
ISSUE NO. 3217**April 24 - 30, 2009****Coastwe**



INTERNATIONAL CANCER NURSING SYMPOSIUM

HOSTED BY AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Coastweek -- The International Cancer Nursing Symposium themed "Building Capacity to Deal with the Challenges of Cancer in Kenya " has opened at Aga Khan University Hospital , Nairobi (AKUH, N).

The five day workshop brings together 150 nurses from Kenya , Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and visiting Faculty from Toronto , Canada to deliberate on ways of enhancing the education of nurses in cancer care in Africa .

In an opening address, Prof. Margaret I. Fitch, RN PhD Head, Oncology Nursing Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto , Canada ; Past President, International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care and a visiting Faculty of Aga Khan University, noted the key role played by nurses across the cancer continuum.

"Death from chronic diseases such as cancer is rapidly increasing in low and middle income countries and there is a need for continued global partnerships and nursing collaborations in Research, Education, Policy Development and Practice", she emphasized.

Ahead of the completion of the Heart and Cancer Centre scheduled to open early 2010, Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, in collaboration with The International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care aims to lay a foundation for the future by creating a pool of cancer nurses whose knowledge and skills have an impact in their practicing environment and on the patient's outcomes.

The first of its kind in East and Central Sub-Saharan Africa, AKUH, N Heart and Cancer Centre will serve as the regional referral heart and cancer centre providing high quality tertiary cardiac and cancer care, including training and research.

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY : Founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and Chartered in 1983, Aga Khan University (AKU) is a non-denominational institution open to all, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, gender or national origin or financial standing.

The University's admission policy is needs-blind and based on merit.

Aga Khan University Hospital , Nairobi (AKUH, N) is a private, not-for-profit teaching and referral institution that provides secondary and tertiary level health care services.

Celebrating 50 years, AKUH, N is committed to building capacity in East Africa by enhancing the number of qualified professionals in East African region that has long suffered from workforce attrition and an increasing disease burden.

AKU has established an international reputation for innovation and rigor in medical, nursing and teacher education at the undergraduate and graduate levels and in its developmental and training work for schools.

It currently operates eleven teaching sites in eight countries including Tanzania , Kenya , Uganda , Egypt , Pakistan , the United Kingdom , Syria and Afghanistan .

AKU is a part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of private, non-denominational development agencies working to empower communities and individuals to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East .

The Network's nine development agencies focus on social, cultural and economic

development for all citizens, regardless of gender, origin or religion.

The AKDN's underlying ethic is compassion for the vulnerable in society.

■

.