



NAIROBI UNIVERSITY PHARMACY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (NUPSA)



University of Nairobi
Faculty of Health Sciences
Department of Pharmacy

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ACTIVITY REPORT

FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION AND INAUGURAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY

On Friday October 21, 2022, **Nairobi University Pharmacy Students Association (NUPSA)** successfully held its inaugural white coat ceremony for Level 1 Bachelor of Pharmacy students as part of the traditional orientation and induction event at Lecture Theatre 3 - Faculty of Health Sciences. The event was attended by students, members of the teaching and support staff, administrators, faculty leadership and other invited guests from the medical/pharmaceutical field.

This ceremony marks the beginning of the professional pharmacy education, with about 100 students going through the tradition. The vision is to establish commitment regarding the expectations and responsibilities appropriate for the pharmacy profession as early as the first year of admission to the undergraduate program.

From the ceremony, the young pharmacy students are expected to benefit as follows:

- Be properly introduced to the pharmacy profession and welcomed into the clinical care teams.
- Be provided with well-defined guidelines regarding the expectations and responsibilities appropriate for the medical profession.
- By taking an oath, they will carry the responsibility of providing comprehensive and compassionate patient care, from the onset.
- The symbolism of being helped to cloak their white coats will reinforce the trust the senior professionals have in them to carry on the tradition of doctoring. This will definitely boost their confidence.

The junior students, under the guidance of the senior continuing students, were given a tour of the facilities at the KNH Campus and taken through the basics for when they progress to begin their sophomore training next year. Senior students gave guidance through peer talks to the new students and particularly on survival tactics, study advice and religious advice to help the first years through their life on campus. They were also introduced to clubs, societies and student associations.

The Association leadership through the Chairperson, Mr. Silvanus Manyala, highlighted specific objectives and the key roles played by professional student bodies. The students were also taken through a presentation on the annual work plan and term projects that are intended to be implemented during the 2022-2023 academic year. Special appearance by the Finance Secretary of the University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) Council, Ms. Valentine Mwendu, who elaborated on the role of UNSA in students' welfare.



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Lecturers had the opportunity to introduce academia and offer professional advice with regard to studies and coursework. The faculty leadership led by the Dean-FHS, Prof. George Osanjo, elaborated on administrative roles and offered guidance on services provided by the university. Our Patron, Dr. Stanley Ndwigah advised students on their responsibility in shaping their future and that of the profession.

Special thanks to **Dr. Anyango E. Adhiambo** (Project Manager at Africa Health Business), **Dr Kelvin Odongo** (Secretary at PSK - Young Pharmacists Group), **Dr. Robert Miano** (Medical Governance Manager and Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance for Kenya, Rwanda and Cameroon at Glaxosmithkline Pharmaceuticals Limited), **Dr. Dorothy Aywak** (National Secretary at the Hospital Pharmacists Association of Kenya) - the invited guests for honoring our invitation and for speaking to the students on various topics. We were also privileged to host the CEO of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya, **Dr. Lucas Nyabero**, as our Guest of Honor. He introduced to the students the pharmacy profession and provided well-defined guidelines regarding the expectations and responsibilities appropriate for the pharmacy profession.

NUPSA would like to express gratitude to the University of Nairobi through the office of the Dean of Students for the continued support. We also would love to appreciate the Coordinator of BPharm Programmes, Dr. Eric M. Guantai for the moral support during the planning of the event. The Registrar's office was very resourceful and we acknowledge the efforts put in place to ensure the event ran seamlessly. Appreciation to the event sponsors – PharmaMed Solutions, Georgiolani Pharmacy, PSK – Nairobi Branch and Hospital Pharmacists Association of Kenya. Lastly, NUPSA would like to thank the Organizing Committee for putting it all together and facilitating the planning and logistics.

Access moments of the event in pictorials [here](#).

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