

THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

I take this opportunity to welcome you and invite you to celebrate with us as we launch our 1st International Scientific Conference whose theme is "Towards Optimum Health Care". This will be a forum for the scientific community, health practitioners and policy makers to share research data, practice experiences and lessons learnt in an environment that promotes peer review and constructive dialogue. It is planned that this will be a biennial event with the next one scheduled for June 2013 to allow time for adequate and effective planning by potential participants and conference organizers.

I am pleased to note that, the College of Health Sciences has registered tremendous growth and expansion over time from a one Faculty (Faculty of Medicine) College in 1967 to a college housing five schools, one institute and one centre. This growth has brought with it increased number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. There has also been an upsurge of local and international collaborative research including basic biomedical research, clinical trials and operational research involving internationally reputable research institutions and persons. The immense outputs from these activities need to be shared in a formal forum and harnessed to inform policy and practice and even drive technology change.

This conference offers that environment. All participants are therefore encouraged to take advantage of the high concentration of experts and expertise provided by the conference to interact and create lasting linkages and networks that will continue to strengthen and improve research in health and practice by discovering and opening new frontiers and or improving on the current practices and products. We recognize that our prudent objectives are not only to churn out knowledge against disease and all manner of ill health but to ensure the sharing and utilization of our innovations for the good of the environment and entire humanity. This focused and sustained pursuit of new, relevant and applicable scientific knowledge is driven by the CHS vision of "being An International Centre of Excellence for training high calibre healthcare professionals" cascaded from the greater vision of the University of Nairobi, "A World Class University committed to scholarly excellence" It is critical for all of us to note and appreciate that humanity is ONE regardless of colour, creed, or race. Our health needs are the same i.e. accessing, achieving and sustaining optimum healthcare. Let us therefore all team up together to progressively realize this dream and translate it to an achievable commodity to the millions of disadvantaged people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again welcome to the First International Scientific Conference 2011 organized by the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi.

Thank you.

PROF ISAAC O. KIBWAGE

PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI