

As part of activities that marked the 2018 World Diabetes Day, the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSAN) teamed up with the Lulu-Briggs Health Centre to battle diabetes. Activities that marked the event included an awareness walk, free blood and glucose screening, as well as support for people living with the deadly ailment.

Declaring the celebration open, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, expressed gratitude to the Association for joining force with the Health Centre and the Diabetes Association of Nigeria to sensitise the University community on the scourge. He described diabetes as an ailment that could be managed with proper information and lifestyle changes, urging the stakeholders to continue with their good work aimed at helping diabetic patients to live a healthy lifestyle.

Speaking earlier, UniPort Chapter Chairman of AMLSAN, Dr. Austin Abah, disclosed that the Association teamed up with the Lulu-Briggs Health Centre and the Rivers State Chapter of the Diabetes Association of Nigeria to mark this year's World Diabetes Day as a way of mustering all available resources against the disease.

"We partnered these two bodies to remind everybody that diabetes can afflict individuals and whole families with equal impact. We believe that with the theme of this year's WDD entitled: "The Family and Diabetes," all concerned will be more careful about their lifestyle, especially those from families with a history of diabetes," Dr. Abah said.

Acting Director of the Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, commended the Association for partnering the Centre, pledging full support for the initiative to

## Lab Scientists Join Force With Lulu-Briggs Health Centre Against Diabetes

By Mercy Adeniji

create sufficient awareness about the scourge in the community. "We are beginning to see people without previous history of certain illnesses now developing them. This sensitisation exercise is very helpful, because it would encourage all of us to do regular checks for early detection of diabetes for better management outcome. Diabetes can damage the eyes, liver, kidney, cause heart attack and even early deaths," she said.

Also speaking, a Consultant Paediatrician at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Dr. Tamunopreye Jaja, described diabetes as a very common disease that can be controlled. "Diabetes has

to do with our lifestyle and we need to take time out to exercise and eat right. Insulin discovery has recorded a milestone in the management of the disease and kept many victims alive. Type 1 diabetes in children shows that the body is not producing enough insulin and such children have to depend on it for the rest of their lives," she said, listing frequent urination, bedwetting and weight loss as some of the symptoms of diabetes.

Speaking earlier, a Dietician at the UPTH, Mrs. Echefu Odazie, stressed the "need for people to be careful with their lifestyle to avoid diabetes. We need to eat food that contains carbohydrates and vegetables. Regular checks and exercise can keep the body healthy," she disclosed.



Participants during the rally

## V-C Commissions Virtual Library, Classrooms At 6<sup>th</sup> OTI Orientation

By Otikor Samuel

In furtherance of its commitment to train world-class subsea engineers, the Vice-Chancellor has commissioned a state-of-art virtual library for the Offshore Technology Institute at the University Park. The e-library is equipped with interactive board, e-focus projector, laptops, internet facility, modern books in offshore engineering and renewable energy, amongst others. He also, commissioned classrooms equipped by foremost subsea engineering firm, TechnipFMC. The commissioning was a major feature of the 6<sup>th</sup> orientation exercise of the Institute which held at the OTI Lecture Hall I, ETF Building on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. A total of 28 graduate students admitted into the three study areas, namely, subsea, pipeline and offshore engineering took part in the orientation exercise.

Commissioning the library, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor,

Professor Ndowa Lale, showered praises on the Management of the Institute for providing the resources and an enabling environment for the training of industry-ready subsea engineers.

"The OTI is the right place to equip yourselves with the right skills set to excel in the complex and highly technical world of subsea engineering. This Institute is the first of its kind in West Africa and the Management of the University is willing to support it in the training of qualified offshore technologists who would further enrich the oil and gas industry. Our students pass through rigorous training processes to make them ready for the challenges of the industry," Professor Fawehinmi stated.

In his address, Acting Director of OTI, Dr. Tobinson Briggs congratulated the batch 6 set for securing admission into the Institute. "The Master of Science programmes in Offshore Engineering and Pipeline Engineering commenced in the 2013/2014 academic session, and then in 2015/2016, the Master of Science

programme in Subsea Engineering kicked off. These programmes were developed with active participation of industry representatives," the Acting Director said.

Dr. Briggs listed his other achievements in office to include a collaboration with Q-Slog and Homik Engineering, introduction of e-learning, organisation of seminars to foster industry-academic relationship, renovation of the OTI canteen and securing membership with the Oil and Gas Trainers' Association of Nigeria (OGTAN). He thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for his appointment, promising to seek further partnerships for the development of a world-class laboratory and construction of a customised administrative building for the Institute.

Goodwill messages were presented by the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Dean of Engineering, Professor Franklin Chukwuma who was represented by the Associate Dean, Dr. Victor Ossia, pioneer Director of the Institute, Professor John Okoli, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Samuel Arokoyu, a Manager at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, Mrs. Angela Okoro, Acting Directors of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Dr Benson Ebuomwan, Centre for Gas, Refining and

Petrochemicals, Dr. Ipeghan Otaraku and Centre for Information and Telecommunications Engineering, Dr. Bourdillon Omijeh.

Others who spoke at the orientation included Professors Ayode Kuye and Ify Nwaogazie, Messrs Awa Osonwa (Aveon Offshore Ltd), Jonathan Ogbekhilu and Gabriel Uguro (TechnipFMC) and Seun Failusi (Q-Slog). Also in attendance were the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, who was represented by the Deputy Registrar in charge of Academic Affairs, Dr. Agatha Ataga, Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor Dulu Appah and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi.



DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed), flanked by Dr. Ataga, Ag Director of the Institute, Dr. Briggs (left), some staff, students and guests. Inset: Prof Fawehinmi supported by Senior Officers cutting the tape to commission the library