transmitted through sex. Few people acquire it through non-sexual means. At the onset of sexual activity, most people will become infected at a point in their lives. About 90% of HPV will clear without any intervention. However, for a small percentage of women, the infection will persist and progress leading to cervical cancer. It takes approximately 15 -20 years for a woman with a normal immune system to develop cervical cancer. HPV is also known to cause vulvar, anal and throat cancers.

Who gets Cervical Cancer?

All women are at a risk of developing cervical cancer

What increases my chance of getting cervical cancer?

- Early age sexual intercourse
- Multiple sexual partners or a male partner with previous multiple sexual partners
- Increased parity (having given birth to three or more children)
- Smoking
- Immunosuppression
- Sexually Transmitted Infections

What are the symptoms?

Early stages may not present any symptoms. However, as the diseases progresses, symptoms may include:

- Abnormal vagina discharge
- Abnormal bleeding
- Painful sexual intercourse
- Bleeding after sex
- Severe lower abdominal pain
- Using birth control pills for a long time

How can I prevent cervical cancer?

- Primary prevention: Get the HPV Vaccine. It will provide you protection against the common types of HPV that causes cervical cancer. Both boys and girls can get the HPV vaccine.
- Secondary Prevention: Cervical cancer screening (HPV DNA Testing, Pap Smear, Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid)
- HPV Testing looks for the virus that causes cervical cancer
- Pap Smear & Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid looks for changes or precancerous lesions on the cervix so that they can be treated early
- Tertiary: If you are diagnosed with cervical cancer, seek early treatment.

From health education to advocacy, screening and outreach services, St. Dominic Hospital is playing its role in the fight against cervical cancer. The Cervical Cancer Screening Centre at the hospital provides services such as HPV DNA Testing, Pap Smear, Visual Inspection with acetic Acid and Colposcopy.

Talk to us today on 0596910427

(Source:cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/pdf/cervical_facts.pdf)

Miss. Ivy Kekesi

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX IN REVENUE GENERATION

To complement our core business of providing healthcare services, St. Dominic Hospital has used innovative means to bring convenience to its clients and staff whilst generating additional revenue for the hospital. To this effect, clients and their relatives enjoy these services on the premises of the hospital without the hassle of moving to and fro. These include:

1. The operation of mini-shops at vantage points such as the "Mini-Mart" for general provisions and the "Diet Shop" which is an outlet for a variety of nutritional products.
2. Canteen for staff and patients where healthy meals are served. The "Mother's Inn" canteen is located just after the staff and visitor's car park
3. In close proximity to the canteen, is the "Washing Bay" where vehicle cleaning and washing services are offered for a token as well as
4. Mobile Money Services provided at the Customer Service point.

In addition to these, the hospital expects to start production of quality sachet and bottled water to staff, clients and inhabitants in its environs by the end of the first quarter of 2021.

Mr. Richard Ahorlu



Diet Shop



Car Washing Bay



General Provision Shop





Customer Service Point & MOMO Service



Hospital Canteen



JUNEOS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

Akwatia St. Dominic R/C Basic School was among the Top 100 distinguished schools to feature in the 2019 Junior Experimenters of Science. Dubbed, JUNEOS Challenge. This is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project in Ghana.

The JUNEOS Challenge is to inspire the pupils in basic schools to deepen their love for practical science in the classroom. It is also to improve learning and create excitement in the classroom.
The school's experiment was interesting, innovative, fun and educational.

TITLE OF THE EXPERIMENT;
THE USE OF POTATOES TO BUILD BIOCELLS TO POWER A LED BULB.
(Generating electricity using potatoes)

The various experiments of the top hundred (100) schools were shown on TV3, GNTV junior and other TV channels on regional basis. This led to the St. Dominic School being in the top thirty (30) schools through on-line voting. The selected thirty (30) schools were then left for judges to scrutinize and to give their verdict. At the end of judges episode, the school was selected again for the top ten (10). Within this group, the school obtained the highest points which led to them emerging winners for the 2019 JUNEOS challenge and for that matter JUNEOS CHAMPIONS in Ghana organized for the first time nationwide.

The programme had the following prizes;

A. Top three (3) schools;
JUNEOS Trophies with medals as champions of GH4STEM JUNEOS challenge. A decoder and TV sets from GNTV Junior, special goody bags from MTN Pulse, Cadbury, Promasidor Ghana (makers of cowbell and Yumivita) and Planet fruit drinks from Twellium Industrial Company Limited.

B. Top 10 schools;
STEM Kits from EdgeFX Ghana, designers and creators of STEM Kits in electronics, robotics and engineering.
Neuce Ghana will be providing its medium acrylic paints to paint each of the Top 10 schools

C. Top 30 schools;
Free decoder from GN TV Junior. Teachers and participating students from these schools won some goody bags from MTN Pulse, Cadbury, Promasidor Ghana (makers of cowbell and Yumivita), Verna products, some exercise books, story books and JUNEOS T–shirts. From the above line of prizes, the school stands to sweep some awards in each of the group being the overall winners



Josephine Nimako



Miss. Sabina Koba Dosu

SPECIALISTS SERVICES AT ST. DOMINIC HOSPITAL, AKWATIA

website: www.sdhakwatia.org



GASTROENTEROLOGY/HEPATOLOGY
Wednesday



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



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



SURGERY
Monday/ Thursday
Dr. Jeffrey Owusu Ansah
(Surgeon, Specialist)



GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE
Wednesday/ Thursday



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



RADIOLOGY
Monday to Friday
Dr. Jophlim K. Mensah
(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

Urology Services & Surgery – June 2021

St. Dominic Hospital will receive visiting Urology Specialists from Germany in June, 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.

St. Dominic Wellness Water

Effective February 2021, St. Dominic Hospital shall begin the production and sale of sachet water for the use of patients and general public. The brand name is **St. Dominic Wellness Water.**

Further enquiries and appointments can be made by calling 0243559076

St. Dominic Hospital:

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We would welcome your feedback on this bulletin.
Please contact us on **0243559076** if you have any comments, or email : **info@sdhakwatia.org**