

MARCELLE RUTH

CANCER CENTRE & SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

MRCC NEWSLETTER Q1 2024

APRIL 2024



ISSUE No 01

CLINICAL
OPERATIONS

OTHER SPECIALIST
SERVICES

RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

MRCC FOUNDATION
NGO

ACTIVITIES &
EVENTS

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WELCOME!

From the CEO

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the edition of the Marcelle Ruth Cancer Centre and Specialist Hospital newsletter for the first quarter of 2024. As we embark on this journey together, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to each one of you.

Within the pages of this newsletter lies a testament to the remarkable strides we have made as a beacon of hope in the realm of healthcare here in Lagos, Nigeria. Since our doors swung open in 2021, we have been privileged to serve over 3,000 patients, a testament to our commitment to providing exceptional care for Nigerian patients in Nigeria, without the need to travel abroad. With an average attendance of approximately 100 new patients a month, we continue to provide support for those facing the challenges of a diagnosis of cancer and indeed, of other chronic medical conditions.

Our newsletter features our unwavering dedication to excellence. Within its pages, we hope you will find engaging content that showcases our clinical operations across several specialist services, highlights our groundbreaking research initiatives, sheds light on the invaluable work of the MRCC Foundation NGO, and provides a glimpse into the events that bring together our vibrant community, "Marcelle Ruth Friends".

As you read through, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the collective efforts that have brought us to this point. It is through the tireless dedication of our staff, the unwavering support of our partners, and the resilience of our patients that we continue to push the boundaries of possibilities to "close the care gap" in the fight against cancer.

In closing, I extend my sincere gratitude to each one of you for your continued commitment to our shared mission. May this newsletter serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement as we continue to forge ahead, united in our resolve to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, let us embrace the journey ahead with courage, compassion, and unwavering determination.

DR MODUPE ELEBUTE-ODUNSI

Meet the Chairman

MR BOLAJI ODUNSI

BSc. Civil Eng. Hons, AKC, ACA.

Co-founder and former partner of Stirling Square Capital Partners, a prestigious European mid-market private equity fund with assets totalling €1.5billion. With a career spanning over 25 years, Mr. Odunsi possesses extensive international expertise across diverse sectors including healthcare, manufacturing, security, oil and gas services, and distribution. His remarkable journey includes significant board-level roles in both Europe and the United States, where he has concentrated on facilitating transformational change, fostering team development, ensuring robust financial and regulatory reporting, and driving value creation. Additionally, Mr. Odunsi serves as a Non-Executive Director for UAC of Nigeria Plc and Interswitch Ltd., further demonstrating his commitment to steering organizations towards success and sustainability.



Meet the CEO

DR MODUPE ELEBUTE-ODUNSI

MBBS MD FRCP FRCPath

After qualifying from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos in 1986, Dr Elebute-Odunsi completed her postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Haematology at centres of excellence in London. In the UK, Dr. Elebute-Odunsi previously held Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer posts at St George's Hospital, the National Blood Service, and King's College Hospital. She also held a well-established private practice at the Spire and Lister Hospitals.

Having worked in the UK for over 30 years, Dr Elebute relocated to Nigeria in 2020 to establish Marcelle Ruth Cancer & Specialist Hospital, a world-class "one-stop" centre providing screening, diagnosis and treatment for cancers and other specialist medical conditions.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



DR. MODUPE ELEBUTE-ODUNSI

Director of Haemato-Oncology

Dr. Elebute-Odunsi has almost 40 years of experience in Internal Medicine and Haemato-Oncology. She is a member of the American, British and European Societies of Haematology, the British Blood Transfusion Service, AORTIC, the Nigerian Medical Association, Nigerian Cancer Society, and the Medical Women's Society of Nigeria



DR. ADEDAMOLA OMOGBEHIN

Director of Clinical & Radiation Oncology

Dr. Omogbehin holds over 20 years of experience in private practice. He graduated from University of Ibadan and completed postgraduate training Radiation Oncology at Howard University Hospital, USA. Actively involved in mentoring residents, chairing committees, and participating in clinical research trials.



MS. OLUFUNKE FORESYTHE

Director of Outpatient and Client Services

Ms Foresythe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of Lagos and has received Leadership and Management training in Health from the University of Washington, USA. She has been recognized for dedication to patient needs and improving customer services in healthcare.



MRS MODUPE DADA

Director of Operations

Mrs Dada holds a degree in Secretarial Administration and a postgrad diploma in Law from Lagos State University. Additional qualifications include administration, leadership, and management from Pan-African University and University of Washington, USA. Mrs Dada contributes extensive expertise in hospital administration and project management.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION



MATRON CHIJI ACHOMADU

Head of Nursing



PHARM VIVIAN OSEGHAE

Head of Pharmacy



MUSTAPHA ADETOYESE

Head of Human Resources



FUNKE ALESINLOYE

Head of Finance



TIMOTHY ATEGBERO

Head of Facility



PATIENCE UDEALOR

Head of House Keeping

Clinical Operations



Your 'one-stop' centre for cancer and other specialist medical conditions



The Marcelle Ruth Cancer Centre and Specialist Hospital was established with the aim of offering easily accessible, top-tier cancer treatment in Nigeria. Situated on purpose-built premises in Victoria Island, Lagos, we prioritize delivering the highest standards of care, employing the latest treatments and technology within a soothing environment conducive to healing.

Our founding team consists of clinically trained professionals, all of whom received their medical education in Nigeria before pursuing postgraduate training abroad. Specializing in various fields of oncology and hematology, they bring back to Nigeria a wealth of experience garnered from treating and researching cancer, blood disorders, and other specialized conditions.

In addition to our founding team, we have assembled an exceptional group of highly skilled personnel, including consultant medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, family physicians, radiation therapists, nurses, pharmacists, imaging technicians, laboratory scientists, nutritionists, counselors, and healthcare administrators. Together, they collaborate to provide comprehensive treatment and care for our patients.

At Marcelle Ruth, we proudly offer Nigeria's premier 'one-stop' center for world-class cancer treatment and specialized care. Looking ahead, we envision expanding our footprint by opening additional centers in various parts of the country.



MRCC SPECIALIST SERVICES

In addition to expert cancer care, Marcelle Ruth offers an array of additional specialist services, including:



FAMILY MEDICINE



UROLOGY



GENERAL SURGERY



ORTHOPAEDICS



HAEMATOLOGY



ENT



SICKLE CELL CLINIC



DERMATOLOGY



OPHTHAMOLOGY



NUTRITION



NEUROLOGY &
STROKE MANAGEMENT



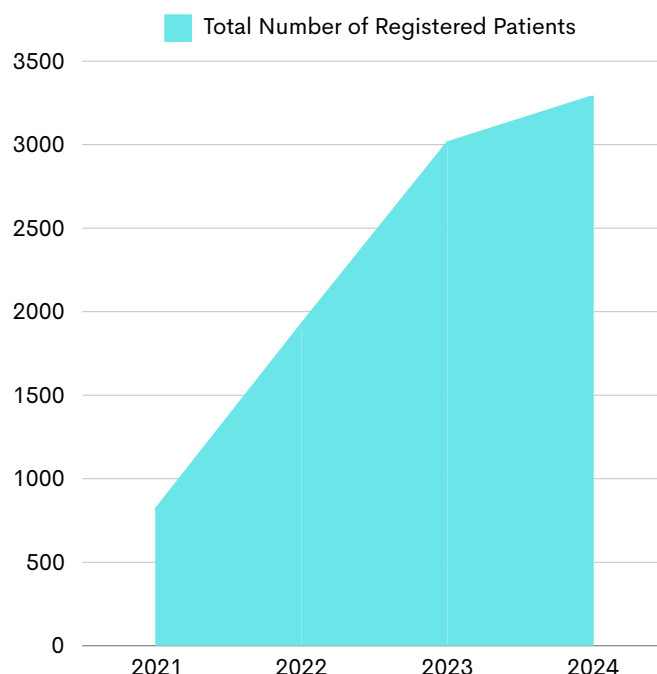
CONCIERGE HEALTH
CHECKS

OVER 3,000 PATIENTS TREATED SINCE DOORS OPENED IN 2021

Average rate of approximately 100 patients a month

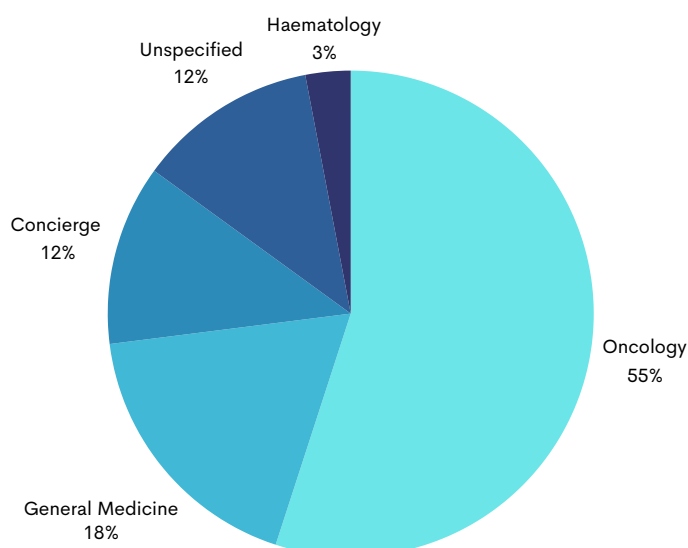
Since inception, the Marcelle Ruth Cancer Centre and Specialist Hospital has emerged as a vital healthcare hub, serving a diverse array of patients requiring specialized medical attention. Notably, the center has seen a significant influx of patients seeking comprehensive cancer care, with a dedicated focus on delivering cutting-edge treatments and personalized support.

The center's multidisciplinary approach ensures that patients receive integrated care tailored to their specific conditions, solidifying its reputation as a leading institution in the field of specialized medicine.



TOP THREE (3) TYPES OF CANCER SEEN AT THE HOSPITAL

Similar to the global prevalence of cancer types



Alongside its renowned cancer care services, the hospital provides a wide range of specialist medical areas, catering to the diverse healthcare needs of its patients.

This includes

- Oncology
- Haematology
- General Medicine
- Concierge Services

All served by a highly skilled clinical team offering the highest standards of care with the latest treatments and technology including West Africa's first state-of-the-art TruBeam linear accelerator radiotherapy machine.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TUMOUR BOARD

Tumour boards are interdisciplinary meetings where healthcare professionals of MRCC come together to discuss and review cancer cases.

These meetings are held weekly, are crucial in ensuring that patients receive the best possible treatment and care. By bringing together experts from various specialties such as oncology, surgery, radiology, pathology, and more, tumour boards facilitate collaboration and allow for a thorough evaluation of each case.

This multidisciplinary approach helps in developing individualized treatment plans, considering all available options, and providing patients with comprehensive care. Ultimately, tumour boards play a vital role in improving patient outcomes and enhancing the overall quality of cancer care the institution.

RADIOLOGY		HISTOPATHOLOGY
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY	RADIATION ONCOLOGY	HAEMATO ONCOLOGY
GENERAL SURGERY		UROLOGY
ONCOLOGY PHARMACY		

ENSURING QUALITY CARE



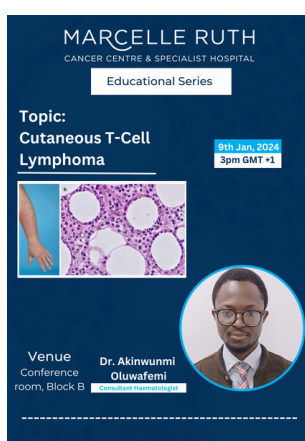
QUALITY ASSURANCE MEETINGS

Quality assurance meetings at MRCC represent a cornerstone in the institution's overarching commitment to maintaining the highest levels of patient care excellence and safety standards. These gatherings serve as dynamic forums wherein healthcare professionals meticulously examine and evaluate the entirety of patient care processes, from initial diagnosis to post-treatment follow-up. Through thorough review and analysis, these meetings enable the identification of any potential deficiencies or areas ripe for improvement within the healthcare delivery system.

This comprehensive approach not only enhances the quality of care provided but also fosters a culture of continuous learning and development among medical staff, ensuring they remain at the forefront of best practices and evidence-based medicine. Furthermore, by systematically addressing identified concerns and implementing targeted strategies for improvement, the hospital demonstrates its dedication to optimizing patient outcomes and minimizing adverse events. In addition to bolstering internal quality standards, these meetings play a crucial role in ensuring compliance with external regulatory requirements imposed by organizations such as SAFECARE, IFC, and JCI.

By adhering to these rigorous standards and guidelines, the hospital reaffirms its commitment to delivering care of the highest caliber while instilling confidence and trust in patients and their families. In essence, quality assurance meetings serve as invaluable mechanisms for driving continuous improvement, maintaining regulatory compliance, and ultimately, safeguarding the well-being and satisfaction of every patient served by MRCC.

MRCC EDUCATIONAL SERIES & MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY SESSIONS



The Educational Series at MRCC serves as a cornerstone in the continuous professional development of healthcare professionals.

Tailored to keep participants abreast of the latest research findings and advancements in the ever-evolving landscape of cancer care, these sessions cover a wide array of topics ranging from novel treatment modalities to best practices in patient management.

By providing access to cutting-edge information and practical insights, these educational sessions empower healthcare professionals to refine their skills and expand their knowledge base, thereby equipping them to deliver more effective and comprehensive care to their patients.

Beyond the individual benefits to healthcare professionals, these Educational Series also play a pivotal role in upholding the facility's commitment to delivering high-quality care. By ensuring that staff members are well-informed and equipped with the most current evidence-based practices, the hospital can uphold accreditation standards and continuously improve patient outcomes.

Furthermore, the interactive nature of these sessions fosters a culture of learning and collaboration among healthcare teams, promoting innovation and excellence in patient care delivery.

The Morbidity and Mortality Sessions provide a structured forum for healthcare professionals to reflect on clinical cases and outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategies to enhance patient care standards.

By facilitating open dialogue and constructive feedback, these sessions contribute to a culture of continuous learning and improvement, ultimately benefiting both healthcare professionals and the patients they serve.

By investing in the ongoing education and professional development of its staff, the hospital not only strengthens its own capabilities but also reinforces its dedication to providing the highest standard of care to cancer patients and their families.

MARCELLE RUTH
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Research & Development



Empowering progress, Enhancing lives



The Research & Development department operates as a new, pioneering arm of the organization.

At its core, the department is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of medical knowledge through rigorous scientific inquiry and exploration. Through collaborative partnerships with leading academic institutions, industry leaders, and healthcare professionals, the department endeavors to unravel the complexities of diseases and disorders, identifying novel insights and breakthrough discoveries that pave the way for advancements in patient care.

A key area of interest includes investigating the interplay between genetics and disease pathology, unraveling the molecular underpinnings of various conditions to unlock new avenues for personalized treatment strategies.

In tandem with investigative research, the department leads the charge in driving healthcare innovation, harnessing cutting-edge technologies and methodologies to revolutionize medical practice.

Central to its mission is the advancement of targeted precision therapy, wherein treatments are tailored to the unique genetic makeup and characteristics of individual patients. Through precision medicine approaches, the department aims to deliver more effective, less invasive treatments with reduced side effects, ultimately improving patient outcomes and quality of life.

By embracing innovation, collaboration, and a relentless pursuit of scientific excellence, the Research & Development department continues to drive the evolution of healthcare, ushering in a new era of personalized medicine and transformative care paradigms.

THE TEAM



YEMISI OSAKWE
RESEARCH OPERATIONS LEAD

Over 10 years' experience in Public Health, Genomic Research, and Biotechnology.

Committed to leveraging scientific advancements for public well-being.

Member of Women in Healthcare Network, working to narrow the gender gap and empower women in healthcare careers.



IBUKUN OLAOJO
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Babcock University.

Devoted to harnessing scientific discoveries to improve quality of life.

Motivated to deliver meaningful contributions to oncology research



ISAIAH AKINOLA
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Federal University of Abeokuta.

Driven to make impactful contributions to the field of oncology data.

Skilled in creating visually compelling designs for individuals, organizations.

R

&

D

RESEARCH STUDIES

Genomic studies and clinical trials offer personalized treatments, shape healthcare, and drive global progress, delving into disease understanding and improving patient outcomes.



DEVELOPMENT

Through data analysis and interpretation - research Assistants analyze research data using statistical and phenotypic methods to generate insights that contribute to hospital professionalism and medical practice.

The R&D department collaborates with research institutions and industry partners such as Yemaachi to foster joint projects and knowledge exchange, addressing cancer-related challenges.

CERTIFICATION OF THE HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE



The MRCC-HREC serves as the institutional guardian of ethical standards in research conducted within the hospital's purview. As a vital component of the institution's commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards in healthcare research, the MRCC-HREC is tasked with reviewing, approving, and monitoring all research projects undertaken within the hospital.

The MRCC-HREC has been registered and certified via the via the National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria (NHREC) as a **CATEGORY B COMMITTEE** - with the authority to review and provide ethical approval for the following research categories:

Phases II, III and IV clinical trials, Vaccines and Biological Products trials, genetic, social and behavioural research, alternative and complementary medicines and epidemiological studies. Also authorised to review trials in vulnerable populations

Medical and research institutions wishing to seek approved local ethics certification can apply to the MRCC-HREC by contacting research.development@marcelleruth.com for more information.

Q1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSALS

1

GEN-PRO - Genomic Profiling of Oncology Patients in a Private Hospital - Lagos, Nigeria. This study aims to determine the novel and known genetic variations amongst cancer patients in Nigeria, with the hope of developing a robust dataset, from which potential biomarkers for personalized therapeutic interventions can be derived.

2

BRECAN-NG - Characterizing Familial Breast Cancer Genetic Risk Factors in Nigeria. The overall aim is to identify known and novel underlying deleterious genetic variants predisposing Nigerians to hereditary breast cancer. Specific objectives are to conduct next-generation sequencing to identify variants such as SNPs, deletions, and other variations in genes of interest, followed by targeted sequencing of such gene candidates in extended family members.

3

Collaborative research study with Roche titled 'A Phase II, Multicentre, Randomized, Double-Blind Study in participants with previously untreated Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). The purpose of this study is to assess the efficacy and safety of a novel immunotherapy candidate, for patients with previously untreated, locally advanced, unresectable or metastatic TNBC.

If you're interested in being a part of our research studies, please contact research.development@marcelleruth.com for more information.

MARCELLE RUTH FOUNDATION

Non-Governmental Organisation



Early Detection Saves Lives



The Marcelle Ruth Foundation is dedicated to supporting indigent patients receiving treatment at MRCC. We believe that essential medical care should not be missed due to financial constraints.

Through the generous support of individuals and organizational sectors, Marcelle Ruth Foundation is able to provide vital financial assistance to those in need. This support ensures that cancer patients facing financial hardships do not have to compromise on the quality of their care or forego necessary treatments. Every donation received contributes directly to alleviating the burden of medical expenses for patients and their families, offering them a lifeline during one of the most challenging times of their lives.

The Foundation also offers emotional and psychological assistance to patients and their families.

The Foundation's commitment extends beyond financial aid. By organizing cancer awareness walks, healthcare screening and awareness campaigns, and other community outreach initiatives, the foundation strives to educate and sensitize individuals about the realities of cancer and the importance of early detection and treatment.

These events not only raise funds for our mission but also foster a sense of solidarity within the community, empowering individuals to take action against this widespread disease.

Join hands with us, through donations, volunteering, or participation in awareness activities. As an individual, or an organisation, you can play a pivotal role in advancing the cause of cancer care accessibility. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by cancer, offering them hope, support, and a brighter future!

MRCC CANCER AWARENESS WALK 2024



The 3rd Annual 5km 'Walk For Cancer', held on February 9, 2024, marked a significant event in our ongoing efforts to raise awareness about cancer.

With the participation of **500 individuals**, the walk served as a powerful demonstration of unity and solidarity in the fight against cancer.

The journey started at 7AM from the iconic Marina State House and ended at the premises MRCC.

The walk symbolized our collective commitment to combating this disease. We express our **deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors** whose contributions played a vital role in making this event possible.



It was an honour to have Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, the Special Adviser on Health to the Governor of Lagos State, as our distinguished guest.

Dr. Ogunyemi's presence underscored the importance of early cancer detection, reaffirming our unwavering mission at the Marcelle Ruth Cancer Center.

As we reflect on this event, let us remain steadfast in our efforts to spread awareness, foster hope, and stand united against cancer. **Your continued support** is invaluable in our shared journey towards a world free from the burden of this disease.

Activities & Events



CHILDHOOD CANCER TALK AT LION'S ROTARY CLUB

During this insightful event, Dr. Oluwafemi Akinwunmi, one of our Consultant Haematologists, engaged the audience in a discussion about childhood cancers. Dr. Akinwunmi shed light on the prevalence of these cancers, highlighting their significant impact as the sixth leading cause of cancer worldwide and the ninth leading cause of childhood disease globally. He meticulously outlined the various types of childhood cancer, their symptoms, methods of diagnosis, treatment options, and prevention strategies. The session garnered enthusiastic feedback from attendees, leaving a lasting impression and making it a memorable event.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Oando
...the energy to inspire

WORLD CANCER AWARENESS AT OANDO PLC

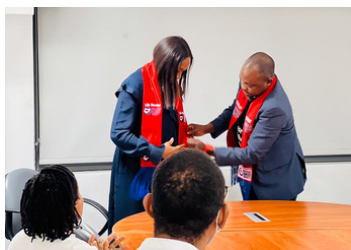
MRCC was invited by Oando PLC to host an informative presentation on World Cancer Awareness. During an online meeting at Oando with over 100 participants, Dr. Akinwunmi elucidated key facts about cancer. He emphasized common types such as breast, lung, colon, rectum, and prostate cancers. Dr. Akinwunmi highlighted that a third of cancer deaths stem from factors like tobacco use, high body mass index, alcohol consumption, low fruit and vegetable intake, and lack of physical activity. Moreover, he noted that human papillomavirus (HPV) and hepatitis contribute to about 30% of cancer cases in lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Dr. Akinwunmi stressed that early detection and effective treatment can lead to successful cancer outcomes. Additionally, he discussed the causes of cancer, treatment options, and preventive measures, offering valuable insights to the attendees.



DR MODUPE ELEBUTE-ODUNSI AWARDED LIFE MEMBER OF NIGERIAN CANCER SOCIETY



Dr. Modupe Elebute-Odunsi, welcomed Dr. Adamu Alhassan Umar, President of the Nigerian Cancer Society, to Marcelle Ruth Cancer Center. Dr. Umar recognized Dr. Elebute-Odunsi's advocacy for global standard healthcare, especially in cancer and specialist care. She was honoured as a life member of the Nigerian Cancer Society, reflecting her commitment to improving cancer patients' outcomes. She remains grateful for the acknowledgment, as she is more determined to advance healthcare excellence. Thanks to Dr. Umar and the Nigerian Cancer Society.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



MRCC CEO AT PROVIDUS IWD EVENT FIRESIDE CHAT

Dr. Modupe Elebute-Odunsi recently participated in a panel session at the Providus Regal event for International Women's Day, Following the inspirational keynote address by Mrs. Catherine Uju Ifejika OFR (Chairman/CEO Britannia-U Group) centered around the theme "Inspire Inclusion." The Panel session featured an engaging fireside discussion with other accomplished women such as Mrs. Adetokunbo Awogboro, Founder, MD, and CEO of the Nail Studio, and Mrs. Moji Hunponu-Wusu, Founder of Woodhall Capital. Dr. Elebute-Odunsi shared her personal journey, offering insights that inspired and supported the creation of inclusive and diverse environments for all to thrive. It was a truly enlightening experience, showcasing her commitment to empowering others and fostering success for everyone.



MRCC CEO LAUNCHES

WIHCN INITIATIVE

WOMEN IN HEALTHCARE NETWORK



On Wednesday, 31st January, Dr. Modupe Elebute-Odunsi recently launched the Woman in Healthcare Network (WIHCN). A charitable organization in which women healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds: public and private sectors, as well as across clinical and non-clinical specialties, can support each other towards achieving their fullest potential. The network seeks to provide cross-generational networking opportunities, educational gatherings, and most importantly, to create mentorship programs that will provide individual growth and professional development for each member, resulting collectively in the advancement of the quality healthcare system in Nigeria.

The theme for the launch event was in line with the vision of WIHCN - to **connect, inform, and inspire** women in healthcare to become the best they can be individually and, in the long term, positively impact the delivery of healthcare in our beloved country.

We were honored to have the representative of the VP, Dr. Uju Rochas Anwukah, and our eloquent keynote speaker, Honourable Coordinating Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammed Ali Pate CON, special guests Dr. Jide Idris, Mrs. Toyin Saraki, Mrs. Abike Dabiri, Dr. Atinuke Onayiga, Mrs. Stella Okoli, and several others who graced the event with their presence. The panelists were carefully chosen across the selected themes on healthcare finance investment, mentorship, and awareness.

We remain stunned by the 500+ attendees, including those who came in person from across the country and from the UK during the launch event. The atmosphere and warmth in the room together with the excitement for the initiative have left the Founding Members with the resolve to ensure this becomes a collaborative, enlightening, supportive sisterhood for a long time to come.

WIHCN invites women in healthcare to register to be members, please go to www.wihcn.org for more information.

CONNECT, INFORM, AND INSPIRE.



online site

www.marcelleruth.com

Call: +234 906 200 0773



research

volunteer for change!

Call: +234 906 669 5234

**MARCELLE RUTH CANCER CENTRE &
SPECIALIST HOSPITAL**

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