

**Vice Chancellor's Speech at the 6th Annual Scientific Conference, Wednesday
22nd September 2010, Kabira Country Club**

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- My colleagues in the University Management, Deans, Principals and Directors
 - Researchers, Scholars and Professionals in the field of Biomedical Science
 - Students
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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The College of Health Sciences takes pride in forging excellent alliances and collaborations. It is therefore not surprising that the College continues to hold the Annual Scientific Conferences as an activity of National Science Week. With this year's conference jointly organized by the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH), I believe that our deliberations here today will indeed benefit the communities we aim to serve.

UNACOH is a multidisciplinary organization of health service providers and the community. Therefore, creating a partnership between Makerere University (the trainers), the service providers (health professionals) and the community will strengthen the University's resolve to be more relevant to the community through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking.

Health is the responsibility of many players, as such requiring multi-sectoral approaches. During the next three days, several speakers will share their research findings. We are optimistic that these findings will have components of translational research which can contribute to formulation of new policies and improvement of current practices in the health sector.

Permit me to highlight one important development that ought to be integrated into the health sector – Utilization of IT. We've all been witnesses to merits of using IT in simple activities such as records keeping and management of information gathered routinely,

and to the more high-end research. It is therefore imperative that health sector must continue harnessing ICT for other functions such as communicating research findings and Tele-medicine in patient management. I'm proud to mention that The College of Health Sciences is already making strides in this direction. The College now has facilities in place to support Tele-medicine and we are working towards improving its functionality by increasing the bandwidth allocation.

This conference's theme "**Global Health Challenges: Training, research, service delivery - maximizing benefits to the people**" couldn't have been more appropriate. The latter part puts emphasis on accountability to the community. Research in the health field has continually described disease burdens in communities, but time has come for researchers and health professionals to go beyond their health training, research and service delivery, and translate this wealth of information into something tangible for the community. And I believe the 6th Annual Scientific Conference is the perfect platform to map out strategies on how to achieve this.

I would like to thank the organizers of the conference, the College Administration under Principal, Professor Nelson Sewankambo, and all participants for coming to share your findings with the scientific and general community.

Makerere University takes pride in great organization, and with trends such as this, I believe Makerere University will continue to ***build for the future***. I now take this opportunity to declare the 6th College of Health Sciences and 18th UNACOH Annual Scientific Conference open!