

## APRIL



Our director was present for the plenary lecture at the International Society of Nephrology as she was honoured for her outstanding contribution for delivering the Hugh de Wardener Lecture *“CrispCas9 Therapy for Sickle Cell Diseases: How Do We Go from Discovery to Equitable Availability of Gene Therapy for All”*



## 11th SickleInAfrica Consortium Meeting

This month, members of the SPARCO-Nigeria (SPARC-Net) led by the PI participated in the 11th SickleInAfrica Consortium meeting, held in Mali. The gathering brought together delegates from across Africa and partner organisations, providing a valuable platform to advance collaborative research efforts.

The meeting agenda centred around reviewing progress on

ongoing studies, such as the cross-consortium implementation science on Newborn Screening using DBS for Point of Care test, the Malaria study and other cross-consortium research. Countries presented findings and strategized future directions for these critical projects. Importantly, the discussions also emphasised the crucial role of patient engagement

in sickle cell disease (SCD) management.

The consortium meeting was an overall resounding success, enhancing stronger connections and aligning stakeholders towards a shared vision. By pooling expertise and resources across the continent, we can advance science and medicine through breakthroughs that improve outcomes for the millions affected by SCD in Africa.

# JUNE

## Professor Abdulrasheed Na'allah's Tenure Ends

Professor Abdulrasheed Na'allah completed his five-year term as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja on June 30, 2024. His leadership significantly impacted the university's academic and

community landscape. Na'allah's key achievements include boosting research output through promotion of grant writing and publications, implementing a student working scheme for practical experience, establish-

ing development centres for institutional advancement, and fostering a strong sense of community through active involvement in university life.

Professor Na'allah's initiatives will leave a





Vice-Chancellor Concludes

lasting legacy for the university's future development. We at the Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Disease Research and Training University of Abuja (CESRTA) are grateful for his unwavering support.

As Professor Na'allah embarks on the next chapter of his distinguished career, we extend our heartfelt wishes for his continued success and well-being. May his future endeavors be as impactful and inspiring as his tenure at the University of Abuja.

## World Sickle Cell Day 2024: Celebration and Outreach

On June 19, our Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Disease and Training (CESRTA) marked World Sickle Cell Day with a series of impactful events and activities.

The day's events coincided with our regular Wednesday clinic, creating a unique opportunity for engagement. Sickle cell disease (SCD) warriors shared their personal experiences and coping strategies, offering invaluable

able insights to fellow patients and healthcare providers. The atmosphere was festive, with enjoyable activities and refreshments for all attendees.

**“ Warriors shared their personal experiences and coping strategies, offering invaluable insights to fellow patients and healthcare providers. ”**

## Media Outreach Campaign

CESRTA representatives conducted an extensive media tour to raise awareness and dispel long-standing myths about sickle cell disease. Our outreach included:

- Live segments on Raypower FM, Aso TV/Radio, AIT, and

ITV

- Recorded programs on Classic FM and NTA channels

This comprehensive media campaign significantly increased our clinic's visibility, resulting in new patient registrations and heightened public awareness about sickle cell dis-

ease.

Our World Sickle Cell Day activities exemplify CESRTA's commitment to patient support, public education, and community engagement. We continue to build on these efforts to improve the lives of those affected by sickle cell disease.



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