

Communique of the 94TH Annual National Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria held at the Alfred Diette Spiff Civic Center, Moscow Road Port Harcourt, Rivers State between the 1st to 6th of November 2021 themed COVID-19 Lessons: Broadening and Strengthening the Nigerian Pharmaceutical and Health Sector.

In attendance at the Conference were the Chairman Opening Ceremony Mr Odein Ajumogobia SAN, CFR, the Keynote Address speaker and DG of NAFDAC Prof Mojisola Adeyeye FAAPS, FAS, FPSN (virtual); Special guest of honour, His Majesty Dandeson Douglas Jaja JP, Amayanabo Of Opobo Kingdom and Chairman Rivers State Council Of Traditional Rulers, President Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Pharm. Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa FPSN, OFR, MON, NPOM; Members of the National Executive Council of PSN; The Registrar Pharmacist council of Nigeria Pharm Dr. Elijah Mohammed FPSN; Chairman Board of Fellows Prof. Mbang Femi-Oyewo FPSN, MFR; The Chairman College of Past Presidents Pharm. Prince Julius Adelusi Adeluyi ably represented by Pharm. Yaro Budah FPSN; the DG of National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) Dr Obi Peter Adigwe; A good number of Fellows of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Fellows of Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) and Fellows of Nigeria Academy of Pharmacy to mention a few were among the over three thousand accredited delegates that attended the conference physically.

The conference theme was COVID-19 Lessons: Broadening and Strengthening the Nigerian Pharmaceutical and Health Sector. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye FAAPS, FAS, FPSN, DG NAFDAC. Other speakers at the Conference included Prof Martins Emeje FPSN (NIPRID), Dr Umar Buba Bindir, Secretary of State to Adamawa State Government, Prof. Maurice Iwu, Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme, Dr Teresa Isichei Pounds, President NAPPSA, Dr Hardley Ikwe, US Center for Disease Prevention and Control; Pharm. Zainab Shariff FPSN, FNIM, FNAPHARM, Director TCAM Federal Ministry of Health Abuja; Dr Chidozie Okoye, Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy, Prof Tavs Abere, Madonna University, Dr Maureen Ngozi Nwafor, Deputy Director Pharmacy UNTH, Enugu; Pharm Ramatu Masud Alabelewe, Assistant Director Pharmacy ABUTH Zaria, Dr Joseph Oladele Ole Deputy Director Pharmacy UITH Ilorin, Pharm Jacintha Emejulu UBTH Benin. The following speakers also shared their insights during the conference, they include Azuka Okeke (ARC), CEO Africa Resource Center for excellence in Supply Chain, Pharm Mopa Emmanuel Esuga, Chief of Party United States Pharmacopoeia, Pharm Bala Mani Muhammad, Executive Secretary Katsina State drugs and medical supplies, Prof Nasir Sambo CEO Health Insurance Scheme NHIS, Dr Ahmed Adagi, Dr Chijioke Ofomata, Hon Enemi Alabo George, Sen. Sadiq Umar, and Pharm Aliyu Zakari Jiya.

The Chairman of CPC Pharm. Ignatius Anukwu, in welcoming conference attendees, highlighted the fact that the conference will incorporate both intellectualisms, recreation and networking opportunities. He mentioned that all delegates would be treated to the rich cuisine and cultural heritage of the Rivers State, leaving a very lingering memory in the minds of all delegates for a long time to come.

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria while welcoming all delegates reflected that Nigeria seemed to have already begun to learn some lessons about improving its impact on the

pharma sector. He mentioned that the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) 100 billion Naira Pharmaceutical/Healthcare intervention fund dedicated for research, increased funding to NIPRD. The PSN president challenged our erudite keynote speaker and the cast of distinguished sub-theme speakers and panellists to bring more illumination to the conference theme to motivate every delegate to play their role in the pharma sector in a consistent manner.

The Chairman Opening Ceremony Mr Odein Ajumogobia highlighted the need for a more effective structure of drug manufacturing, importation, distribution, administration and control, especially in view of the current reliance on foreign sources for not only finished drug products but pharmaceutical raw materials, reagents and manufacturing equipment to provide safe, efficacious and good quality drugs to meet the health needs of Nigerians specifically citing his excellent pharmaceutical care experience with MYMEDICINES®. He mentioned that formulation of new strategies, strengthening achievements in areas where progress has been recorded, and addressing those areas that call for more effective action, must be prioritised. Mr Ajumogobia enjoined the delegates to facilitate judicious implementation of revised policies, accompanied by a robust implementation plan to ensure that Nigerians will have sustainable access to pharmaceutical care.

The keynote speaker Prof. Moji Adeyeye in her keynote address discussed the disruptions of socioeconomic well-being of the public, unprecedented pressure on healthcare systems and the inability of the existing capacities to provide full and affordable access to quality health care, which has affected even the most resourceful and advanced healthcare systems. She mentioned that uncertainties over how the pandemic will progress added further complexities to the uncertain healthcare environment. The Keynote speaker reiterated that the COVID-19 challenges fuelled by the absence of vaccine or effective pharmaceutical interventions at the beginning of the pandemic has affected health programmes, planning and budgeting. The Keynote speaker reflected that for the pharmaceutical sector, there was disruption of pharmaceutical product supply chain and a sharp increase in the demand for COVID-19 related consumables. She mentioned that NAFDAC responded to these challenges using its antecedents and infrastructure, ensuring that the nation's pharmaceutical supply chain was not adversely affected. Notwithstanding the numerous challenges, the pandemic has heralded exciting opportunities that spur the creation of strategies and the development of viable tools necessary to respond effectively and rapidly to current challenges and provide sustainable solutions to future challenges in the pharmaceutical sector.

The Conference deliberated on the theme and sub-themes of the five-day Conference and other contemporary issues. These deliberations will influence charting a course for pharmaceutical systems strengthening, through research, advocacy, Clinical Specialisation, and political action. The following observations and recommendations were made:

- Conference frowned at some professional bodies acting as interlopers into the pharmacy space, and also noted the harassment some colleagues endured in the hands of personnel who have no jurisdiction to regulate pharmacy practice.
- Conference agreed traditional medicines must be leveraged upon to facilitate medicines security, supply chain production, increase revenue generation through research aimed at product development. Complementary medicines as they are so called should be developed as medicines for health care delivery in Nigeria...*not complementary but just as medicines*. Pharmaceutical companies must look inwards to develop a viable movement from the value chain of agriculture through reliable and effective supply chains to production and finished product marketing hence ensuring that the farm to pharmacy is achieved in a way that adds

value to the practice of pharmacy as well as ensures that a robust source of revenue is opened and effectively sustained.

- Conference agreed that Pharmacists have ample opportunities to advance public health through immunisation advocacy. Pharmacists can facilitate disease prevention strategies, because many potential victims of COVID-19 and pneumococcal disease, Paediatrics requiring vaccinations visit pharmacies and are seen by pharmacists daily. Pharmacists can lead local activities in observance of National Adult Immunization Week each October. Working with local public health departments, state or national immunisation coalitions, and other groups, pharmacists can promote vaccination among high-risk populations.
- Conference advised that the integration of traditional, complementary, and alternative medicines into the health care delivery system provides opportunity for patients/ individuals to access alternative healthcare services and facilitate the attainment of universal health coverage. The modern pharmacist as an apothecary should have knowledge of traditional, complementary, and alternative medicines in order to diversify their services.
- Conference agreed that it was necessary to establish, encourage and strengthen the relationship between pharmacists and other healthcare providers. Pharmacists must work to enhance the procurement policy to improve availability of rare drugs such as anticancer drugs etc. Conference agreed to establish/ validate the reconstitution process (room and equipment) where formulations are prepared in line with best practices. Conference noted the need for continuous and periodic training of pharmacists and technicians.
- Conference agreed on the need for increased specialisation in specific specialties i.e., every pharmacist practicing within the clinical setting must choose a minimum of one area to build capacity on. Pharmacist should ensure continued education through postgraduate programs, The West African postgraduate college of Pharmacists provides this facility for continued learning, specialisation, and research collaborations.
- Conference agreed that improving quality of healthcare through effective supply chain management is critical to developing the pharma sector. Conference highlighted that Product regulation and Quality Assurance (QA) require a whole systems approach. Quality Assurance is spread across an ecosystem of many actors. As a result, there are many points of vulnerability and many opportunities to strengthen the system. Sustainability and resilience can be built into regulatory and QA systems. Conference resolved that financial self-reliance, an adequate/competent workforce, good governance, and an enabling policy/legal environment underpin sustainability.
- Conference charged delegates to strengthen pharma practice through political action by maintaining high standard of professional ethics in all spheres of pharmacy practice. There is a need to establish and maintain high standard of pharmacy education in Nigeria, through influencing legislation for the enhancement of the image of the pharmacy profession and through monitoring policies of government which may affect practice. Pharmacists must utilise potential, actual and latent power to achieve political influence. Pharmacists can be a pressure group and if properly organised can metamorphose into a political bloc. Conference charged delegates of all strata (young and old) to get involved in politics from the grass roots and must also have a political strategy/action committee.
- Conference showcased twenty-three abstracts from various fields of pharmacy. The abstracts reflected the professions' commitment to innovation in pharmacy and evidence -based practice to support the delivery of high-quality patient care. From a focus on challenges of implementing the pharmaceutical care concept to pharmaceutical care interventions during the

COVID -19 public health emergency. Pharmacists have exhibited high potential for collaborative research which is crucial in charting a course to highlight the need for an importance of the 21st century Pharmacist in the health care team.

- Conference ratified the election of 112 Pharmacists into the highly revered fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria. These persons shall be free to use FPSN behind their names, after investiture into the board of fellows.

The conference closed with an AGM and the following resolutions were made:

1. From the first of January 2022, all payments including capitation and building levy shall be paid via accredited electronic channels. Manual payment will no longer be acceptable to facilitate data aggregation and ease of conference registration.
2. For non-payment of capitation as at when due, Conference agreed that defaulters shall be made to pay 100% in default.
3. All states are mandated to set up political and legislative action committee in their states with a mandate to report to council about their progress every 6 months.
4. The decoration and insignia utilized by State, technical and interest groups should be different from that used by Fellows of PSN to ensure that a clear distinction is seen and noted.

The AGM concluded with elections of new officers into the National executive Council of the Pharmaceutical society of Nigeria. The following Officers were returned elected

Name	Position
Pharm. Prof. Cyril Odianose Usifoh FPSN	President
Pharm. Binji Haliyu Ibrahim FPSN	Deputy President North
Pharm. Udeorah C. Egbuna FPSN	Deputy President South
Pharm. Olugbenga Falabi FPSN	National Secretary
Pharm. Gafar Madehin MAW	National Treasurer
Pharm. Dr. Murtala Isa Umar FPCPharm.	National Financial Secretary
Pharm Martins Oyewole	Internal Auditor
Pharm. Ikenna Mbata Chibueze MAW	Asst. National Secretary
Pharm. Dr Margaret Ilomuanya	Editor in Chief
Pharm. Felix Ndiukwu	National Publicity Secretary
Pharm. Obianuju Onwuatiegwu FPSN	Unofficial Member
Pharm. Kingsley Chiedu Amibor	Unofficial Member
Pharm, Sam I. Ohuabunwa OFR, MON, NPOM FPSN	IPP



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Pharm. Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa FPSN
President



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Pharm Olugbenga Falabi FPSN
National Secretary