**NEWS RELEASE:**

PROFESSOR JULIUS FOBIL AND COLLEAGUES AWARDED

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH/FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER (NIH/FIC)/INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC) GRANT

The Office of Research, Innovation and Development is pleased to inform the University of Ghana community that the National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International Center (NIH/FIC), a US Federal Agency in partnership with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has awarded a grant of **USD 3 Million** to Professor Julius N. Fobil of the School of Public Health and colleagues at the University of Michigan School of Public Health (Professor Thomas G. Robins) and McGill University (Professor NiladriBasu) to implement the project titled ***“1/2-The West Africa-Michigan CHARTER II for GEOHealth-Ghana”***.

The project aims at building upon the long-standing, extensive occupational and environmental health research and training collaborations between academic and government partner institutions in West and Central Africa region. The key impact that this project seeks to achieve is to sustainably enhance capacity for world-class scientific research and research training which address and inform key national and regional occupational and environmental health priorities and policies and will delivered mainly through leveraging numerous existing strengths among consortium partners, who include the University of Ghana (UG; lead of linked U01 application, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the Ghanaian Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service (MOH/GHS), and UM to create a dynamic regional hub in EOH. A critical element for a truly regional strategy is to strengthen partnerships across Francophone and Anglophone countries in West Africa region. This is being achieved by strategically linking with the existing West African francophone-based Community of Practice in Eco-Health for West and Central Africa (COPEH-WCA) through their Ecohealth Chair based at the University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) in Benin (also involved are Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Sénégal), which is funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), as well as through linking with McGill University (North American partner in a bilingual environment with long-standing history of OEH practice in West Africa).

The regional hub is expected robust, equitable, relevant, sustainable and Ghana-based. In doing so, and focusing on informal sector activities, the proposed activities will further strengthen the capacity of Ghanaian and regional academic and governmental institutions to conduct environmental and occupational health scientific research and educational training, and inform key national occupational and environmental health priorities and policies.

The University of Ghana congratulates Professor Fobil and his team on wining this competitive award and is confident that this project will greatly help to address national and international issues related to occupational and environmental health research.