

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR LYDIA AZIATO**

**THEME:**

***“THE INTERSECTION OF SUBJECTIVISM AND PATIENT CENTERED NURSING FOR BREAST  
CANCER CARE AND PAIN MANAGEMENT”***

**ADDRESS BY:**

**PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO  
VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022  
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts, Deans and Directors,

Our Distinguished Lecturer, Professor Lydia Aziato,

Faculty, Staff and Members of Convocation,

Past and Present Senior Officers of the University,

Alumni and Students,

Family and Friends of the Lecturer,

Members of the Ghana Registered Nurses and midwives Association  
and members of other associations and old student groups present,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Esteemed Traditional Rulers,

Eminent Clergy,

Invited Guests, The

Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen present in the Great Hall and those joining us across our virtual platform;

Good evening to you all.

I am excited to be presiding over the 7th inaugural lecture for the academic year. As an advocate for gender parity and women empowerment, I am delighted to note that three out of the seven lecturers are women. Prof. Aziato happens to be the first person with specialization in nursing to so mount this platform. This has affectionately earned her the accolade “Prof 1” within the nursing and midwifery fraternity in Ghana. The University of Ghana is proud to associate with this achievement and celebrate you through this inaugural lecture.

As we celebrate the lecturer, we congratulate the College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing and Midwifery for charting the path and producing the first professor of nursing in the country.

This evening's lecture puts the spotlight on the sustained research work of Prof. Lydia Aziato and her contributions to the field of Nursing and Midwifery especially within the country.

Shortly after I take my seat, Prof. Aziato will mount the platform and deliver a lecture on the topic: “***The Intersection of Subjectivism and Patient Centered Nursing for Breast Cancer Care and Pain Management***”.

In this lecture, she will discuss her experience as a qualitative researcher using ethnographic and phenomenological approaches to explore breast cancer and pain experiences. In her observation, she notes that nursing and midwifery care considerations draw from a plethora of theories that are available to guide care decisions and practices and emphasizes that nurses and midwives should endeavour to apply the appropriate theories in their practice.

In this lecture, some critical findings on breast cancer and pain management will be presented. As you may be aware, breast cancer is known to have a high mortality rate in Ghana because women report late to the hospital while others seek alternative treatment, visiting prayer camps for healing. The lecturer has found that women have strong emotional reactions to breast

cancer diagnosis and are afraid of death. Women who lose their breast have heightened issues of body image because silicon breast prosthesis are not accessible, and some could not afford it. The loss of hair and the debilitating effect of chemotherapy hinders activity level and work. To this end, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment are being promoted. There is also a call for us all including family and friends of breast cancer patients to desist from stigmatization.

The lecture also discusses pain management experiences and issues within the clinical environment that hinders pain management and highlights four main principles that could enhance pain management in a resource limited clinical context. Finally, Prof. Aziato will proffer some recommendations to improve breast cancer and pain management.

*(At this juncture, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me to introduce to you our distinguished lecturer for this evening's Inaugural Lecture)*

## **PROFILE OF PROF. LYDIA AZIATO**

Professor Lydia Aziato is the first Ghanaian Professor of Nursing and is affectionately referred to as Prof.1 by the nursing and midwifery fraternity in Ghana as mentioned earlier in my introduction. She attended Ghana Senior High School in Koforidua from 1985-1992 and graduated as a professional nurse in 1997 from the Korle-Bu Nursing and Midwifery Training College. She obtained her first degree in Nursing and Psychology in 2001 and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Nursing in 2005 both from the University of Ghana. She graduated with the highest cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of her class in 2001 and won a scholarship from Unilever Ghana Ltd. for her MPhil programme. She also pursued her specialty training in Oncology Nursing from the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Canada and completed in 2006. Subsequently, she graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa in 2013 where she developed a clinical guideline for post-operative pain management applicable to a resource-limited clinical environment.

Prof. Aziato worked as a staff nurse at the Mamprobi Polyclinic before she joined the University of Ghana in 2001 after her first

degree. She rose through the ranks from a Senior Nurse Technician (2001-2006), Assistant Lecturer (2006-2008), Lecturer (2008-2014) Senior Lecturer (2014-2017), Associate Professor (2017-2020) and Professor in 2020.

## **TEACHING**

Prof. Lydia Aziato has taught in several nursing and midwifery training institutions including 37 Nursing and Midwifery Training College, Pantang Nursing Training College, Central University, Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (GCNM), and at the University of Ghana School of Nursing and Midwifery, Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS) and the University of Ghana Pan African Doctoral Academy (PADA). She has taught many courses that span across diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, specialist, and doctoral levels. She has also delivered several short-courses and facilitated many workshops.

## **RESEARCH**

Prof. Aziato's research work has a heavy orientation in qualitative approaches. Her research explores breast cancer, pain, surgical nursing care, women's health, herbal medicine, and spirituality. She has over 80 publications including peer-reviewed journal

articles, books, and book chapters. She has been the lead or co-investigator for many local and international projects funded with grants from USAID, WHO, Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Global Health Fund, National Research Fund of South Africa, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Ghana, and the Ghana AIDS Commission. Prof. Aziato is currently the lead for a book project on the history of the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association, 1960-2020: Changes and continuities.

## **MENTORING**

Prof. Lydia Aziato has provided mentorship for nurses and midwives throughout her years of nursing practice, teaching, research, and administration. She has supervised 9 PhD students from universities in Ghana, South Africa (Witwatersrand), Finland (Eastern Finland) and United Kingdom (Sheffield). She has also mentored a number of post-graduate nursing and specialist nurses as well undergraduate students. She is the Founder of Research Mentorship Alliance, an NGO that focuses on developing the research skills of nurses and midwives in Ghana and elsewhere.



## **CONSULTANCY**

Prof. Aziato provides consultancy services for national and international organizations. She has been a consultant assessor of national nursing and midwifery examinations for all categories of nurses and midwives since 2018. She has also provided consultancy services including assessing and accrediting nursing and midwifery programmes for the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) as well as developing the nursing and midwifery training curricula for many Universities and colleges locally and internationally

## **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Prof. Aziato has served on several ad-hoc and international committees/boards in various capacities within and outside the University of Ghana including College of Health Sciences Quality Assurance Committee, Narh-Bita College, Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives, Nightingale School of Nursing and International Academic Nursing Alliance among others. Prof. Aziato currently chairs the Chi Omicron Board of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) and she serves on the International Organization for Standardization through Ghana Standard Authority.

## **INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING**

Prof. Aziato collaborated with other global scholars to establish international partnerships for the University of Ghana School of Nursing and Midwifery. Some of the partner institutions include the University of Alberta (Canada), New York University (US), John Hopkins University (US), Dicle University (Turkey), Sheffield University (UK), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), University of the Western Cape (South Africa), Jonkoping University (Sweden), University of Eastern Finland (Finland), Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway).

## **FAMILY**

Prof. Lydia Aziato is married to Zangu-Rana Ibrahim D. Yakubu. She is blessed with three children (Manzoaya, Suguru-Veila, and Wunpini) and she fellowships with Temple of Grace Baptist Church in Madina, Accra.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my honour to invite Prof. Lydia Aziato, Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery to deliver her lecture.

Thank you.

***Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo***

***Vice-Chancellor***

***28th July 2022***