

Headline: Technology key to fighting TB, other diseases
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'Technology key to fighting TB, other diseases'

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The application of technological tools to fight the scourge of diseases has improved the wellbeing of people and improved productivity in work place, a medical practitioner, Dr. Alda Gemmani, has said.

He said the application of modern technology in health care has led to reduction in tuberculosis and other diseases across the world.

The medical practitioner, however, added that much still needed to be done in the efforts to combat diseases especially in the developing nations.

Gemmani, who is the Medical Director, St. Kizito Clinic, spoke in Lagos, during the donation of a GeneXpert test device to St. Kizito Clinic by the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), through the recommendation of the Lagos State TBLCF.

The equipment will be installed at the hospital to train staff on GeneXpert technology.

The GeneXpert test will substantially improve the diagnosis of tuberculosis in the Eti-Osa community and beyond.

It will also enable the early detection of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) hard to diagnose especially among people living with HIV.

Welcoming the Co-ordinator of Lagos State TBLC programme, Dr. Hussein Abdur Razzaq, the Acting Director of KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation in Nigeria, Mrs. Ineke Huitema and the Managing Director, Chevron Nigeria Limited, Mr. Jeffrey Ewing to the event, Dr. Gemmani praised the initiative championed by the Lagos State TB programme.

Quoting the 2016 World Health Organisation (WHO) Tuberculosis Report, he said: "Unfortunately, case detection in Nigeria is still very low at 16 per cent. Nigeria is among the six countries – India, Indonesia, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Africa – that accounted for 60 per cent of the new cases in 2015. Nigeria estimates an incidence of 586,000 new cases in 2015 and 180,000 deaths every year. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential for prompt and adequate treatment."

Also speaking, Dr Abdur Razzaq, said: "TB still constitutes a serious public health problem in Nigeria, despite the implementation of the DOTS centres since 1993 and the adoption of the WHO "Stop TB strategy" in 2006. We set 2017 as the year of accelerated case finding for TB. We believe that the GeneXpert machine in St Kizito Clinic will further improve their capability to detect TB cases and prevent further infections in the community."