

**INTRODUCTION TO  
OPHTHALMOLOGY  
BY PROF. JEFITHA KARIMURIO**

# OUTLINE

- DEFINITIONS
- THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
  - OBJECTIVES
  - TEACHING METHODS
- CAREER IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

# DEFINITION

- Ophthalmology is the branch of medicine concerned with the study and treatment of disorders and diseases of the eye.
- Ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who specializes in ophthalmology.
- Ophthalmologist is the leader of an eye care system.

# WHAT DOES AN EYE CARE TEAM COMPRISE OF?

- Ophthalmologist
- Ophthalmic clinical officers (OCO)/ Cataract surgeons (CS)
- Ophthalmic nurses
- Optometrists/Opticians
- Low Vision Technicians
- Others:
  - General doctors/health workers, managers, technicians, community based health care workers etc.

# DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY OF THE UON

- Started in 1978, initially under surgery
- Became an independent UoN department in 1990
- Founder institute of the College of Ophthalmology of East Central and Southern Africa (COECSA)

# CLINICAL SERVICES

- Static KNH and School of dental sciences
- Outreach to rural Kenya: at least 2 weeks per month
- Sub-specialties:
  - Pediatric ophthalmology
  - Retina
  - Orbit/oculoplastic
  - Oncology/Retinoblastoma
  - Glaucoma
  - Anterior segment

# OBJECTIVES

- At the end of this course, the student should:
  - Understand the basic anatomy and physiology of the eye
  - Understand the pathology of common eye disorders
  - Be able to take accurate history of patient with an eye complaint
  - Be able to assess the visual acuity and examine the eye using a torch and a direct ophthalmoscope.
  - Be able to diagnose common eye disorders
  - Be able to treat simple eye disorders
  - Recognize systemic diseases that can lead to eye disorders and advice the patient appropriately as well as refer.

# TEACHING METHODS

- Monday morning lectures
- Clerkship in the wards and clinics
- Observation of surgical procedures
- Small group discussions
- Mentorship programs



# OPHTHALMOLOGY AS A CAREER

- Very rewarding.
- 3 years post-graduate training.
- Scholarship opportunities higher than other disciplines.
- One the best run training programs in UoN with satellite projects in the entire country.
- Opportunities to sub-specialize.
- Ever changing technology – exciting.