

# UBAANA NEWS

## UBAANA 2020 REUNION – COVID-19

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### GREATEST UNIBEN!!!

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual UBAANA reunion was scheduled to take place on July 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> 2020 in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. Little did we know that nature had other plans for us. The LOC was geared up, plans were underway, flight tickets were purchased, hotel rooms reservations made, reunion registrations done, until COVID-19 reared its ugly head, and everything stumbled. The world stood still, schools were shut down, international travels banned. We could not attend church services or eat in a restaurant. Shaking of hands and hugging became a taboo. Weddings were canceled, proms not attended, graduations deferred, UBAANA's reunion was also canceled.

The United states has recorded more than 4 million Coronavirus cases and over 144,000 deaths since the pandemic began according to John Hopkins University. The Coronavirus outbreak originated in Wuhan, Hubei province, China in late 2019 and has since spread across the globe, impacting a lot of countries including the United states. The first case of Covid-19 in the US was reported on January 14<sup>th</sup> according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Covid-19 will go down in history as one of the events that reshaped our society in lasting ways and changed the world as we know it. We now know that touching things, being with other people, and breathing the air in an enclosed space can be very risky. How quickly that awareness recedes will be different for different people, but it can never vanish completely for anyone who lived through 2020. It could become second nature to recoil from shaking hands, hugging one another, touching our faces, and we might all find out that we cannot stop washing our hands. Welcome to the new norm!!!

Covid-19 is a different war, those on the frontlines are not the military or enlisted men and women; they are our Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals who became saddled with unfathomable tasks, compounded by an increased risk of contamination and even death they never signed up for. When all is said and done, perhaps we will recognize their sacrifices as true patriotism, genuflecting, and

saying, "Thank you for your services". Covid-19 is a new disease. There are no studies about its long-term trajectory. It will take years for the full impact of the virus to be understood. We have all been impacted in one way or the other; families were divided even further or finally brought under the same roof. We saw or heard of patients who from their hospital beds, either connect with their loved ones over video calls as they recover or are given special permission for a last visit from masked ones as they take their last breath. People died in thousands needlessly, despite the best efforts of doctors. We were bombarded with gloom and doom every minute on TV. US economy experienced levels of skyrocketed unemployment as over 40million people filled for unemployment benefits.

The struggle to find hope and gratitude in this time is unprecedented, UBAANA has so much to be grateful for; our health and our families, lives have not been lost in UBAANA due to Covid-19. Some of us, including myself were very sick from the virus but we recovered by His grace. Covid-19 made us take stock of our lives and reflect on the world that we live in. UBAANA has a common enemy – Covid-19!!! We will fight it together and victory shall be ours. Let us therefore continue to stay safe by wearing mask when up and about, continue good hand hygiene, and practice social distance. The virus is ugly, brutal, relentless, and it is real. There is currently no vaccine for it. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

On behalf of the ExcOs, I am sending love and solidarity to everyone in these challenging times. May we continue to exhibit empathy, kindness and love for one another.

GREATEST UNIBEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Oby Moneke  
Secretary-General  
UBAANA

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### LOOKING AHEAD

I am delighted to have another opportunity to report on the state of UBAANA and on behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank all our members for their support and commitment to the objectives of UBAANA. There are no words to describe the charm of our collective generosity.

In a normal situation, we would all be huddled together enjoying a glamorous reunion, at this time of the year. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be a very remarkable moment in time for UBAANA and the rest of the world. The situation has got me pondering over our place in time, in a world that appears to be upended by a most vicious virus. What does all these mean for UBAANA and all our members. How do we deal with all the global life changing and life deepening situations we now have to grapple with, coupled with all the inexhaustible amounts of problems that continue to challenge the wellbeing of our Almatr, the University of Benin. I dare say we are going to come out stronger and brighter.

The essence of UBAANA is giving back to the school that prepared us for greatness by giving us so much. As a consequence, our future as an organization is built on the choices, sacrifices and decisions we make today, which are built on the framework of our past actions and projects. The list of projects either undertaken or already underway is daunting. Within the last three years, UBAANA has sponsored programs in the Faculties of Law and Dentistry. We have completed the renovation of all the common rooms in the student Halls of Residence. We have also completed the renovation of all the student Reading rooms except the reading rooms in two sections of Hall 4. UBAANA projects in my tenure have targeted students as a priority. The adhoc AI committee has submitted its report to the UBAANA Executive Committee. The report is under review before the onward submission to the University of Benin. I must thank the AI committee for an awesome job.

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, I appointed an ad hoc COVID 19 relief fund Committee whose objective was to bolster the University of Benin Teaching Hospital/ University of Benin's response to the pandemic. The UBAANA COVID 19 committee chaired by Dr. Austin Ifedirah did an amazing job in raising 20,000 dollars in donations specifically to purchase PPE for UBTH/UNIBEN.

At this time, we are in the midst of our next project to support the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine with some basic equipment necessary to ensure accreditation. The UBAANA Board of Directors just approved this project affirming our undying support for the University of Benin which must survive and prosper. To all of you and your families, stay healthy, stay safe and be well.



**Kingsley Oise Momodu DDS  
FAGD**

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## GOODWILL MESSAGES

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On behalf of the executives of Ubaana Midwest Chapter, I wish to send out a special goodwill message to all members of our chapter and in North America. This Covid-19 season has been trying and difficult for all and sundry but by the special grace of God almighty, we have not heard of any death in this great Ubaana family. We praise and will continue to praise his almighty name for his protection and guidance. The coast is not clear yet, so we urge members, especially those in the health care industry, service industry, together with their families, to continue to follow all CDC guidelines and protocols diligently. We thank you for all your hard work and will continue to pray for your health and safety. Members of our chapter have and will continue to keep in touch with each other through calls, texts and emails. All other activities have been put on hold for the time being. We know that we are not going to be defined by this pandemic and are going to come out stronger and better. Our May meeting had to be cancelled and we plan to hold a virtual meeting in August to elect new members to lead us to much greater heights. Greeaaatest Ubaanites, please stay safe and remain blessed as we shall definitely overcome these unprecedented times.

**Lionel Osa Osaghae**  
Midwest Chapter Chair

Dear UBAANITES,

I hope this message meets you and your family in good health. COVID-19 poses a tremendous threat to all of us, both individually and as a group. On July 9, 2020 the virus infected 60000 Americans. Similarly, since the beginning of July 2020, the virus has infected over 1400 individuals, daily, in my home state of North Carolina. These numbers are alarming, but beyond that states like California, Texas, Florida have a much higher rate of infection. Given the unpredictability of this virus and the pandemic we face, I urge all our members to adhere to CDC recommended guidelines which at a minimum includes face coverings when in public and in close interactions with others. I am praying and hoping that our members may not have to experience prolonged hardship and financial discomfort, during this pandemic. Many may be wondering and asking, 'what can I do in times like this'. During a crisis of this nature we can all find our individual paths to move firmly in support and more importantly in service to our fellow human beings. We'll need to check on our fellow UBAANITES and support each other. In this regard, We are grateful to the UBAANA COVID - 19 committee and all those who contributed to the fundraising organized by the committee. There is a lot we can still do to support each other and Uniben. Just like every crisis, this pandemic will pass, and I believe we'll emerge from this crisis stronger and more resilient.

**Kingsley Cadmus PharmD, MBA**  
Chairman UBAANA Carolinas

Our 2020 reunion host that never host, The chapter was on top of event preparations when coronavirus that started as a China based Flu, became a major world catastrophic medical emergency. this led to the inevitable postponement, needless to describe the efforts that went into that postponed event, the chapter is still busy trying to unwind the arrangements and reassuring our sponsors of future better events. Members will continue to meet to strengthen our membership and committees for future reunion. Philadelphia chapter is tentatively considering 2nd and 3rd week of July 2021 for next reunion as this will be determined by the availability of befitting Hotels. All UBAANA members who contributed money for event sponsorship and registration should be rest assured that their money will be applied to the next reunion event.

**Ben Imoobe**  
**Philadelphia Chapter Chair**



Greatest Uniben Alumni,

I just want to take this time to send a goodwill message to all our members in North America and the world over. The work and commitment of the current national executives, local chapter chairs, local executives and active members is worthy of commendation. I am particularly glad that during these strange COVID - 19 pandemic times, we have collectively been able to make a difference by sending in assistance to our Alma Mater. Kudos to all who made that happen. The pandemic is not over, and so I want to urge all our members to continue to explore more opportunities to make a difference.

At the Southern California chapter, things have been quiet since the initial COVID – 19 lockdowns. We were gearing up for our fundraiser scheduled in April when the lockdowns took effect and so we had to defer the event to a suitable time to be announced in the future. We are monitoring the situation with the pandemic and will communicate to UBAANA when the plans for the event are revisited. Meanwhile, I want to thank every person and organization that made a pledge and has redeemed such pledges. We look forward to your participation and attendance when the event is rescheduled.

Please continue to remain safe by minimizing exposure, wearing face coverings, maintaining social distancing, washing your hands frequently, and educating anyone you come in contact with who thinks the virus is trivial.

**Engr. Mike Eghre-Bello**  
**(Outgoing Chair)**

Hello my dear UBAANA family,

On behalf of the leadership of the Georgia chapter of UBAANA, I am happy to extend a message of goodwill to each and every one of you as I thank God for your health and well-being in the middle of this pandemic. I want to thank you for all you do for UBAANA, giving your resources and self, even in this difficult and uncertain time. Thank you!

In as much as we miss physically socializing with each other, I am happy that everyone is safe. As the pandemic continues to disrupt our way of life and in some instances, our livelihood, I want to encourage us to continue to follow the guidelines provided by the authorities, to keep us safe. For those impacted by the pandemic, our prayers are with you and your family. Let us know how we can be of help. Let us all continue to network, virtually, and encourage each other as we wait to return to our normal way of life.

Continue to stay safe by practicing social distance when out and about, wear a mask, wash your hands regular/always and stay home if sick. Thank you once again.

**Usang Ekpe.**



On behalf of the Dallas chapter, I want to send our well wishes to everyone in these times of trials and uncertainty.

Due to the current pandemic, we have had to put all our plans and activities on hold to focus on what's important, our health, safety and family. I know the times are trying but I encourage us to continue to remain steadfast and trusting, remaining hopeful that this too shall pass. I look forward to when we will be able to meet and gather again in fellowship, just like we used to. Until then, remain blessed and stay safe.

**Efosa Uzamere  
Dallas Chapter Chair**

On behalf of the New York/ New Jersey chapter, I hereby deliver our annual goodwill message. Last year, our 6th Annual Picnic was held on June 29, 2019 in New Jersey. It was well attended. We also welcomed several Uniben Alumni who reside in the New York/ New Jersey area as new members of the chapter. Traditionally, our picnic is an opportunity to register new members. The New York/ New Jersey attendance at the 14th Annual UBAANA reunion hosted by the DMV Chapter was awesome! We heartily congratulate the DMV Chapter for successfully hosting us all. We all had a great time. We celebrated our annual Christmas party on December 7, 2019 in New Jersey. It was a very successful celebration. Once again, the turnout was impressive. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we had to cancel this year's annual picnic which was scheduled for July 4, 2020. At the height of the pandemic, we continued with our teleconference meetings. Dr. Eghosa Eronmwon, our chapter member made presentations regarding COVID-19 at two consecutive meetings. Additionally, I was able to provide N-95 masks to chapter members who had requested for them. Our New York/ New Jersey chapter members continue to pay their dues in a timely manner, and we have received monetary donations from them as well. There has been a steady increase in chapter membership.

New York/ New Jersey Chapter Executive Committee:

Alex I. Eronmwon, Chair Nkoli Uwechia, Vice Chair Ify Nnonnyelu, Secretary  
Risi Lawani, Treasurer Collins Ihaza, Liaison Officer

The commitment of our members to the chapter and its yearly activities is greatly appreciated. Great Uniben!  
Thank you.

**Alex I. Eronmwon, MPA, FIMC, CMC Chair  
New York/ New Jersey Chapter**

## COVID-19 RELIEF

### From the desk of Dr. Austin Ifedirah COVID 19 Relief Committee Report

The President of UBAANA, Dr Kingsley Momodu, announced the appointment of the UBAANA COVID 19 Relief Committee in early April of this year. The main objective of the committee was to raise funds to support the University of Benin and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital through the period of the pandemic. The committee was also charged with sourcing for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to present to UNIBEN and UBTH.

The committee membership and roles included:

1. Dr. Austin Ifedirah (Chair)
2. Dr. Roseline Okon (Secretary General and the engine of the operation)
3. Dr. Josephine Ediale (Liaison with UBTH leadership)
4. Mr. Alex Eronmwon (Shipping and PR)
5. Dr. Hosan Azomani (PPE acquisition and fundraiser extraordinaire)
6. Dr. Bode Olumofin (PPE acquisition and strategy)
7. Dr. Uchenna Kalu (PPE acquisition and fundraising)
8. Dr. Helen Kest (PPE acquisition and strategy)
9. Dr. Kingsley Momodu was an integral part of the group and attended every meeting.

The committee held its inaugural meeting on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. At this meeting we quickly set out a framework for achieving our desired objective by:

- Defining a purpose and vision for the group.
- Establishing mores and ground rules for our meetings and interactions.
- Assigning roles and responsibilities for every member of the committee. We felt it was important to establish direct feedback loop with UBTH and as such assigned two of our members to this task. The critical direct input we received from the UBTH leadership including Dr Darlington Obaseki (CMD) and his staff was a solid base for our efforts going forward.
- Ironing out the timeline and logistics for achieving our objective. We decided early on that speed was of the essence.


Through the course of this and several other meetings, the committee meticulously drove its agenda and objectives. As a result of their collective efforts and the contributions of the general UBAANA body the committee was able to:

1. Acquire a new fundraising platform (gofundme) which we hope will serve the organization well going forward.
2. Raise over \$17,000 in donations to help UBTH and UNIBEN battle this raging pandemic. A big goal of the committee was to diversify our fundraising base within and outside UBAANA. We received 88 donations with an average donation of \$201. I am also proud to report that north of 25% of these contributions came from non UBAANA members.
3. Deliver to UBTH its first batch of PPEs.

I want to say a big and hearty job well done to the selfless and amazing members that served on this committee. I thank UBAANA members and executive committee for the opportunity to serve. Greatest Uniben!



Dr. Austin Ifedirah



## UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL

PMB. 1111, Benin City, Nigeria.  
Telephone: 052-876220, +234 803 293 5801  
website: www.ubth.org | Email: info@ubth.org

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**Our Ref: PRU/VII/56/026** 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

The President and Members,  
University of Benin Alumni Association, North America,  
(UBANNA).

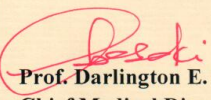
**APPRECIATION LETTER**

On behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in identifying with the hospital at this critical time of COVID-19 Pandemic by donating Two Thousand (2,000) pieces of N-95 face mask to the hospital.

We commend and appreciate you deeply for your love and concern for our affairs in this hospital. I am particularly delighted that you chose not to forget your Alma Matta, this is laudable and points to the fact that those in the diaspora have very important role to play in enhancing our capacity to deliver quality health care to our clients.

I pray that God bless and reward every member of this noble Association.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regard.

  
**Prof. Darlington E. Obaseki**  
 Chief Medical Director

**CHAIRMAN,  
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**  
Chief Bashorun Adedjoja Adewolu  
Member of the Order of the  
Federal Republic (MFR), FMAN

**CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
Prof. Darlington E. Obaseki  
MBBS, FMCPath  
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**CHAIRMAN, MEDICAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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## UNIBEN COMMON ROOMS

Commissioning of the renovated common rooms in the Halls of Residence at the University of Benin.

- \* Hall 1 common room
- \* Hall 2 common room
- \* Hall 3 common room
- \* Hall 4 common room,  
Ugbowo campus.

\* Margaret Ekpo Hostel Common room, Ekehuan campus.

On Behalf of UBAANA

Alex I. Eronmwon, MPA, FIMC, CMC  
Vice President  
UBAANA



# LOOKING AHEAD TO SUPPORTING THE NEW FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dear All,

I am very pleased and excited to announce that the University of Benin has a new faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The University of Benin reached out to UBAANA a few weeks ago to consider our support for the new faculty to ensure accreditation. We discussed this at the last UBAANA board meeting and the project to support was approved.

The University has sent us a comprehensive list of their needs. While we can't do everything, our objective has always been to make a difference. To achieve this, we rely on the support of generous individuals in our UBAANA community and beyond.

I realize that the current COVID 19 pandemic makes this a very difficult moment for all our members. However, we have decided to adopt a full throttle forward leap, focusing on our objectives with or without the COVID 19 debacle, because supporting UNIBEN isn't everything, it's the only thing. Lastly, I must state that while this support is critical to the wellbeing of the faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Benin, it is not mandated. Thanks so much for your kind consideration.

Very Sincerely,

**Kingsley Oise Momodu DDS, FAGD**





**MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



**Kingsley Oise Momodu DDS FAGD  
President**



**Alex Eronmwon  
Vice President**



**Oby Moneke  
Secretary General**



**Solomon Asapokhai  
Treasurer**



**Awele Anyahun, PhD  
Assistant Secretary General**

## **APPRECIATION**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish to thank the COVID-19 Relief Committee led by Dr. Austin Ifedirah for their dedicated hard work and commitment to the program. They responded to the clarion call when UBAANA needed them the most. Dr. Ifedirah did an excellent job with the fundraising which was flawless and very successful. The entire team did an amazing job and made UBAANA proud.

A huge and heartfelt thanks also go to the UBAANA members who understood and realized the urgency that we were faced with. You all responded hugely to the fundraising and made the project a huge success. We are all connected to UBTH and UNIBEN in one way or the other, we are an amazing UBAANA that does amazing things.

**THANK YOU for this giant stride!!!!**

Lastly, the Artificial Intelligence Committee led by Mrs Stella Aduba cannot be forgotten for their great efforts and numerous meetings in preparing a report that is currently under review before submission to the Vice-Chancellor. Thank you for your commitment and service to UBAANA.

Oby Moneke  
Secretary-General

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Friendly reminder for us to pay our dues

Bank Account Details:  
  
Wells Fargo  
Account Number: 915310061  
Routing Number: 121000248

Checks can be mailed to:  
  
UBAANA Treasurer  
304 Chartwell Drive  
Jonesboro, GA, 30236

OR log into [UBAANA.org](http://UBAANA.org) and click on PAY DUES

On behalf of the President and the Executive Committee of UBAANA,  
we offer our condolences to our bereaved members,  
may God comfort you and give you the courage to bear.  
  
To all our UBAANA members with their families, we wish you all a safe rest of the  
year!!!

Where there is life, there is hope.....  
all roads will lead to Philadelphia next  
summer for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual reunion. We  
hope to have a fun filled and memorable  
event, until then, let us keep our fingers  
crossed.  
  
GREATEST UNIBEN!!!!!!!!!!!!