



PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

(FOUNDED 1927)

Member: Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN)
International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA)
African Pharmaceutical Forum (APF)

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Dear Colleagues,

STATE OF OUR SOCIETY

I am joyed to bring you this update as we successfully rode through the stormy half of the year. Remember that this is to help you catch up with vital information you may have missed.

We had a Stakeholders Meeting with NAFDAC which was very fruitful as such interactions keep us abreast of information and reduce frictions where possible. When communication is low, offence is inevitable. Discussions is still on going on GMP inspection fee and 5+5 marketing authorization policy. None is designed to hurt Pharmacists but sure road map for local content development, medicines security, employment generation and economic growth of our nation.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria was invited as part of Team Nigeria, in the first trade and investment working group meeting between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Netherlands on the 8th of June 2021.

We made inputs into a joint statement on the area of health. We pressed for investment in our local pharmaceutical industry, GMP Certification, investment in the local production of APIs and in research and development to build capacity for our local drug and health products manufacturing.

I participated in ALPS 14th Biennial National Scientific Conference in Markurdi, Benue State. The conference theme "Promoting Traditional Foods for Health" was well thought out, especially with dwindling economy and a sharp rise in none communicable disease prevalence. Pharmacists should arm themselves with knowledge of our local food and apply it especially in the management of chronic none communicable diseases. This will impact greatly on the morbidity and mortality rate of these diseases. I salute, the courage of the ALPS National Chairman, Pharm Vicky Ukwu FPSN, her team and all lady Pharmacists for that colourful conference at such a turbulent time.

When I came into office as PSN President, I promised to physically visit all state branches of the PSN. I was in Abia State on a three-day working visit from the 14th to 16th of June 2021. The highlights of the visit were the townhall meeting with Pharmacists in the state as I presented our performance sheet, which includes PSN's involvement in the accreditation of two schools of Pharmacy in the state: Abia State University and Gregory University, Uturu, and the visit to the State Governor HE, Dr Victor Ikpeazu. This afforded me the opportunity to advocate for matters affecting Pharmacists in the state; implementation of the Pharmacist Consultancy Cadre, appointment of Pharmacists into medical related boards and more employment of

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pharmacists in the state. The high point of the visit was the Governor granting the request of the President to give the Abia State PSN a piece of land to build their Secretariat.

I was at the ground breaking ceremony of the massive and intimidating “Pharmacy House” in the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu State where I performed the ground breaking ceremony in the company of the CMD of the hospital and other prominent attendees. I commend and recommend the rapport between the Pharmacists and their medical practitioners contemporaries. That is how it should be. Please for the umpteenth times, head of pharmacy in institution, rise above the barriers of self limitation.

Your President participated in PSN Niger State Pharmacy Day and Scientific Conference held on the 24th of June, 2021. I congratulate the chairman, Pharm. Hamza Tijjani Yahaya, and his team for putting up such a colourful event with important state actors in attendance. This is a powerful advocacy tool and should be sustained. I was part of PSN Bauchi June congress meeting and grateful for the warm reception accorded to me.

I also visited Gombe States and will visit some more States as we prepare to leave office come November, 2021.

‘World Drug Day’, marked all over the globe, on the 26th of June, was well handled by Pharmacists in Nigeria. Recognition is earned by services and not legislated. I encourage you to respond appropriately to the request of the National secretary, and forward videos of your events on that day for collation into an item of reference for the future.

Board of fellows mid-year public lecture on the last 2 days of the month afforded us the opportunity of a robust conversation with the key actors in health policy making. The theme “ National development and Healthcare System – Impact of the COVID- 19 Pandemic” threw up the challenges inherent in the present healthcare delivery system in Nigeria. It is my hope that facts of this exposition will impact on health care delivery to meet world best practices which our speakers are conversant with.

The Town Hall meeting for June, moved to July 7th, because of the BOF public lecture was well attended. I am encouraged that Pharmacists are very enthusiastic about our profession. NEC and council will do all within their powers to give you responsible representation. As I will always say, important issues of lobbying are not matters of social media lest your contenders squash the positive moves you make. PSN follows and monitors policies to resist obnoxious ones that will hurt the health of Nigerians and our profession, but we may not be confrontational.

The conference registration Portal for Garden City 2021 is still open for registration, please endeavour to utilize the opportunity of registering with your paid capitation. Remember that this window expires by the 31st of July. Registration continues from 1st August till conference at graduated fees. I do not wish we get there. Just click on psngardencity2021.com If you have issues, send a mail to gardencity2021@psnnational.org.

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May I use this forum to wish Pharm S. A. Bassey, FPSN, past chairman of PSN Akwa Ibom state, who turned 80 on the 25th of June, happy 80th birthday. We pray the Lord to sustain him in sound health of body and mind in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Finally, esteemed colleagues, continue to promote our profession within your circle of influence. You may be the only symbol of pharmacy the people around you can relate with.

Yours in the Service of the PSN



Pharm. (Mazi) Sam. Ohuabunwa, OFR, FPSN.

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