



Health Fair Addresses Issues Facing Africans in Diaspora; Keynote Speaker Congressman Donald M. Payne Cited as “A Friend of Africa”

More than 100 people attended the Humanity for Africa Foundation (HFAF) and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)-The University Hospital 2010 Health Fair: “Understanding Health Issues Facing Africans in Diaspora,” held May 15 at UMDNJ. The free program featured information on health issues facing Africans in Diaspora, a panel discussion with health professionals and health screenings.

The panel discussion featured Dr. Nwando Anyaoku, Director, Pediatric Health Center at Children’s Hospital of New Jersey/Newark Beth Israel Medical Center; Dr. William L. Holzemer, Dean, College of Nursing, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Dr. Adeniyi Ogunkoya, President, Medical Staff, East Orange General Hospital; Dr. Arnold H. Rosenheck, Assistant Dean, Hospital Affairs and Institutional Development, UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School; Dr. Berman O. Saunders, President, Caribbean Medical Mission; and Dr. Sandra R. Scott, Chief of Service, Department of Emergency Medicine, UMDNJ-The University Hospital.

During the discussion, panelists covered the importance of oral health screenings, the crucial roles nurses play in healthcare delivery domestically and abroad, access to healthcare, HIV/AIDS, childhood obesity and the need for more medical missions to serve people in need.

Dr. Ona Fofah, attending neonatologist, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-The University Hospital, offered greetings at the health fair. A native of Nigeria, he completed his residency at UMDNJ-The University Hospital in 1995.

During his keynote address, The Honorable Representative Donald M. Payne (D-NJ), ap-

plauded HFAF, UMDNJ-The University Hospital and African-born healthcare professionals such as Dr. Fofah.

In the last decade, Congressman Payne said, the most educated group of immigrants coming to the United States has been from Africa. Since the United States attracts the best and the brightest, the country is fortunate to have them here, he added.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman Payne is recognized internationally for his tireless efforts to help Africans in Diaspora. In presenting Congressman Payne with a plaque for his work, HFAF Board of Directors President James E. Obi said that Congressman Payne has been “a friend of Africa in good times and bad.”

“He has risked his life to travel to places that others would not,” said Obi. “He’s been a champion for Africa, and what Africa has stood for.”

During the health fair, the Humanity for Africa Foundation presented UMDNJ-The University Hospital with its Healthcare Award, which Dr. Ona Fofah accepted on behalf of the hospital.



During the Humanity for Africa Foundation health fair, Dr. Ona Fofah (l), attending neonatologist, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-The University Hospital, accepted the Healthcare Award. Mildred Crump, Newark Municipal Council President/Chair of the Newark Municipal Council Health Committee, and The Honorable Innocent Okemezie (r), President/Founder, Humanity for Africa Foundation, presented the award.



Proud to represent Africa, the continent of their birth, and proud to represent UMDNJ: (l to r) staff members Gloria Igwe, RN, Nurse Manager, Intermediate Nursery and New-born Nursery, UMDNJ-The University Hospital; Phygenia Nimoh, RN, MSN, APN, C, UMDNJ-School of Nursing; Nana A. Achampong, Senior Revenue Cycle Analyst, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UMDNJ-The University Hospital; and Jacinta Ukah-Ogbonna, RN, MSN, Director of Patient Care Services, Family Health Services-Division of Nursing, UMDNJ-The University Hospital; at the Humanity for Africa Foundation health fair. Jacinta Ukah-Ogbonna was the mistress of ceremonies for the event.



Phygenia Nimoh, RN, MSN, APN, C, UMDNJ-School of Nursing (UMDNJ-SN), instructed UMDNJ-SN students who screened guests at the health fair.

Stroke Screening a Success



During the stroke risk assessments, stroke survivors Deborah Norris and John Candido helped educate guests about stroke. Both attend the hospital’s monthly stroke support group meeting.

In recognition of Stroke Awareness Month, during the month of May, UMDNJ-The University Hospital (Departments of Neurology and Neuro-

sciences, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Patient Care Services/Nursing, and Food and Nutrition) and the University Hospital Auxiliary sponsored free stroke risk assessments at UMDNJ-The University Hospital on May 11. Students from UMDNJ-School of Nursing and UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School assisted. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association supplied heart healthy cookbooks and literature.

Nearly 100 people participated in the stroke risk assessments which consisted of hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol screenings. Information tables on stroke education, the hospital’s stroke support group, rehabilitation and nutrition also were featured.

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