



NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION



As we release this second edition of the DDT College of Medicine Newsletter, we do so with immense pride in the strides our college has made in transforming healthcare education and delivery in Botswana and beyond. This edition highlights our ongoing efforts in education, research, and community service, pillars upon which our institution is built.

From free physiotherapy outreach clinics to international research collaborations, our students, alumni, and faculty are living examples of our motto: 'Science with Service.'

We hope this issue informs, inspires, and instills in you the pride we feel every day at DDTCOM.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

It brings me great joy to see the DDT College of Medicine thriving as a hub of academic excellence, innovation, and community impact.

Our mission remains clear: to produce competent, compassionate, and committed health professionals who will uplift the health system of Botswana and the region.

We are proud of our recent achievements, particularly our outreach in the Gamalete, Kweneng and Gaborone Districts to name a few, our ongoing research contributions, and the success of our alumni. Let us continue to strive for excellence together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tumelo Tlhoiwe (MD)

Vice Chancellor, DDT College of Medicine

Transforming Healthcare Education in Botswana: DDT College of Medicine Leads the Way

In just a few years since its establishment, the DDT College of Medicine has emerged as a trailblazer in healthcare education in Botswana. Through a bold vision and community-rooted approach, the college is transforming how doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals are trained; and more importantly, how they serve.

A hallmark of this transformation is the emphasis on applied learning, with students placed in district hospitals and health posts as early as their second year. This immersive approach bridges the gap between theory and practice, fostering empathy, adaptability, and competence.

According to the Co-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ogorogile Mokate, “We are teaching our students not only how to diagnose, but how to connect with communities. Health outcomes improve when practitioners listen and care deeply about the people they serve.”

The college has recently launched a Research and Innovation unit, making it one of the best-equipped training environments in the region. Supported by digital case libraries, international journals, artificial intelligence tools and local traditional medicinal plants, our facility prepares students for real-world medical emergencies and diagnostic scenarios.





As the health challenges facing Botswana become more complex, DDT College of Medicine is proving that the answer lies not only in infrastructure; but in people, training, and vision.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Global Insights, Local Impact

At DDT College of Medicine, research is not confined to lecture halls, it informs community care and public policy.

Global Breakthrough: The Gut Microbiome and Diabetes

A recent study from Imperial College London has established new links between gut microbiome imbalances and early-onset diabetes.

This work has sparked interest in Botswana, where diabetes prevalence continues to rise. DDT's Research and Innovation Unit is currently adapting this model to explore microbial health among urban and rural populations in the South East District and the nation at large.

Local Research: Indigenous Plant-Based Research

Under the leadership of Dr. Paramasivan Kumar, DDT's Department of Pharmacy is investigating the pain-relieving properties of Sengaparile (a local medicinal plant) scientifically called *Cineraria aspera*, with early results showing promise in managing chronic back pain. This research could revolutionize affordable physiotherapy support in resource-limited settings.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Ms Beauty Mkhutswa
(Class of 2015)
BDA to MBBS

Where are they Now?

Currently doing her last year of Doctor of Medicine with Eden University, Lusaka Zambia.

She credits DDT for “instilling a deep sense of purpose and problem-solving in every challenge and educating her for Global Success” Her goal is to sit for United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE) so as she broadens her scope of medical globalization.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mr Kamogelo Magapa (Class of 2015) **BDA now Pursuing MPH**

Now completing a Master of Public Health at the University of Cape Town, Mr Magapa is working on his postgraduate research and has already published his undergraduate research article on the DDT Journal of Medicine.

“DDT gave me the courage to challenge silence with science,” he says.

Mr Paul (Class of 2015) **BSc Physiotherapy**

Mr Paul leads a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) team assisting Tlhoiwe and Tlhoiwe Foundation reach its vision of “Blessing God He also mentors DDT

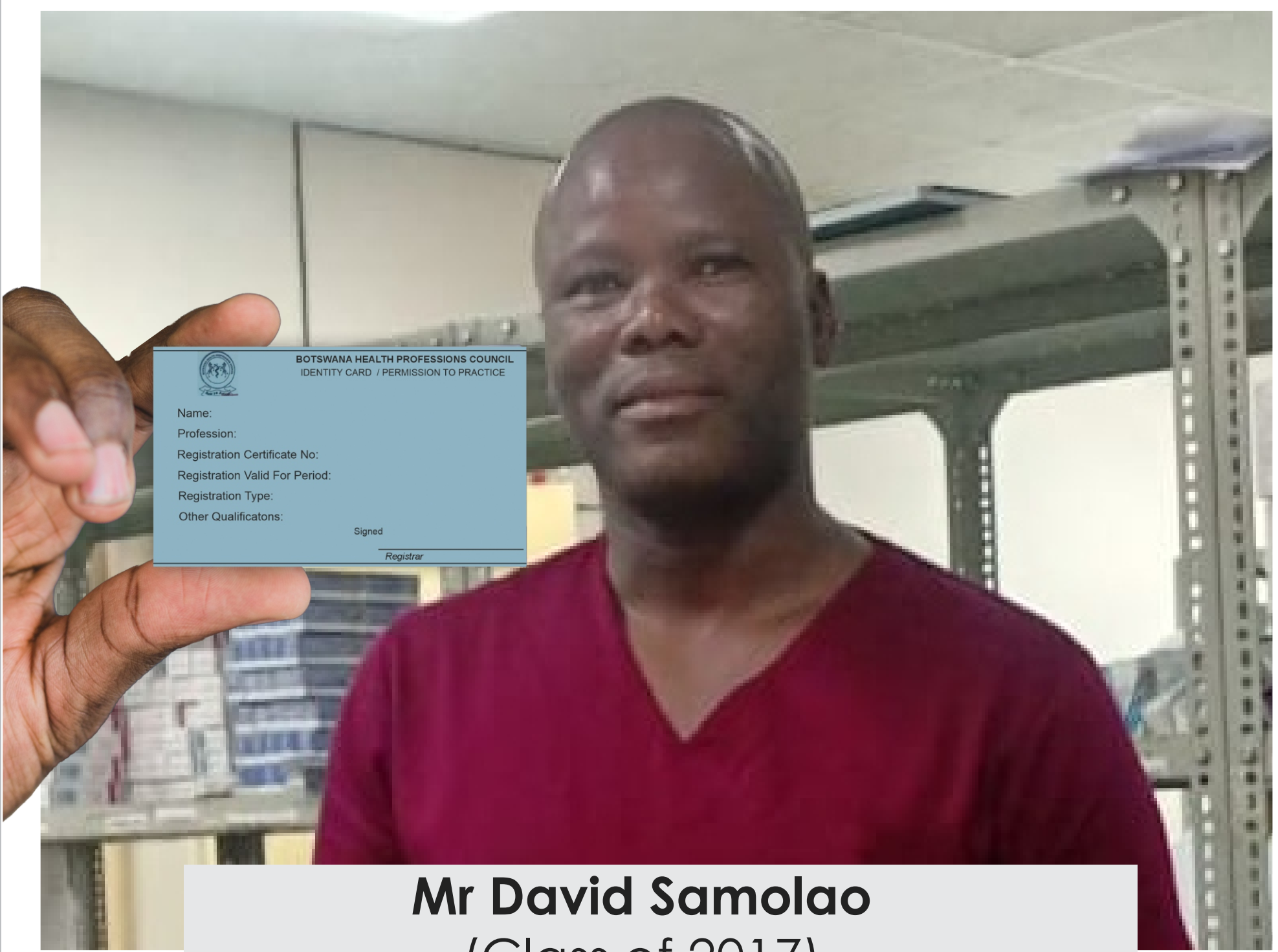
physiotherapy interns and was instrumental in establishing the ongoing Free Physio Clinics in the Gamalete District and is coordinating ALL physiotherapy services offered to the public at DDTCOM Physiotherapy laboratories where the college has specialized equipment including for those with spinal injuries.

Mr Keabetswe Moje (Class of 2016) **Bachelor of Medicine** **Laboratory Science Graduate**

A USA board certified Medical Laboratory Scientist. He completed his MSc in Clinical Microbiology at the London Metropolitan University in the UK.

He is now a full lecturer at DDT College of Medicine delivering to his juniors what he knows best.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mr David Samolao
(Class of 2017)
Bachelor of Pharmacy

A fully BHPC registered and licensed Pharmacist, he is delivering what he knows best at Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Molepolole.

Tune in for more DDTCOM graduates success stories as most of graduates are hired across the nation both in the public and private sectors and abroad.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Healing in Motion: Free Physiotherapy Clinics in various Districts and on campus

True to its mission of service, DDT College of Medicine through the Tlhoiwe & Tlhoiwe Foundation has partnered with local councils and clinics to provide free medical, medical laboratory, pharmacy and physiotherapy services in various districts. These clinics, staffed by DDTCOM graduates and supervised by faculty, operate on different days of the week according to the respective locations.

Clinic Impact Snapshot (March–May 2025):

- 1,347 patients served
- Over 300 rehabilitation plans designed
- Common conditions treated: arthritis, stroke recovery, post-

COVID fatigue syndrome, mental health, occupational injuries, diabetes, high blood pressure etc

One patient, 68-year-old Mme Tebogo Mosienyane from Otse, expressed gratitude: "Before, I couldn't even lift my arm. Now, I can fetch water for myself again."

Dr. Yaw Barimah II from DDTCOM Faculty of Medicine, emphasizes that these clinics are "as much about giving back health care to the community that the same graduates grew from"



STAFF AND STUDENT INSPIRATIONAL Quotes

Lecturer:

Dr. Martinson Danquah, "The commonality of the human bond far transcends all superficial things, we are therefore duty bound to offer high education to our students in our bid to uplift the healthcare and wellbeing of humanity.

Student:

Mr. Bofelo Tlhaselo, "The Latin's say 'Per aspera ad astra'; meaning through hardships to the stars. Your journey is demanding, but every challenge is a step closer to greatness. Stay resilient, keep pushing forward, and remember: the brightest stars are reached by those who persevere. The future of medicine is in your hands, shine on!"

FINAL WORD: Student Reflections

"Studying these health programs at DDT isn't just about books—it's about becoming a leader who listens, serves, and acts."
— Joseph Sammila

"At DDT, we don't wait for opportunities—we create them."

