



DEPARTMENT OF OMFS-OPOM GETS NEW CHAIRMAN

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Location / Venue:

School of Dental Sciences.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi Professor Peter Mbithi on behalf of the University Council appointed Dr. Walter A. Odhiambo as the new Chairman of the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology (OMFS-OPOM) on 27th July, 2015. Dr. Odhiambo who is a Senior Lecturer takes over from Professor J. F. Onyango who has been the head of the department (HOD) for the past five years.

Dr. Walter Odhiambo belongs to the second generation departmental academic staff that joined the department as tutorial fellows in 1998 in the academic staff development program. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in February 2012. Dr. Odhiambo's main research interest is in trauma and he has published a number of papers and presented widely in this area particularly on firearm injuries. He is currently conducting a study on the impact of road safety campaigns on road safety compliance and practices among motor cycle riders in Naivasha as his fellowship research project in research implementation science (PRIME-K) a collaborative partnership program between the University of Nairobi's College of Health Sciences and University of Washington (Seattle) department of Global Health.



Welcome and all the best; Outgoing Chairman Prof. J.F Onyango (right) congratulating



the incoming Chairman Dr. Walter Odhiambo

The new Chairman's PhD project is on the use of modified intra-oral splint as an alternative non-surgical management of mandibular fractures which aims to provide an affordable treatment to a significant percentage of Kenyans who are unable to meet the cost of buying surgical implants needed in the treatment of jaw fractures.

The department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral medicine and Oral Pathology is the largest department in the School of Dental Sciences with three divisions; division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, division of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and division of Oral pathology and oral medicine. In addition to the divisions, the department runs an operating theatre and a ward with an inpatient capacity of ten patients.

The new HOD highlights as among his main challenges the increased intake of students with minimal expansion of teaching facilities, shortfall in both academic and para-academic staff and convoluted procurement process that hampers efficient service delivery to students and patients.

However, with the support of the University administration, Dr. Odhiambo has laid ground for an ambitious departmental overhaul including planned purchase of new dental and laboratory equipment, replacement of retired staff members and transformation of the theatre and ward into a fully operational maxillofacial hospital .

'My main strategy is to run the department through consultation and consensus and I am delighted that my department has always operated as a well-knit team right from tutorial fellows to professors, this personnel unity is our greatest strength.'

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