

## LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CONFERENCE 'ABIA 2017'

Dear Colleagues,

The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of our great Society, the PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (PSN), is just around the corner.

We have started a series of engagements to acquaint you with the package of expectations that this conference represents. This engagement will continue till the last day of the conference.

### 1. SPECIAL INVITATION:

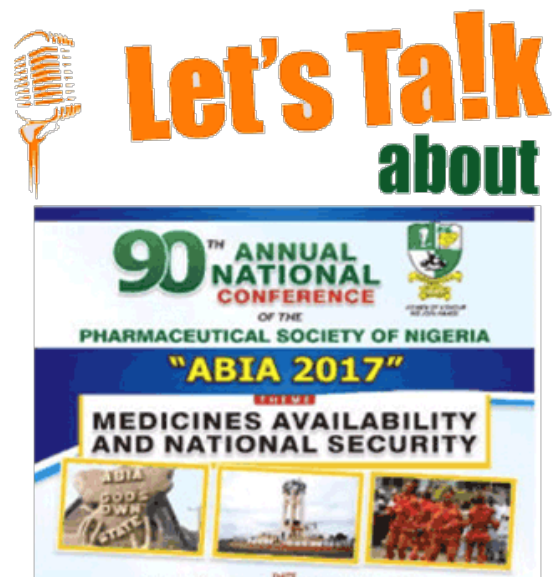
It is our pleasure, once again, to invite you to the conference which has been programmed to be informative, educative, entertaining and highly impactful. It is your conference and this edition is unique because we have come of age and we can proudly and deservedly claim the laurels as the oldest and the best organized professional body in Nigeria. You are the greatest asset and pride of the society and we will be glad to welcome you to the conference holding at the International Conference Centre, Umuahia in Abia State, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Governor and people of the state are expecting us with all the goodies and hospitality of a great host. The conference is also designed to be experiential and we pledge, on honour, that you will have a great time.

### 2. REGISTRATION:

As scientists, we must always improve on the way we do things, it is our desire to make registration of delegates completely stress free during this conference. We will make provision for enough space and personnel to attend to your registration needs during the conference. We will have many terminals that are synchronised to make the registration process to be completed within 10 minutes. The conference materials and bags will be pre-packaged for smooth handling. We cannot do this without your help. We need you to register online and pay your dues as appropriate with the state branch of PSN. We will engage your state branch to confirm payment and communicate the registration details in advance to you. Please register now as we need at least 3 weeks to process all registrations for impact. To this end, the online registration will be closed by **15<sup>th</sup> October 2017**. A premium fee will be charged for on-site registration. Many of us have been attending international conferences and we know the implication of not registering on time. Please register now for us to have a standard and free flowing conference.

### 3. THE THEME:

The theme of the conference is chosen to reflect the yearnings and aspirations of all Pharmacists in Nigeria to make available safe, efficacious, effective and affordable medicines for promotion of healthy living, prevention and management of diseases. It also reflects our dissatisfaction with the situation in the Pharmaceutical sector of the economy. We have chosen a theme that will awaken policy formulators, opinion leaders, government agencies and in fact, all Nigerians to the urgent need to pay attention to medicines availability in Nigeria. The theme is '**Medicines Availability and National Security**' and it is our hope that all the participants will leave the conference fully conscious of their roles



in making medicines available with our national pride and security protected. Our keynote address speaker is an erudite scholar with vast experience in international business development and policy formulation. He is **Dr. Andrew Nevin**, the Chief Economist of Price Water House Coopers, PwC in Nigeria. We have confidence that he will provide powerful insights into what we must do as a nation to succeed as desired.

#### **4. THEME PERSPECTIVES:**

The conference theme will be discussed in three broad perspectives to provide answers to the burning questions of: Where are we now? Where do we want (or need) to be? How do we get there as early as possible to accelerate our growth towards self-sufficiency in local production of drugs? Prof Chris Ogbechie, a distinguished Nigerian, Director of Lagos Business School and Chairman of Diamond Bank Plc has been invited as guest speaker to open discussion on the different perspectives.

##### **a. Regulatory Perspective:**

How do we create an environment that will make local production of drugs attractive in Nigeria? What are we doing now that is supportive of the local industry and what must we continue to do and/or improve upon? What are we doing that is making things difficult for local investors (or for new investors to come in) which we will have to adjust to attain industry's best practices? What can we learn from other nations who have used the instrumentality of Government regulation to develop the Pharmaceutical Industry? The discussion will involve the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN), National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigeria Custom Service (NCS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the Ministry of Trade.

##### **b. Social Enterprise Perspective:**

Nigeria has been a recipient of funds from many donor agencies for the purchase of drugs and consumables as well as benefited from the direct supply of drugs and consumables. How can we re-direct the funds used for these procurements to boost local production of drugs? This will achieve the twin objectives of making drugs available and providing jobs for the local populace. How can we develop some social entrepreneurs in partnership with their host community, Etc? Pharm Adeyemi Adewole, the CEO of Adcem Healthcare Limited, will be leading discussion involving many international organizations on this perspective.

##### **c. Business Perspective:**

If we have more big players in the Pharmaceutical Industry with sufficient capacity to produce at low cost, it should be possible for us to reverse the current trend of import dependence. What is the experience of the current players in the field? Why is the industry not so attractive to big players in Nigeria? What do we need to do to make the industry attractive as it is in other climes? Mazi Sam Oluabunwa will be leading a star-studded panel including Dr. (Mrs.) Stella Okoli, Dr. Fidelis Ayebae, Dr. Uchekwue Ogah, Dr. Nicholas Okoye and the Managing Director of the Bank of Industry to discuss the business perspective.

#### **5. CONFERENCE SLOGAN AND LOGO**

In keeping with our tradition of excellence, we have introduced some unique features like conference slogan and logo. The conference slogan is "ABIA 2017: NEW KNOWLEDGE, NEW PRACTICE" and this is the platform that we will use to discuss Pharmacy practice

in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with contributions from all the technical groups. All our printed materials and communications will carry the conference logo and as the PSN President has approved, each conference will carry this unique identity going forward.

## **6. PARALLEL SESSIONS:**

There will be four parallel sessions involving the technical groups of the Society. Each technical group was asked to introduce a topic which is in line with our desire to acquire new knowledge that will influence our practice and as reflected in the conference slogan. As a participant, you will be free to choose which of the sessions to attend.

### a. Session I: Community Pharmacy:

- i. Topic: ***Best practices in Community Pharmacy: Know it, Do it***
- ii. The discussion will be led by Pharm Chris Ehimen with a panel including ACPN Chairman, Pharm Albert Alkali and others.

### b. Session II: Academic Pharmacy:

- i. Topic: ***Imparting Knowledge for global best practice***
- ii. The discussion will be led by Pharm (Prof) Ray Ozolua with a panel including NAPA Chairman, Pharm (Prof) Martins Emeje and Distinguished Prof Cecilia Igwilo among others.

### c. Session III: Hospital and Administrative Pharmacy:

- i. Topic: ***Critical Care Medicines: The need for Specialization***
- ii. The discussion will be led by Pharm (Dr) Chris Ike with a panel including AHAPN Chairman, Pharm Martins Oyewole and others.

### d. Session IV:

- i. Topic: ***National Drug Distribution Guidelines: Building implementation consensus***
- ii. The discussion will be led by Pharm (Dr) Okey Akpa with a panel including NAIP Chairman, Pharm. Ignatius Anukwu and others.

## **7. MEDICAL OUTREACH:**

It is our desire to make the conference experiential for our host community. To achieve this, we are organising a medical outreach to an unserved community near the Abia state capital. Our definition of an unserved community is one that has not benefitted from the services of a regular government clinic or hospital. We will go there with a mobile clinic, drugs, Pharmacists, Doctors, Nurses and tools to cater for about 500 people in the chosen community. This is one way to serve the nation and improve the public perception of Pharmacists in Nigeria.

## **8. ACCOMMODATION:**

Just as in the registration milieu, we will ensure that everyone who has paid in advance for hotel accommodation will have one without having to struggle for it. We have sent out fliers with names and rates of the different hotels available. If you have not received one, please visit your PSN state branch or contact your technical group for further information. You can also contact the National Secretariat for assistance. We will take care of everyone who has indicated interest and paid for accommodation. However, we will not be responsible for anyone who is stranded because of late booking or no booking of

accommodation. For emphasis, you are free to make your own accommodation arrangement if you wish to do so.

**9. ABSTRACT – POSTER PRESENTATION - SESSION:**

As usual, the PSN Conference has garnered a reputation of providing opportunity for researchers, academics and practising pharmacists to showcase their innovations and research output via the Poster Presentation session. The Scientific Sub-committee has sent out a comprehensive guideline on how to participate effectively in this session. It is the desire of the Central Planning Committee and the entire Society to see more practice-based research work being promoted during this session.

**10. EXHIBITIONS AND PROMOTIONS:**

The Exhibition Stands at PSN Conferences are one of the most highly patronized areas of the entire Conference. It is our desire to ensure that Exhibitors get their monies worth without compromising on security and the general ambience of the Conference itself. The promotional activities of Companies with respect to banner and flag displays will be much better organized at this conference with Companies already being engaged on slots for banner and flag displays. We encourage all persons, organizations and institutions to come on board with us on this to enable us to create and maintain the appropriate atmosphere throughout the Conference.

Dr. Lolu Ojo, *FPSN, FPCpharm, FNAPharm, DF-PEFON*

Chairman Conference Planning Committee