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16TH PROFESSORIAL LECTURE: UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR CHARTS A COLLABORATIVE PATH BETWEEN PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY FOR IMPROVED BRAIN DISORDER MANAGEMENT



A leading Nigerian neuropsychiatrist has called for stronger integration between psychiatry and neurology, warning that separating the two disciplines is limiting effective treatment of brain-related disorders.

Speaking at Kaduna State University's 16th Professorial Inaugural Lecture, Professor Bashir Adam Yakasai said many neurological diseases also present psychiatric symptoms, making joint approaches essential for better patient outcomes.

The Lecture, titled "The Interface Between Psychiatry and Neurology," which was held at the university's main auditorium, bringing together Principal Officers, members of the Senate, Engineering Management, and committee members from various university units..

In his presentation, Professor Yakasai highlighted the importance of collaboration between psychiatry and neurology, particularly for conditions that present with both neurological and psychiatric symptoms.

Disorders such as depression, anxiety, epilepsy, dementia, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and traumatic brain injury were discussed as examples where mental, emotional, and behavioural symptoms overlap with structural or functional brain pathology.

The lecture emphasised a major global health challenge: mental and neurological disorders affect millions worldwide. About one in eight people globally live with a mental health condition, many of which coexist with neurological disorders, highlighting the need for coordinated and integrated care.

Furthermore, He addressed the contemporary perspectives on convergence between the two disciplines, highlighting neuropsychiatry as a framework for integrating clinical care, research, and education. Dementia prevention and mood disorders were presented as areas where collaboration has the greatest impact.

For Kaduna State University, the lecture underscored the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in medical education, research, and clinical practice. Integrating psychiatry and neurology within teaching, clinical discussions, and research initiatives can enhance student training, improve patient care, and position the University as a centre of excellence in brain health.

Professor Yakasai's lecture reinforced the view that effective brain health care requires understanding both neurological processes and mental experience. Bringing psychiatry and neurology together reflects the reality of brain mind interactions and supports a more complete, patient-centred approach to care.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdullahi I. Musa welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of inaugural lectures as platforms for intellectual engagement and the advancement of knowledge. He emphasized that while KASU is still building full participation in this tradition, today's lecture marked a significant milestone in the university's academic calendar.

The University Librarian, Babangida Dan Gani, commended Professor Yakasai for his presentation and acknowledged the Vice-Chancellor's support for academic activities, as well as the efforts of the organising committee.

