

## Symposium: Taking Cancer Care to the Next Level



Cancer is ranked third as a cause of death in Kenya, preceded by Infectious and Cardiovascular diseases. This was from a report on the Cancer Burden in the Country dated, 2010. On 8th of April 2015, the College of Health Sciences (CHS) in conjunction with Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) held a Symposium dubbed “Taking Cancer Care to the Next Level.”

Present during the symposium were the Chief Executive Officer - Kenyatta National Hospital, Ms. Lily Koros Tare, the Principal – College of health Sciences, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage including medical practitioners and representatives from various Public and Private Institutions within the country.

The symposium’s aim was to make aware the challenges that health centers and patient face due to prevalence of the disease. Among the topics discussed were:-

- Radiation Treatment for Cancer.
- Breast Cancer Surgery (Challenges and Opportunities).
- Preparation and Administration of Chemotherapy.
- Cancer training in Kenya.
- Nutrition in Cancer.
- Laboratory support in Cancer Treatment.

Dr. Opiyo Anselmy, Head of the Cancer Treatment Center, gave a brief history of the Center that is based at KNH. He said that the Center experienced a major increase in patients since it commenced. The Center has several satellite units located within the country and plays a major role in linking KNH and UoN.



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage making his presentation*

In his speech the college Principal, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage made clear the roles Academic Institutions have to offer in combating Cancer. He noted that institutions needed to look at what others were doing internationally in order to develop newer ways to combat the disease within. He also pointed out that there was need to develop multi-disciplinary skills and expertise to tackle the disease as prevention was better than cure. He added that UoN and KNH were working together to see the development of a Cancer Training Center at KNH. He later thanked participants for attending the event.



**Left:** Ms. Lily Koros CEO, KNH **Right:** Prof. S. O. Ogenro, Chairman Department of Surgery, UoN-CHS

Ms. Lily Koros Tare, CEO of KNH exemplified the need to have research as part of any Health Center. She noted that there was a challenge in having limited equipment and qualified personnel within KNH. She thanked the UoN for participating in organising the Symposium and bringing expertise from a wide range of specialties to see the exercise a success. She thanked the organisers and participants for attending before officially opening the Symposium.