

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROF. MARK TETTEY

ADDRESS BY:

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

THUR. MAY 9, 2024

**GREAT HALL
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts,

Deans, Directors, Heads of Department,

Our Distinguished Lecturer, Professor Mawutor Mark Tettey Faculty,

Staff and Members of Convocation,

Past and Present Senior Officers of the University, Alumni

and Students,

Family, Friends, and Associates of the Lecturer, Partners

from the Health Sector,

Government Officials,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Esteemed Traditional Rulers,

Eminent Clergy,

Friends from the Media,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening to you all.

It is exciting to be back here at the Great Hall for another hopefully stimulating lecture which puts the spotlight on the sustained scholarly works of one of our own from the University of Ghana Medical School Department of Surgery, Professor Mark Tettey. Through this inaugural lecture the University also celebrates and recognizes his contribution to humanity as a trained cardiothoracic surgeon.

Prof. Tettey will deliver his inaugural lecture on the function of one of the body's organs that is very common to all of us – swallowing. I am sure by now most, if not all of us, have swallowed food and water a number of times since morning. This function appears to be quite simple from the layman's perspective, however from the medical point of view, it is a complex function which we often take for granted until there is a challenge that makes this function difficult or impossible.

It is expected that when food is masticated/chewed, it would be swallowed almost automatically. In today's lecture however, the lecturer will take us through one of the pathological conditions which severely disrupts the swallowing mechanism and at the same time threatens the airway. In this lecture, Prof. Tettey explains one of the common causes of this condition which occurs because of caustic ingestion, that is swallowing caustic soda.

It is important to note that caustic injuries could be intentionally due to suicidal intents, or they could be accidental. Accidental ingestion of caustic soda is common and a serious public health issue. Victims who accidentally swallow this substance are mostly children associated with people engaged in

local soap production. It is unfortunate to note that out of negligence on the part of adults, innocent children are exposed to this rather unfortunate situation destroying structures in the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, and the oesophagus. This results in long-term complications which may be suffered for life.

Restoring gastrointestinal continuity in patients with caustic and radiation injury at the level of the pharynx is a daunting task for most surgeons all over the world. An unsuccessful correction may commit these patients to feeding through a gastrostomy tube with or without tracheostomy for life.

In this lecture, Professor Mark Tettey will provide in-depth knowledge on caustic injuries, the different presentations, the devastating effect of complications of caustic ingestion and different procedures currently used in the management of these complications. More importantly, he will share the innovative procedure developed at the National Cardiothoracic Centre for the management of these cases.

From the abstract, the lecture promises to be informative. If for nothing at all, I have already learnt the scientific name for swallowing, which is deglutition.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, with these brief remarks, I shall proceed to introduce our distinguished speaker for this evening's lecture.

PROFILE

Professor Mawutor Mark Tettey is a cardiothoracic surgeon by training with over 20 years of experience. He completed and obtained his BSc. Human Biology and MB ChB, from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) School of Medical Sciences (SMS). His training as a cardiothoracic surgeon has been mainly at the National Cardiothoracic Center, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Accra, Ghana. He qualified as a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons in 2002 after successfully passing the Final Part II of the West African College of Surgeons Examination – Cardiothoracic Surgery. He was in the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Department of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in 2005 for an observership training. He also trained in Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery in the University Teaching Hospital, Thoracic Surgery Unit, Freiburg, Germany in 2007.

Since his qualification, he has practised as a cardiothoracic surgeon and was appointed a consultant in 2007 by the Ministry of Health. His field of practice include:

- Surgery for congenital heart diseases
- Surgery for acquired heart diseases both in children and adults (e.g. valve replacement and repair surgery),
- Vascular surgery and implantation of permanent cardiac pacemakers.

In the area of thoracic surgery, he has done several cases of lung resections and oesophageal surgeries including chest wall resections and resection of mediastinal tumours.

As a medical practitioner, Professor Mark Tettey has always been interested in researching into outcomes of pathological conditions that required surgical interventions. While at Agogo Presbyterian Hospital for his district rotation he treated several cases of Buruli ulcer and wrote a book on the pathology and management of this disease. The disease was quite common at the time and the pathogenesis was not very clear then. Some of the suggestions for treatment in this book are still used in the management of this disease.

Understanding the pathological bases of diseases and evaluating the best management options is his passion and he continued in this line of research in cardiothoracic surgery when he qualified as a specialist. His research areas covered pathology of different organs in the chest, and this is reflected in his publications as most of them were pathology and surgical management.

His current research interest is in finding solutions to a complex pathological problem namely severe caustic pharyngoesophageal strictures. The solutions provided by him using innovative procedures are far reaching and a breakthrough in patients with life threatening severe caustic pharyngoesophageal injuries who have lost hope of ever going to be able to swallow again. He has delved into research projects in cardiology, and has grant supports for these projects.

He serves on the Editorial Board of the Health Sciences Investigative Journal and International Editorial Board of the Pan African Medical Journal. He is a reviewer for many local and international journals.

Prof. Mark Tettey has mentored and has been involved in training more than ten (10) local and international cardiothoracic surgeons for the country and

the Sub-Region. He was the principal supervisor for their fellowship dissertations. He is an examiner for the West African College of Surgeons and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.

At the University of Ghana, Professor Mark Mawutor Tettey has served on several boards and committees. *These include College of Health Sciences Academic Board; Scientific Conference Committee of the College of Health Sciences; Research Committee, University of Ghana Medical School; Research Newsletter Committee, University of Ghana Medical School; Coordinator of Research, University of Ghana Medical School; Research Committee, College of Health Sciences; Ethical and Protocol Review Committee, College of Health Sciences; Department of Surgery Teaching Assessment Committee; University of Ghana Academic Board; Committee to review Basic Sciences Curriculum of University of Ghana Medical School and the Committee to develop syllabus for Academic Writing.*

Outside the University of Ghana, Prof. Tettey also served on a number of boards and committees. These include *Health Committee of the Global Evangelical Church; Disciplinary Committee, National Cardiothoracic Center;*

Chairman of Local Organizing Committee to organize the First International Scientific Conference of the African Association of the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons; *Faculty of Surgery Board, West African College of Surgeons; Faculty of Surgery Board, Ghana College of physicians and Surgeons; Vice President - Zion College of West Africa and Chairman of an adhoc committee to review the West African College of Surgeons curriculum for*

Cardiothoracic Surgery.

The African Association for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery awarded Prof. Mark Tettey with a plaque for his outstanding contribution to cardiothoracic surgery at the 13th Annual Conference in Cote D'Ivoire. He is the Head of Department of Surgery here at the University of Ghana Medical School and the Acting Director of the National Cardiothoracic Center, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

Professor Mark Mawutor Tettey worships with the Global Evangelical Church, Disciplers Chapel. He is married to Dr. Mrs. Klenam Dzefi-Tettey, and they are blessed with a daughter, Selorm. His hobbies are gardening and cooking.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour to invite Professor Mark Tettey to deliver his inaugural lecture on the topic: “*The Scourge of Caustic Burns to the Throat: Challenges of Restoring a Normal Swallowing Mechanism*”.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

(May 9, 2024)