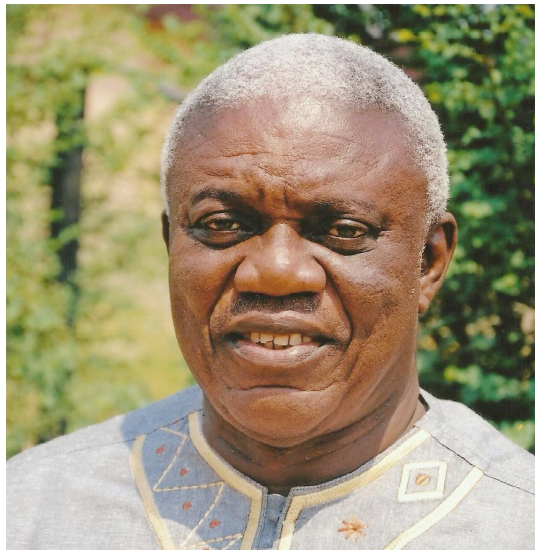


Dr. Sam Adjei

The Ghana Medical Association (GMA) is devastated by the sad news of the passing of Dr. Sam Adjei, which event occurred on the 7th February 2016.



Sam was the calm gentle soul you needed around in every situation, a formidable support to translate any dream into reality

He was born on the 15th June 1948 and died at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. He attended Prempeh College in Kumasi and subsequently graduated a doctor from the University of Ghana Medical School in 1976. His postgraduate training in Public Health was undertaken at the University of Ghana; and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom.

Sam Adjei distinguished himself as a public health specialist and an administrator in the health sector. His reputation reverberated not only in the Ghanaian health sector but also in international organisations including the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, Rockefeller Foundation and the UK Department for International Development (DfID).

He brought his immense experience to bear on both the GMA and the Ghana Health Service. He had the onerous responsibility of making research part of the development agenda of the Ministry of Health when he was appointed the first Director of the Health Research Unit, a position he held for about a decade. He inspired many doctors to pursue medical research. He rose through the ranks of the health care system in Ghana to become the first Deputy Director General of the Ghana Health Service from 2000 to 2007.

On retiring from the Ghana Health Service he established the Centre for Health and Social Services (CHeSS) of which he was Chief Executive Officer until his demise.

Dr Sam Adjei made immense contributions to the Ghana Medical Association of which he was a member. He believed that as an association the GMA was an important stakeholder in developing the health system of Ghana. He was thus willing to give his support to any agenda that enabled the Association fulfill this mandate. He demonstrated this dedication in several ways and we will like to enumerate just a few.

In 2010, Dr. Adjei supported the Association in collating materials presented in its annual Public Lectures into supplementary readers for Basic schools and worked tirelessly to secure sponsorship for the publications. This ensured that the lectures did not just remain a talk shop, but generated outputs that could enhance health education for pupils. He similarly supported the Association in securing funding for other programmes related to issues of national interest like the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Dr. Sam Adjei was the Chairman of the GMA Ebola Committee, which was set up in 2014 in the wake of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to coordinate efforts to mitigate the effects of a possible outbreak in Ghana. In this position he made sure that energies of the Association were properly directed at all times towards the goals of the committee. At the time when the uproar on the possible Ebola vaccine trial in Ghana came on amongst both doctors and the general public, he raised funds from the World Health Organization country office to hold a workshop for medical personnel. This served to create a platform for discussion and dissemination of knowledge to our members who then became better informed to serve the general public.

In 2014 he was made a member of the Strategy and Research committee of the GMA with the drafting of a Strategic Plan for the Association as one of its mandates. The project is almost completed and would have been proudly sold out by Sam for the necessary attention and implementation support. The Association owes it to the blessed memory of Dr. Sam Adjei to realize this dream as soon as possible.

The Association and its entire membership have indeed lost a pearl and can only rejoice knowing that he has taken a deserved rest from all his labours.

Our deepest condolences go to the entire family, especially his wife and three children.

Ghana Medical Association