



KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL BULLETIN

KASU MARCHING TO EXCELLENCE: MOTIVATION AND UTILISING EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES

ISSN 2286 - 6987

VOL. 65 NO. 6

4th March, 2026

11th RAMADAN LECTURE URGES MUSLIMS TO SEE TRIALS AS DIVINE MERCY



Muslims have been reminded that life's hardships are not mere misfortunes but potential signs of Allah's hidden mercy and wisdom.

This was the focus of the 11th Ramadan Lecture titled "When Trials Are Actually Mercy: Understanding Allah's Hidden Wisdom," delivered on Wednesday, 4th March 2026, at the Pharmacy 500-Seater Lecture Theatre of Kaduna State University.

The guest lecturer, Dr. Qasim Abdullahi Damagun explained that trials are an integral part of human existence and a core aspect of faith.

According to him, in Islam, difficulties are not meaningless punishments but divine tests designed for spiritual growth, purification, and elevation.

He stressed that increased faith often attracts greater trials, citing the examples of prophets sent by Allah,

ultimately strengthened their ranks and missions. He noted that even life and death, prosperity, and hardship are themselves forms of trials.

Dr. Damagun stated that hardships serve as purification for believers by erasing sins, strengthening patience, and drawing individuals closer to Allah. He added that Ramadan itself is a practical demonstration of this principle, as fasting though physically demanding, cultivates discipline, gratitude, humility, and consciousness of Allah (Taqwa)

The lecturer emphasised the importance of patience (Sabr) and reliance on Allah (Tawakkul), urging Muslims to maintain trust in Allah's wisdom, even when the reasons behind their difficulties remain unclear.





He warned that believing trials occur outside Allah's control contradicts Islamic teachings, affirming that if Allah places a servant under trial, He alone has the power to remove it.

Addressing contemporary realities, Dr. Damagun referenced Qur'anic verses and Prophetic traditions touching on domestic challenges, parental responsibilities, workplace pressures, and personal struggles. He encouraged self-reflection during periods of hardship, noting that trials may serve as reminders to return to Allah, correct one's actions, and strengthen obedience to the Qur'an and Sunnah.

He outlined practical ways of navigating trials, including:

- Deepening fear and consciousness of Allah
- Seeking forgiveness consistently
- Engaging in constant prayer and supplication
- Demonstrating perseverance and steadfast faith

Drawing from the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the lecturer noted that the Prophet exemplified unwavering commitment and patience despite

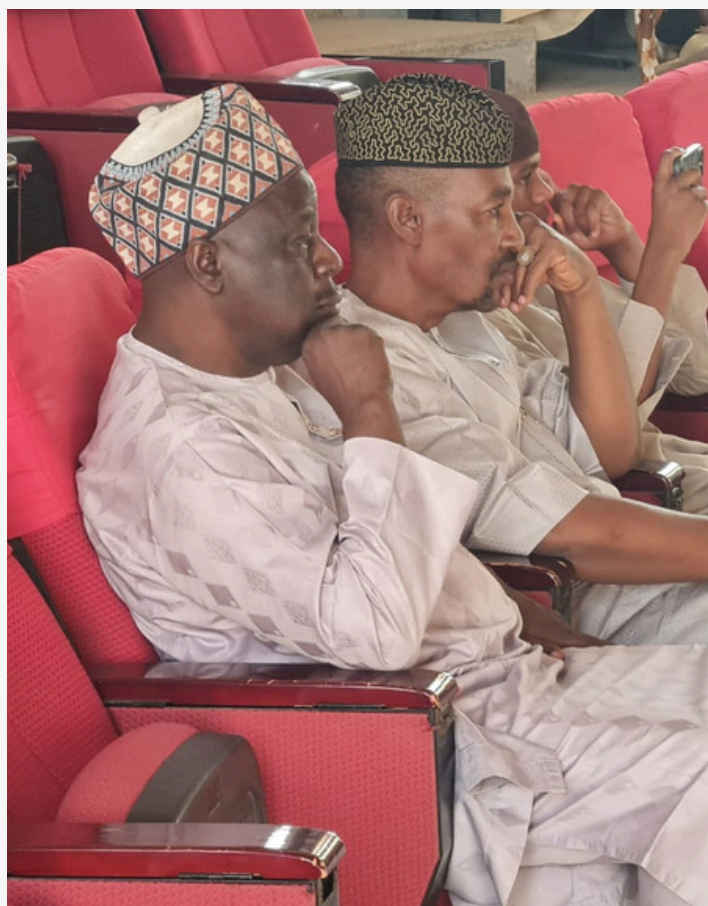


enduring immense trials, reinforcing the message that Allah elevates those who remain steadfast under difficulty.

The lecture resonated strongly with participants, many of whom reflected on their personal challenges with renewed perspective, viewing them not as purely negative experiences, but as opportunities for mercy, spiritual growth, and closeness to Allah.

In their closing remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Yusha'u Ibrahim Ango and Registrar, Samira Umar Balarabe Esq, expressed appreciation for the insightful lecture and encouraged continued spiritual reflection throughout the Ramadan period.

The session concluded with prayers for patience, wisdom, and steadfastness in faith.



The 11th Ramadan Lecture put together by KASU Majilis Sisters' Forum reinforced a central Islamic teaching: that behind every trial lies purpose, and through patience, trust, and obedience, believers can transform hardship into blessing.



KASU HOSTS AI-DRIVEN DRUG REPURPOSING CONFERENCE, ADVANCES MENTORSHIP AND SAFER PATHWAYS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCES



On 4th March 2026, Kaduna State University (KASU) commenced a 3-day AI-Driven Drug Repurposing Conference (AIDR2026), bringing together researchers, policymakers and emerging scholars to explore how artificial intelligence can transform pharmaceutical discovery while strengthening inclusive scientific leadership. Held at KASU, the conference blended cutting-edge computational science with conversations on mentorship, equity and institutional reform.

In his welcome address, the convener, Kenneth Bitrus David, described drug repurposing as a strategic alternative to developing medicines from scratch (a process that can take more than a decade). By leveraging AI tools such as data mining, machine learning and molecular docking, researchers can rapidly identify promising drug-disease matches using already approved or previously studied compounds, significantly reducing time, cost and risk. These AI-generated insights, he explained, must still undergo laboratory validation, preclinical testing and clinical trials before regulatory review and approval by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) prior to patient use in Nigeria.

Beyond its technical focus, AIDR2026 emphasised leadership, ethical AI deployment,

inclusion in the sciences and global collaboration. The conference, the convener noted, is designed to strengthen Nigeria's drug discovery ecosystem and promote affordable, accessible healthcare solutions powered by responsible innovation.

The intellectual tone was set by a lead paper titled "Research Mentorship for the Digital Age: Mentoring, Collaboration and Digital Visibility," presented by Dr. Meenakshi Saravanan. She argued that modern mentorship extends beyond laboratory supervision to include digital positioning, interdisciplinary collaboration and intentional global visibility. In a research environment where online presence shapes funding and partnerships, scholars must be guided not only to publish but to strategically position their work.



The conference then shifted to a compelling panel discussion themed “Creating Safer Spaces and Strong Pathways for Women in the Sciences.” The session spotlighted the lived realities of women navigating academia and underscored the need for structured institutional support rather than symbolic inclusion.

The Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science, Dr. Suzi Kuyet shared a powerful personal account of returning to academia while raising three children, motivated by a desire to address environmental degradation affecting communities. She emphasized that family and career do not always take turns - they often move together. Through flexibility, boundary-setting and self-compassion, she illustrated how motherhood and scientific ambition can coexist without compromise.

From an institutional perspective, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Strategy, Prof. Helen Andow highlighted measurable gender progress at KASU, where women occupy leadership roles across colleges, faculties and directorates. With female student enrollment at approximately 43 percent and rising, she stressed that equity at the university is policy-driven and performance-monitored, supported by structured mentorship initiatives, data tracking systems and strategic leadership appointments tied to measurable outcomes.



Maria Luisa De la Puerta, an international grant strategist expanded the conversation to global access, challenging the myth of “luck” in academic success. Drawing from funding experiences with platforms such as the Erasmus Program and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science,

she emphasized alignment with broader frameworks championed by the United Nations and the African Union. Strategy, preparation and persistence, she maintained, are the true engines of opportunity.

Dr. Basira Kankia Lawal, who heads the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management at KASU reinforced the early-career perspective, recounting her experience balancing lecturing, doctoral studies, marriage and motherhood. She advocated proactive mentorship, persistent applications and resilient responses to rejection, highlighting the importance of strong support systems in navigating multiple professional and personal demands.



The conference concluded with two technical workshops that translated dialogue into skill-building: “In Silico Drug Repurposing and Molecular Docking,” moderated by Abubakar Sadiq Yakubu, and “Teaching with Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Principles, Opportunities and Challenges.” Together, the sessions affirmed a central message of AIDR2026: sustainable scientific advancement requires not only intelligent algorithms, but intentional mentorship, ethical frameworks and inclusive systems that empower diverse voices in the sciences.

