

## CHS, KNH hold alcoholism symposium



University of Nairobi (UoN) College of Health Sciences (CHS) and Kenyatta National Hospital held a symposium to address the alcoholism menace in the country.

The symposium under the theme; Responding to the National Alcoholism Crisis was held on 11th September, 2015 at Lecture Theatre III.

The event brought together scholars, medical practitioners, senior government officials and a section of members of public to help come up with ways to curb the menace with support from National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA),

NTSA Director General Francis Meja delivered a keynote address during the event where he urged scholars and medics to come up with behavior change methods to curb the habit of drunken drivers in Kenya.

He said most of the accidents recorded by NTSA are caused by young people who drive at very high speed after taking alcohol.

He insisted on the adoption of a behavior change approach to address the issue of drunk drivers in Kenya.

He called on passengers in public service vehicles to be extra vigilant and never allow to be driven by drunk drivers.

CHS Principal Prof. Isaac Kibwage was represented by Prof. Wangari Kuria.

Prof. Kuria called on medics to help the government fight alcoholism in the country, after President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered a crackdown on illicit brew in the country.

She challenged fathers to take up parental roles, to help address the menace, which she said has seen the boy child suffer.

She said there should be a community based treatment for alcohol addicts, if indeed the government wants to get rid of alcoholism in Kenya.

Her sentiments were echoed by KNH CEO Lily Koros, who said there is need to review the way drug addicts are dealt with.

She said there is an urgent need to address alcohol and drug abuses which pose a great challenge to the Kenyan economy adding that those affected should be helped to reform.

She revealed that KNH management had come up with a policy to help address the issue of alcoholism and drug abuse among KNH staff.

Other presenters at the symposium were Prof. Amayo from the Department of Clinical Medicine, Prof. Bhatt, Dr. Oketch-Helu, a consultant psychiatrist, Dr. Knut Hovda and among others.