



CERHI NEWSLETTER



RESEARCH

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

INNOVATION



Meet Dr. Obarisiagbon, FMCPH

Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon is an accomplished public health physician and Associate Professor at the University of Benin. She currently serves as Head of Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at both UNIBEN and UBTH.

A Fellow of the Medical College in Public Health (FMCPH), she previously served as Executive Secretary of the Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency in 2022. With over 40 peer-reviewed publications to her credit, Dr. Obarisiagbon combines academic excellence with dedicated family life as a mother of four.

**Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation,
University of Benin**



**Dr. (Mrs) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon, Centre Leader
Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), UNIBEN**

WELCOMING OUR NEW CENTRE LEADER

Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon (née Aimuengheuwa) assumes leadership of CERHI, bringing extensive expertise in public health and a distinguished academic career to advance reproductive health innovation at the University of Benin.

FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING WITH CERHI STAFF

Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon held her inaugural meeting with CERHI staff, marking a significant milestone in her tenure as Centre Leader. The gathering was characterized by a warm reception from all team members, reflecting the collective enthusiasm for the new leadership.

In her address, Dr. Obarisiagbon expressed heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by CERHI staff over the years. She acknowledged the foundational work that has positioned the Centre as a leader in reproductive health innovation in Nigeria.

The Centre Leader outlined her vision centered on five core pillars: unity, accountability, innovation, open dialogue, and inclusive leadership. She emphasized that these principles would guide all operations and decision-making processes moving forward.

Dr. Obarisiagbon stressed the importance of collaborative teamwork, noting that the Centre's success depends on every staff member's contribution. She encouraged open communication channels where ideas and concerns can be freely shared.

The meeting also addressed the Centre's commitment to excellence in reproductive health education and research. Dr. Obarisiagbon outlined plans to enhance capacity building, strengthen research output, and improve training programmes to meet international standards.

Staff members responded positively to the new leadership's approach, with many expressing optimism about the Centre's future direction under Dr. Obarisiagbon's guidance.

New Centre Leader emphasizes unity, accountability, and innovation in landmark staff meeting.

The meeting provided an opportunity for staff members to interact directly with the new Centre Leader in an informal yet professional setting. Dr. Obarisiagbon took time to learn about each department's functions, challenges, and aspirations.

Key discussion points included strategies for improving workplace efficiency, enhancing inter-departmental collaboration, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development.

The Centre Leader assured staff of her open-door policy, encouraging them to approach her with suggestions, innovations, and concerns that could improve CERHI's operations and impact.

She reiterated her commitment to supporting staff welfare and creating an enabling environment where everyone can thrive and contribute meaningfully to the Centre's mission.

"Together, we shall build a Centre that exemplifies excellence in reproductive health education and research."
— Dr. (Mrs.) O.E. Obarisiagbon

*Centre of Excellence in
Reproductive Health Innovation,
University of Benin*



Laboratory Inspection Tour

Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon, the new Centre Leader of CERHI, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the CERHI Molecular and Research Laboratories as part of her familiarization with the Centre's facilities.

The inspection tour provided an opportunity to assess the operational efficiency of the laboratories and evaluate the functionality of critical research equipment. Dr. Obarisiagbon engaged directly with laboratory scientists and researchers, gaining firsthand insight into ongoing research activities and projects.

During the tour, particular attention was paid to safety procedures and protocols, ensuring that all laboratory operations meet required standards. The Centre Leader emphasized the importance of maintaining international best practices in all research activities.

Quality assurance standards were a key focus of the inspection, with Dr. Obarisiagbon reviewing documentation and procedures that ensure research integrity and reproducibility.

The laboratory inspection highlighted CERHI's commitment to maintaining world-class research facilities. Dr. Obarisiagbon commended the laboratory staff for their dedication and professionalism, noting the well-organized workspace and adherence to safety protocols.

She stressed the importance of continuous improvement in laboratory practices, encouraging staff to stay updated with emerging technologies and methodologies in molecular research. The Centre Leader also discussed plans for potential equipment upgrades and capacity building initiatives.



COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH STANDARDS

Key areas assessed during the inspection included equipment calibration records, chemical storage and handling procedures, waste disposal protocols, and emergency response preparedness.

Dr. Obarisiagbon expressed satisfaction with the overall state of the laboratories while identifying areas for enhancement. She reiterated CERHI's mission to produce high-quality reproductive health research that meets international standards.

The inspection concluded with a commitment to regular facility assessments and continued investment in research infrastructure to support CERHI's academic and research objectives.



Building Bridges: CERHI and University Library Collaboration for Research Excellence

Professor Aba commended CERHI's proactive approach to building academic partnerships. He assured Dr. Obarisiagbon of the University Library's full support in advancing reproductive health education and research at the University of Benin.

The discussions covered practical steps for implementing inter-library loan services, joint subscription to international databases, and organizing information literacy workshops for CERHI researchers and postgraduate students.

Dr. Obarisiagbon expressed gratitude for the warm reception and productive dialogue, noting that access to quality academic resources is fundamental to achieving excellence in reproductive health innovation.

"Access to quality scholarly resources is the foundation of impactful research and innovation in reproductive health."

Courtesy Visit to the University Librarian

In a significant move to enhance academic collaboration, Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon, the new Centre Leader of CERHI, paid a courtesy visit to Professor J. I. Aba, the Chief Librarian of the University of Benin. The visit underscored CERHI's commitment to strengthening partnerships that support research excellence and scholarly advancement.

During the productive meeting, both leaders engaged in extensive discussions on academic resource sharing and the development of robust library services to support CERHI's research mandate. Professor Aba welcomed the initiative, expressing enthusiasm for closer collaboration between the University Library and CERHI Library.

Key areas of discussion included improving access to scholarly materials and electronic databases essential for reproductive health research. The Chief Librarian outlined various research support services available to faculty and students, emphasizing the importance of leveraging digital resources for contemporary academic work.

Dr. Obarisiagbon highlighted the need for enhanced library development initiatives that would benefit both institutions. She proposed joint ventures in acquiring specialized journals, textbooks, and electronic resources pertinent to reproductive health, public health, and related disciplines.

The meeting also explored opportunities for staff training exchanges and collaborative cataloguing of reproductive health materials. Both parties agreed to establish a formal memorandum of understanding to guide future cooperation and resource sharing arrangements.



STRATEGIC MEETING WITH HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Dr. Obarisiagbon convenes departmental leaders to chart course for enhanced academic programmes, research excellence, and simulation-based training.

In a pivotal strategic meeting, the new Centre Leader Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon brought together Heads of Department from Public Health, Health Economics, Nursing, and Obstetrics & Gynaecology to discuss collaborative initiatives for advancing CERHI's mission.

The meeting focused on promoting enrollment in the MSc programme in Reproductive Health, with department heads sharing insights on recruitment strategies and curriculum enhancement. Dr. Obarisiagbon emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in attracting quality candidates and maintaining academic excellence.

Discussions also centered on enhancing conference participation and research publications across all departments. The Centre Leader encouraged faculty members to actively engage in national and international conferences, positioning CERHI as a leading voice in reproductive health research and innovation.

A significant portion of the meeting addressed improving practical training through the Simulation Laboratory. Department heads presented proposals for maximizing the facility's potential in providing hands-on learning experiences for postgraduate students.

The development of a comprehensive nursing simulation-based training programme received particular attention. This initiative aims to equip nursing students with practical skills in reproductive health care through realistic clinical scenarios and state-of-the-art simulation technology.

Dr. Obarisiagbon commended the department heads for their dedication and outlined her vision for fostering unity, accountability, and innovation across all departments. The meeting concluded with actionable commitments to strengthen academic programmes and research output.

Collaborative Excellence in Academic Leadership

The strategic session highlighted CERHI's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration. Key outcomes include plans for joint research initiatives, shared resources for the Simulation Laboratory, and coordinated efforts to increase visibility of the MSc programme. Department heads pledged their support for Dr. Obarisiagbon's vision of excellence in reproductive health education and research at the University of Benin.



COURTESY VISIT TO PROVOST, COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

In a significant move to strengthen institutional partnerships, Dr. (Mrs.) Otaniyenuwa Eloghosa Obarisiagbon paid a courtesy visit to the Provost of the College of Postgraduate Studies, University of Benin.

The visit underscored CERHI's commitment to advancing postgraduate education in reproductive health and fostering collaborative relationships across the university's academic structures.

Dr. Obarisiagbon expressed gratitude for the College's continued support of CERHI's postgraduate programmes, particularly the MSc in Reproductive Health. She emphasized the Centre's dedication to maintaining the highest academic standards while expanding research opportunities for students.

Key discussion points included strategies for enhancing student enrollment, improving thesis supervision quality, and creating more robust research mentorship frameworks.

The Provost warmly received Dr. Obarisiagbon and commended CERHI's track record of excellence in reproductive health education and research. The meeting explored opportunities for deeper collaboration in several key areas.

Research development featured prominently in discussions, with both parties agreeing on the need for joint research initiatives that address pressing reproductive health challenges in Nigeria and Africa. The Provost pledged continued support for CERHI's research endeavors and encouraged more interdisciplinary collaboration.

Capacity building was identified as a priority, with plans to develop training programmes for postgraduate supervisors and enhance research methodology courses.



Building Partnerships for Research Development and Capacity Building

Innovation in reproductive health emerged as a central theme, with Dr. Obarisiagbon outlining CERHI's vision for integrating cutting-edge technologies and methodologies into teaching and research activities.

The Provost expressed enthusiasm for CERHI's Simulation Laboratory initiatives and offered support for expanding simulation-based training across postgraduate programmes.

Both leaders agreed to establish regular consultation meetings to ensure continuous alignment of goals and effective resource sharing.

The visit concluded with mutual commitments to work together in elevating the quality of postgraduate education and positioning CERHI as a leading centre for reproductive health innovation in West Africa.



**PROF. EDOBA B. OMOREGIE, SAN
VICE CHANCELLOR
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**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY, EDO STATE,
NIGERIA**

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA



OUR VISION

To be a leading institution providing innovative and transformational changes on matters relating to population and development and the improvement of the living standards of citizens in Africa.

OUR MISSION

To implement high quality training and applied research for reproductive health professionals needed to build new cohort of human resource for reducing region's high burden of fertility unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS

CERHI OBJECTIVES

1. Training of students and technical experts/policymakers through short courses on relevant fertility, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health policy topics in the region.
2. Training of Masters in Reproductive Health, Public Health (Reproductive Health), Health Economics and Nursing Science (Reproductive Health).
3. Training of PhDs in Reproductive Health, Public Health (Reproductive Health), Health Economics and Nursing Science (Reproductive Health).
4. Development of regional laboratory capacity to support HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health related problems.



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