

Anatomical Variations among Black Kenyans : Relevance in Health and Diseases

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Julius Alexander Ogeng'o, a Professor of Human Anatomy, delivered his inaugural lecture on November 13, 2017 at 4.00PM at Taifa Hall where he cautioned medical practitioners to be vigilant when they observe anatomical variations.

These variations, he observed have led to loss of human lives in some instances where the medical practitioners overlooked the variations and erroneously cut them during surgical procedures or misdiagnosis.

The title of the inaugural lecture was

"Anatomical Variations among Black Kenyans: Relevance in Health and Disease"

"No two people are identical. Variations influence vulnerability to diseases and influence complications and outcome. Variations are a major cause of doctors' malpractice and hence litigations," he said. Prof. Ogen'go said that variations have led to frequent abortions, trauma and hypertension. He observed that variations exist in 14% of Kenyan population. The variations, he observed, can lead to heart attack, abdominal attack, neck attack, spontaneous abortions, appendicitis, among other complications.

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Prof. Ogengo, cautioned medical practitioners to be cautious when handling patients and to be observant of the variations as they can occur in any part of the body, from the bones, to the kidneys, to the brains.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi read out the biography of Prof. Ogengo moments before OG, as he is popularly known delivered his inaugural lecture at the Taifa hall.

Professor Julius Ogeng'o is a Professor of Human Anatomy. He is a Medical Doctor specialized in Human Anatomy, and holds BSc, MBChB, PhD and MD degrees from the University of Nairobi. Prof. Ogeng'o is currently the Director, Centre for Self-Sponsored Programmes at the University of Nairobi, the immediate former Managing Director of UNES, and long serving Chairman of Department of Human Anatomy.

As the Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, Prof. Ogengo mentored several doctors and prides himself as ' the father of Anatomists and a net exporter of Anatomists in Kenya'. He introduced technology to the department and that enabled students to study in groups and refer to notes online from his online journal og anatomy.org. His leadership skills helped in the construction of the Chiromo funeral parlour and Surgical Skills center.

He has wide management experience, characterized by extensive knowledge, skills and competencies in strategic frameworks for administration of University Education, resource management; visionary result oriented leadership, management of academic programmes, managerial skills, strategy formulation and implementation.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Ogengo advised fellow members of the academic community to embrace teamwork, keep good company and enlarge their worldview. These he observed, have helped him to be one of the most published scholars in the university and around the continent.

The lecture was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi who urged the University administration to put in place a policy that will ensure that professors give inaugural lecture before being awarded a full professor title. In attendance were members of staff, students , medical practitioners and members of the public.

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