



UNIVERSITY OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES
ONDO CITY

UNIMED WEEKLY

...advancing frontiers of knowledge in medical and health sciences

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo Receives Cutting-edge Research Equipment Worth \$103,400 from Seeding Labs, USA!**
- **Vice Chancellor's job most challenging CEO position in the world –Prof Fatusi, ex-UNIMED VC**

- **Echoes from the Webinar on Life-threatening Errors in Clinical Practice: Impact, Management and Containment by Professor Rotimi A.K. Jaiyesimi**
- **Thought of the Week with Dr. David O. Agbaje**

UNIMED RECEIVES CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT WORTH \$103,400 FROM SEEDING LABS, USA!

We are proud to announce that UNIMED has been awarded state-of-the-art research equipment worth \$103,400 from Seeding Labs, an award-winning NGO dedicated to bridging global scientific capacity gaps. This significant grant is set to elevate our research capabilities in the fight against infectious diseases—spanning viruses, bacteria, and fungi.

The recipient of the award, Prof. Simidele Odimayo from the Department of Microbial Pathology (UNIMED), and the current Special Adviser on health



to the Governor of Ondo State (Hon. Dr. Lucky Aiyedatiwa), stated that "This grant has provided us with state-of-the-art equipment that will enhance our research on infectious diseases, spanning viruses, bacteria, and fungi."

This cutting-edge technology will not only strengthen UNIMED's research infrastructure but also positions us at the forefront of the global health innovation.

We are excited about the possibilities these equipment bring to advancing critical research and contributing to a healthier future.



FROM THE EDITOR

UNIMED, Ondo is synonymous with excellence. It's only the best that is good enough for the University in all areas of endeavour. This again came to the fore with the state-of-the-art medical equipment secured through a Seeding Lab grant won by Professor Simidele Odimayo, an erudite Professor of note and the current Special Adviser on Health to Governor of Ondo State, Hon. (Dr.) Orimisan Aiyedatiwa. What precisely can the equipment do? What difference will they make? Check out the details inside.

Functional education is not limited to teaching alone. It entails mentorship, guidance and counselling. Some medical students of the University enjoyed an interesting session on counselling to know how to navigate the rigours that characterise the four walls of the classrooms. Details are inside of this newsletter.

While Dr. Agbaje interrogates the subject of leadership in his column, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor shared his experience as the Head of UNIMED with the Sun Newspaper. The extracts of the interview are in this edition for your reading pleasure

This is another unputdownable edition of UNIMED Weekly. Enjoy it and have a fruitful week.



ISAAC OLUYI

Head, Public Relations Unit

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10 TAKEAWAYS FROM THE COUNSELING SESSION WITH 300 LEVEL MEDICAL STUDENTS

1. Don't entertain fear.
2. Always follow instructions.
3. Group discussions help to prepare well.
4. Prioritises your mental health.
5. Be focused, don't be distracted.
6. Put God at the centre of all you do.
7. No matter what happens to you (good/bad) it is not the end of the world.
8. Be courageous when you get to the exam hall.
9. Eat healthy during the exam period.
10. Be at the exam hall 30 minutes before the exam starts.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority." – Ken Blanchard

TODAY IN HISTORY

1948: World Health Organization (WHO)

Established:

The WHO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, was formally established on April 7th, 1948, with the goal of directing and coordinating international health efforts.

ECHOES FROM THE WEBINAR ON LIFE-THREATENING ERRORS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE: IMPACT, MANAGEMENT AND CONTAINMENT BY **PROFESSOR ROTIMI A.K. JAIYESIMI**

The lecture addressed life-threatening errors in healthcare, emphasising their serious consequences and management strategies to reduce their occurrence.

Clinical errors fall into two categories: errors of commission (incorrect actions) and errors of omission (neglected actions), both of which can severely impact patients and their families, affecting physical and emotional health.

The discussion highlighted the frequent patient safety incidents in the UK compared to limited data in Nigeria, and the urgent need for reform.

Examples of medical negligence in Nigeria illustrate the prevalence of these errors, calling for better systems to prevent them, such as thorough medication checks and the use of electronic prescribing.

Surgical errors, like performing surgery on the wrong site, were discussed, with the WHO Surgical Safety checklist recommended to prevent such mistakes. Accurate diagnosis is crucial

to timely treatment, and multidisciplinary collaboration is encouraged to improve outcomes.

Factors contributing to clinical errors include fatigue, miscommunication, and rigid hierarchies. The lecture stressed the importance of teamwork, training, and a culture of transparency to enhance safety.

Standardised procedures and guidelines also help reduce errors.

Clinical errors affect not only patients but also healthcare professionals, leading to financial and reputational damage. Practitioners must operate within

their competence and ensure effective communication with patients, involving them in decision-making.

The importance of learning from errors through incident reporting and investigations was emphasised, alongside the introduction of the Radical Framework (Edozien, 2013, for managing patient safety).

Continuous clinical audits and feedback mechanisms are essential for improving care quality. The lecture concluded by praising the university's innovative curriculum that integrates humanities, law, and clinical practice to foster safe clinical care.



VICE CHANCELLOR'S JOB MOST CHALLENGING CEO POSITION IN THE WORLD —PROF FATUSI, EX-UNIMED VC

Prof. Adesegun Fatusi is a renowned medical expert and administrator who has served as the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife. From there, he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the Ondo State-owned University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo. Few weeks ago he completed his tenure. In this interview he looks back at the highpoints of his tenure and gives insight on how he overcame challenges that confronted his administration.

How challenging would you say the job of a Vice Chancellor is?

The job of a Vice Chancellor is the most challenging of any Chief Executive Chief job in the whole world because a VC is dealing with different sets of people with different interests and different backgrounds and everyone feels he or she

is superior. The job of the Vice Chancellor is almost a frustrating job because you're working under frustration in most cases. But if you have a supportive team, like I had, the job would be made a bit easier. To cope or lead in an academic environment is a little bit difficult because you're dealing with intellectual people who have serious beliefs in themselves and will want you to do things in their own way. You have to deal with the challenge of regulatory bodies, the headache of the admission process and several other issues. Not many VCs sleep at night. A Vice Chancellor works during the day and at night. It's really the most challenging work in the whole world. My five years journey was without any regret, though there were many challenges and I know that life is all about challenges. I'm happy that the Lord surrounded me with good people who made the job exciting despite the challenges.

Are you comfortable with the proliferation of universities in the country?

For the future of universities in Nigeria,

I totally believe that the Federal Government should stop establishing universities because it does not make any sense to me to have universities that cannot be properly funded. I learned that the members of staff of a university that had just started not too long ago, have gone on strike because they are not being paid. Schools that they are already running are losing accreditation because they are not providing resources. So, it absolutely makes no sense to me that the Federal Government should continue to establish universities. On the other hand, states and individuals' private universities might be at a different level.

This is what I mean, even with all our universities, does it mean that the proportion of graduates in Nigeria is high enough? Or does it mean that the number of our graduates is good enough? The answer is no.



So, what do you think can be done about this?

I think the Federal Government should concentrate on funding what it has started, improving their capacities. What is a state doing with four universities when it is not able to fund them? I think states can carefully look at their needs to see what they have. So, instead of starting new universities, it would make more sense to see how you can invest in what you have already to expand their capacity.

What is the state of health and medical education in Nigeria?

The answer is "very good". Why will America be demanding for our doctors? Why will you disturb me to have my nurses? That's the greatest evidence that you need about the quality of our products. I know the Americans, the way they are, they won't want to share our products. But they've tasted and seen that indeed our health education is not bad. You know, like the Bible says, 'taste and see that the Lord is good.' So, you taste it and see that our health education is good. It doesn't mean everything is perfect, no. There are gaps that we need to fill and there are perhaps three million gaps. Number one is the gap in terms of professionals.

Our programmes are concentrated in some areas and they are rejected in some areas. For example, we have been having medical courses for the past 70 years or more. Before we came to UNIMED there was no speech therapy programme, yet we know that those programmes are increasingly important, they are more important sometimes than medical ones. Look, as we are all growing older, we're going to all need rehabilitation at a point in time. As the world continues with industrialisation and accidents, we need rehabilitation. So, our programmes do not look at this uniformly as it has been skewed in some areas. Also, health information management is another discipline not well looked at. Without health information, how do you run hospitals? How do you run the whole dynamics around the health infrastructure systems? Yet there is no single course on health information management in this country and you have seen that for the last three years we haven't started the programme. So, in terms of the blend, we need to expand more to those areas.

<https://thesun.ng/vice-chancellors-job-most-challenging-ceo-position-in-the-world-prof-fatusi-ex-unimed-vc/>

It would surprise you to know that dentists are few in this country because it's very expensive to train dentists. Only two state universities in Nigeria have dentistry – Lagos State University and the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo. Why? Because it is too expensive to train dentists and we can only train a few at a time.

About 97 percent of Nigerians have no idea about dentistry. They have never actually seen dentists before and we should all be seeing dentists regularly. It is only in UNIMED that we don't only run dentistry, but have a faculty of dentistry that has a combination of three degree programmes – Dental Technology, Dental Hygiene, and Dentistry itself. So, that needs to be changed.

The second thing that needs to be changed is the investment in infrastructure for training. We are training well in Nigeria but at a big cost to the practitioners. Schools are struggling, teachers are struggling. Our teachers are not enough because they are taking them away. So, there is a need for greater investment in terms of what you do with training that can deepen our quality more and enable us to meet the need for export as well as home.

The third area that I think Number two, we started our and the place to start being we need to do more is in postgraduate programme a scientist is not only in terms of research work that in 2021. My predecessor and graduates, it's to see how we we do in the context of our my colleagues left a good integrate more and more of training because research foundation for our that into our training costs money and the place postgraduate programmes. programme and strengthening capacity of to start being a scientist is Today, we have a total of 60 undergraduate and not only in graduates, it's to programmes that are postgraduate students. So, see how we integrate more running. We also brought in and more of that into our 10 new courses to the those for me are three dimensions that I think we training programme and Nigerian university system. need to do more in terms of Those courses never existed our health and medical undergraduate and before 2020. We were the postgraduate students. So, ones that wrote the those for me are three advocacy, the plan for the dimensions that I think we university and today, like speech therapy, Again, In the course of my five years as the Vice Chancellor of UNIMED, we had several interactions. This is a journey of partnership in a way. The media has been a strong partner in our engagements. As you know, the academic community of the university stands on the tripod of teaching, research, and services. So, you can look at teaching and research as an academic dimension. One thing that we are very excited about is that during my tenure we went from a university that had 14 courses to one that has 40 courses, and the largest collection of health and medical courses anywhere in Nigeria.

Looking back at your tenure, what was the experience like?

In the course of my five years as the Vice Chancellor of UNIMED, we the Nigerian university had several interactions. communities. What we did This is a journey of was to lead, that is, light the partnership in a way. The candle for others to see the media has been a strong pathway for greater partner in our engagement in their engagements. As you know, science education. the academic community The country is facing a of the university stands on shortage of health the tripod of teaching, professionals due to the research, and services. So, Japa syndrome and you can look at teaching consequently, the Federal health and medical courses and research as an Government has also academic dimension. One increased the retirement thing that we are very age of doctors and other excited about is that during professionals. **Do you think my tenure we went from a this approach is a solution university that had 14 to the Japa syndrome?**

courses to one that has 40 The third area that I think courses, and the largest we need to do more is in collection of health and terms of research work that medical courses anywhere we do in the context of our in Nigeria. training because research costs money

Looking back at your tenure, what was the experience like?

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**Source:
THE SUN**



“**Proverb:**
**"Leadership is not a position;
it is action."**”

MEANING:

The proverb "Leadership is not a position; it is action" conveys the idea that true leadership is defined by what one does rather than the title one holds. It emphasizes that being a leader involves actively demonstrating qualities such as responsibility, integrity, empathy, and the ability to inspire and motivate others.

In essence, effective leaders lead by example, making choices and taking steps that reflect their values and vision. Their influence comes from their actions, decisions,

and the way they engage with and support others, rather than simply relying on the authority of a title or role. This proverb encourages individuals to embrace leadership in their everyday lives, reminding us that everyone can take action, inspire others, and make a difference, regardless of their formal position. How wonderful is it to know that anyone can step up and lead!



PHOTO SPEAKS

COUNSELLING UNIT EXAMS ORIENTATION FOR MBBS STUDENTS



ACTING VC , PROFESSOR ADOLPHUS ODOGUN LOTO RECEIVES SEEDING LAB EQUIPMENT ON BEHALF OF UNIMED

