



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**VIRTUAL ORIENTATION OF
ACADEMIC 2020/2021 FIRST YEAR
STUDENTS**

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY:

PROFESSOR JAMES MACHOKI N. M'IMUNYA
PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
08.45 A.M. – 12.20 P.M.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

On behalf of the College of Health Sciences, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi. I am delighted to see you here. I hope you will discover over the next couple days, what I have discovered in my many years at UoN: that you have entered a lively, challenging, diverse, and warm community.

To you parents here,

I look forward to getting to know the exceptional young people you have raised, and to helping provide a rich array of opportunities for them to learn, to grow, to discover who they are, and how they want to make a difference in the world.

I would like to extend to all of you a warm and hearty welcome to the University of Nairobi and in particular to the College of Health Sciences, commonly referred to as CHS. It is one of the six Colleges that make up the University of Nairobi and is a premier health training institution in the region.

CHS became a College Campus in 1985 and comprises of the:

- 1) School of Medicine**
- 2) School of Dental Sciences**
- 3) School of Pharmacy**
- 4) School of Public Health**
- 5) School of Nursing Sciences**
- 6) Institute for Infectious and Tropical Diseases (UNITID)**
- 7) East Africa Kidney Institute (EAKI)**
- 8) KAVI- Institute of Clinical research**

The Schools of Medicine, Dental Sciences, Nursing and Pharmacy are headed by Deans while the School of Public Health, UNITID, EAKI and KAVI-ICR are headed by Directors.

The College has 21 Academic Departments, 18 Thematic Units with a student enrolment of 5,386 students. There is a total of 87 academic programmes (1 diploma, 5 post graduate diplomas, 8 undergraduate, 41 master, 28 doctorate and 4 fellowships) offered at the College.

These training programmes are serviced by a complement of 438 well-trained academic staff and a corresponding establishment of 655 research, technical, administrative and support staff. The diversity of programmes promotes multidisciplinary teaching, research and community service and are backed up by a well-resourced e-learning function. Facilities, equipment and other infrastructure are in place for effective delivery of these programmes.

Let me, at this juncture take the opportunity to introduce to you the Deans and Directors and request them to make a few comments.

<u>Name</u>	<u>School / Institute /Department</u>
Prof. C. F. Otieno	- Dean, School of Medicine
Dr. Regina Mutave	- Dean, School of Dental Sciences
Dr. Kipruto Arap Sinei	- Dean, School of Pharmacy
Dr. Miriam Wagoro	- Director, School of Nursing Sciences
Prof. Joyce M. Olenja	- Director, School of Public Health
Prof. Walter Jaoko	- Director, KAVI-ICR
Dr. Dufton Mwaengo	- Director, UNITID
Prof. Peter Mungai Ngugi	- Director, EAKI
Prof. Edward K. Nguu	- Associate Dean, School of Medicine

Key offices and officers in the College include:

College Registrar/Secretary	-	Mr. Leonard Musyoka
College Bursar	-	Ms. Lucy Kathae
Snr. Finance Examination Officer	-	Mr. Morris Evusah
Snr. Procurement Officer	-	Ms. Anne Ngari
College Librarian	-	Mr. Zablon Muyera
ICT Officer	-	Mr. Hada A. Okech
Games Tutor	-	Mrs. Rose Marete
Deputy Chief Security Officer	-	Mr. Paul Ngetich
Assistant Maintenance Officer	-	Mr. Oscar Kambona
Assistant Caretaker	-	Ms. Petronilla Muli

Schools and Institute Administrators include:

School of Dental Sciences	-	Mr. Jacob Gichunge
School of Medicine	-	Mr. Patrick Mwangi
School of Pharmacy	-	Ms. Marylyn Nabakwe
School of Public Health	-	Mr. Kenneth Owuor
School of Nursing Sciences	-	Ms. Jackline Monayo
UNITID	-	Ms. Antonina Odock
EAKI	-	Ms. Winfred Chitere
KAVI-ICR	-	Mr. Bernard Omondi

Ladies and gentlemen,

You will register in the various Schools and Departments where you will spend at least four years; while those in the School of Medicine will take six years. It is strongly advisable that you consult with the Deans, Directors and Chairmen of Departments when registering for subjects.

As you meet with these individuals to talk about your interests and aspirations, and to select the courses you will take this year, I encourage you to go forth in a spirit of exploration and adventure. The CHS embodies the broad education that is a distinctive feature of world class higher education, part of what feeds our creativity. So embrace that great tradition.

Much of your learning will be carried out online through various platforms, including the one we are currently on – Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Google meet among others. I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with these. There will be a need for you to acquire a gadget that is compatible to these applications as has been guided. Ensure that your Telkom lines are activated. In cases where these are not working, our ICT staff are readily waiting to resolve your issues.

You have been told what to expect as far as your academic work in this University is concerned. In managing the personnel, faculties and academic programmes, the College works in very close liaison with various University bodies such as the College Management Board, College Academic Board, Students Welfare Authority, University Executive Board, Senate (which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor) et cetera.

Today, I wish to touch on some aspects of your Welfare and the Academic facilities available, which will help you, achieve your goals during the course of your studies if properly utilized. First and foremost, this College, as an entity has a students' representative body known as Organization of Nairobi University Science Students (ONUSS) whose officials are elected by students in accordance to the Organization's Constitution, and it represents the student's professional interest within the College.

Whereas UNSA is the umbrella organization for all University students, ONUSS represents all students based at Chiromo Campus in all major University organs such as, College Academic Board, Students Welfare Authority (SWA) and the School Boards. Thus, ONUSS is a very important organization for your well being at this College in particular, and in the University as a whole. You should, therefore, fully participate in the election of its officials and deliberations without fear or favour. Please feel obliged to become a member. Your effective and responsible participation is valued by the College.

All your academic programmes will be coordinated by the respective Dean and Directors of Schools, Associate Dean, Pre-Clinical Departments. These offices deal with registration of students into various degree programmes for which they will be examined on completion of the recommended course work. You are therefore advised to liaise very closely with them regarding these matters, as these are the nerve centers of your academic activities in the University.

Your medical care will be coordinated through the Students Health Clinic which is located in Hall 3, which is manned by qualified and competent doctors. In addition, there is a clinic at the Chiromo Halls of Residence. Once the University resumes face to face operations, you will be able to acquaint yourselves with this facility.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate all of you on having gained entrance to the University and into this beautiful College. The pressure will be upon everyone of you to really work very hard because as you will probably discover, if you have not, since you registered as students on last few days, University life offers you almost unlimited individual 'freedom' which the majority of you have not experienced during your school days.

It is my hope and prayer that you will put the new-found 'freedom' into good use through pursuit of academic excellence which is the cardinal aim of this august Institution. I say so because at the end of the day, you will be expected to sit and pass examinations in accordance to the existing regulations.

Accordingly, my advice to all of you is:

- 1. TAKE A GENUINE INTEREST IN SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR ITS OWN SAKE RATHER THAN FOR THE SAKE OF PASSING EXAMINATIONS**
- 2. ORGANISE YOUR TIME (AND HENCE YOUR LEARNING PROCESS) VERY CAREFULLY**
- 3. STICK TO YOUR PROGRAMMES OF WORK BUT DO NOT BE A SLAVE TO YOUR PROGRAMME**
- 4. LEARN TO RELAX IF YOU ARE TIRED – PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY**

5. **BE LOYAL TO YOUR COUNTRY WHATEVER YOUR AFFILIATIONS MAY BE**

- 6 **BE VERY SELECTIVE IN YOUR SOCIAL INDULGENCE – LIFESTYLE DISEASES ARE STALKING YOU**

All the Schools/departments are located at the Campus and have fully equipped laboratories as well as adequate facilities for teaching and research. The Schools and Departments are well served by the Chiromo Campus Library which has good stock of books in the Biological and Physical Sciences and subscribes to most journals in these fields. Once the University resumes face to face operations, you will be able to acquaint yourselves with these facilities. For now, I encourage you to use the vast wealth of academic resources available online. You shall be trained on how to access these in the next couple of days.

As you set out on the incredible journey that will help to shape the thinkers, workers, citizens, and difference-makers you are destined to be, I would invite you to consider the difference between education and training. Here is a fact: you are likely to live 60-70 years after you graduate from UoN - that's an astonishing number of years, during which a lot will change, and in ways we don't know. *Training, from the Latin means "to drag"and "to pull after"- it is preparation for the known; education on the other hand means "to raise up" and "to lead out" - it prepares you for the unknown. Choose wisely!*

Preparing for your first job is important, and you will find here plenty of support for that, but much more important is educating yourself broadly across the range of human interests and endeavors so that you are ready for 70 years of intelligent, informed, creative, compassionate engagement with the unexpected.

I want you to know that the entire University community is here to support, sustain, and encourage you as you commit to study at CHS. We could not be more privileged to welcome you into this vibrant learning community. It is you who make us what we are, and we look forward to the fresh ideas and energy you bring to our campus.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I speak for the entire faculty, staff, and student community of the College of Health Sciences in saying we are so happy you have made the decision to join us.

Welcome!