

REMARKS BY PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AT THE 11TH UGANDA SOCIETY FOR HEALTH SCIENTISTS' ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 17TH JUNE 2010, IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL.

The Patron and Members of the Advisory Board of Uganda Society for Health Scientists

The Technical Advisor to the Society

The Chairperson and the Executive Committee

Members of the Society

Ladies and Gentlemen

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the 11th Uganda Society for Health Scientists' Annual Scientific Conference, for inviting me as guest of honour for this meeting.

I am pleased that a society started by a cadre of academicians has grown and contributed tremendously to scientific research in Uganda. For over a decade now it has continued assisting researchers with skills and knowledge needed for effective research through their workshops and trainings. Your efforts of enabling sharing of experiences, dissemination of findings and capacity building among other activities have contributed to improve the lives of Ugandans.

Makerere University has created a conducive environment for health professionals and students to conduct research. With the good working relationship with the College of health Sciences, Uganda has witnessed the discovery of interventions that have improvement of health in Uganda and beyond. To mention but a few, the HIVNET 012 study done in Mulago Hospital has saved a lot of babies through prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child and the circumcision study done at Rakai.

Dissemination of research findings is a very important aspect as it enables learning and policy changes. I wish to applaud USHS for providing a platform for researchers to disseminate their findings both at national and international levels.

The conference theme: *“Optimising care and treatment settings for research”* is very relevant given the limited resources and the great demand for health care and research. Currently HIV/AIDS is pandemic despite various efforts to curb down, it still claims a large proportion of the lives of Ugandans. Current research has shown an increase in HIV/AIDS especially in the married couples and the young generation. It is imperative we find new innovations such as vaccines, microbicides, expanded access to circumcision and improved care and treatment to reduce the burden of HIV/AIDS.

I would like to conclude by thanking the organizers of this conference, the facilitators and presenters for putting in valuable time in preparing the scientific papers and the delegates for your participation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Technical advisor Dr. Chris Whalen through fogarty to have continued financially support USHS. You don't only help researchers but Ugandans at large.

Thank you all for coming and enjoy the meeting

For God and my Country.

Prof. Venunsias Byaramureeba

Vice Chancellor of Makerere University