

## Nigeria Physiotherapy Network

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The Nigeria Physiotherapy Network is pleased to announce that our Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel B. John has been appointed to an Associate Professor position in a brand new Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Radford University (RU), Radford, Virginia, USA, beginning August 2011. Dr. John is currently an Assistant Professor and Director, Motor Control & Neuromuscular Performance Laboratory in the Department of Physical Therapy, Howard University, Washington, DC, USA.

The new DPT program at RU will admit its first class starting June 2011. The DPT program will be relocated from the main RU Campus in Radford City to Downtown Roanoke City on the medical campus of the Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital which also houses the Jefferson College of Health Sciences (JCHS). This purposeful move was to locate the new DPT program right in the center of the an emerging health care industry converging on the city of Roanoke, Virginia.

At Roanoke, the DPT program Faculty and students will be able to interact, collaborate and form alliances with other Health Sciences programs converging in the area such as the JCHS, the newly commissioned Private-Public Partnership of Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute (VTC) which is just 2 blocks away, and the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital (CRMH) which is about 1.5 miles away.

According to an announcement released by Dr. John to his colleagues at Howard University, *"I am particularly excited about this new position as there exists tremendous opportunity for research collaborations with world class Research neuroscientists at VTC next-door and biomedical engineer researchers half-hour away at the nearby Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, while the new 703 bed CRMH hospital serving VTC will potential grant access to needed patient population for clinical studies"*.

Dr. John's statement continued, *"Further, accepting this position brought me to the conscious acknowledgment that I have always been attracted to geographic locations and institutions where there exist the greatest need for my particular skill set. Interviewing at Radford confirmed my inclinations and suspicions. The Roanoke Valley and New River Valley Areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia has severe and chronic shortage of Physical therapists. In the words of the my would be Dean, "It is a sin that older citizens are allowed to die of pneumonia after successful hip joint replacement surgeries because there is not enough PTs in the area to get them out of bed after a fall and resultant hip surgery". The Roanoke and New Valley areas being largely rural and mountainous is said to record the highest rate of deaths from pneumonia post hip replacement surgeries in the elderly from falls and slips in the as they take walks or even just coming out to check their mail boxes. This great need got the Roanoke community excited and many Institutions and organizations in the area have already endowed Chairs and scholarships in the new DPT program"*.

### Radford University

Radford University is one of Virginia's eight doctoral-degree granting public universities. Originally founded in 1910, Radford offers comprehensive curricula for undergraduates in more than 100 fields, and graduate programs including the M.F.A., M.B.A. and specialized doctoral programs in health-related professions. RU is listed as one of the nation's "Top Up-and-Coming Schools" in the U.S. News and World Report's 2010 Guide to America's Best Colleges and is on The Princeton Review's list of best colleges and universities in the Southeast.

Radford University is nestled in the New River Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Radford, Virginia, RU is student-centered and focused on providing outstanding academic programs for its more than 9,000 students (Graduate enrollment: 1,057, 60:40 female to male ratio, students from 41 states and 50 countries; 82 percent of faculty hold doctorates or terminal degrees in their fields, fewer than 3 percent of classes are taught by graduate assistants; student to faculty ratio: 18:1 and average freshman class size is 30). Well known for its strong faculty/student bonds, innovative use of technology in the learning environment and vibrant student life on a beautiful

campus, Radford University offers many opportunities to get involved and succeed in and out of the classroom.

Radford University welcomes students from the Commonwealth of Virginia, across the country (United States) and around the world. AT RU, one will find inspiration in the surroundings – the manicured green lawns on campus, the steady roll of the New River, the wonders along the Blue Ridge Parkway, the stately university buildings and a quaint downtown. Radford's 153 undergraduate and graduate programs offer every student the opportunity to discover new talents, develop leadership skills and experience personal growth.

Radford University serves the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation through a wide range of academic, cultural, human service, and research programs. First and foremost, the university emphasizes teaching and learning and the process of learning in its commitment to the development of mature, responsible, well-educated citizens. Radford University develops students' creative and critical thinking skills, teaches students to analyze problems and implement solutions, helps students discover their leadership styles, and fosters their growth as leaders. Toward these ends, the university is student-focused and promotes a sense of caring and of meaningful interaction among all members of the University community. Research is viewed as a vital corollary to the teaching and learning transaction as it sustains and enhances the ability to teach effectively. Radford University believes in the dynamics of change and has a strong commitment to continuous review, evaluation, and improvement in the curriculum and all aspects of the University, so as to meet the changing needs of society.

In his new position, Dr. John will be receiving very generous start up funding to continue his motor control and neuro-rehabilitation studies.

Dr. John will surely be missed at Howard University, but the last 5 years of his being there will leave a permanent impact.

The Nigeria Physiotherapy Network congratulates Dr. John, and wish him well in his new position.

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Published

18:30:41 20.03.2011

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