

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY HELD AT THE CONFERENCE AUDITORIUM, OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS COMPLEX, IN ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE FROM MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> TO THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY, 2017.

The 29<sup>th</sup> conference of Nephrology Association of Nephrology (NAN) held at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, Ile-Ife, Osun State from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017. It was attended by more than 400 delegates drawn from different parts of Nigeria and also had some international participants / resource persons from the United States , United Kingdom, Egypt, Japan, South Africa and Ghana.

The first 2 days had four parallel sessions that featured pre-conference update courses for nephrology nurses and dialysis engineers along with workshops on kidney transplantation, meta and systematic analysis, peritoneal dialysis and Grant writing / research methodology.

The conference's theme was 'Thirty (30) years of nephrology practice, a time to take stock'. It was formally declared open by Honourable Minister of health, Prof Isaac Folorunsho Adewole who audited nephrology practice and training from inception, catalogue the progress that has been made and outline future developments in line with the Governments agenda. Dr Olasunkanmi Isamotu the Special Adviser on Health in the state of Osun represented the executive Governor. The conference keynote address was given by Emeritus Professor OO Akinkugbe CFR, the Foundation President while the guest lecture was delivered by Prof Akinlolu Ojo of the University of Arizona, United States of America.

Below are the main resolutions at the end of the 4-day event:

1. The Association is appreciative of the support of multi-national organisations/corporate bodies in supporting kidney awareness/ screening initiatives and World Kidney Day (WKD) activities and calls on other organisations and individuals to show interest in this regard. The theme for this year is '*kidney disease and obesity; healthy lifestyles for healthy kidneys*'. The WKD is scheduled for **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017** and it will highlight the burden of obesity as a risk factor in the development and progression of chronic kidney disease.
2. The Association is desirous of partnering with major national funding agencies especially the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), the National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA), Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) etc especially in its bid towards having a fully functional renal registry, data bank and in other identified areas of research collaboration and information dissemination. The Association encourages meta/systematic analysis of Nigerian Nephrology research areas to answer research questions in our major areas of need for the benefit of our poor patients.

3. Our Association noted that treatment of kidney disease is expensive globally though some developing countries are able to prioritise and offer the care free of charge to their citizens. We encourage the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Ministry of Health (MOH) who has decided to make primary health care (PHC) the fulcrum of health care delivery in Nigeria, to introduce the screening for kidney disease like performance of simple urine tests and assessment of blood pressures into PHC screening such that no patient passes through the clinic without being tested. This would allow for early detection of kidney disease and retardation / curtailment of its effects or complications which on the long run will be more cost effective.
4. The Association noted with dismay the non-regulation of the activities of newer dialysis centres in the country and calls for concerted efforts by the regulating agencies concerned in streamlining the activities of such centres especially the need to have trained nephrology and dialysis personnel to man such centres. Our Association shall commence accreditation of renal care centres and publish such as NAN Accredited Centres to protect naïve Nigerians from the activities of quacks.
5. Our Association is concerned about the increasing rate of organ trafficking and medical tourism in the country and calls for effective legislation against the practice and also calls on the government to encourage local centres in the delivery of transplantation services by funding hospitals, institutions and pharmaceutical companies to produce medications locally or encourage the importation of generic drugs. This will enhance capacity development and reduce capital flight as a result of medical tourism in the wake of dwindling foreign reserve.
6. The Association calls for increased awareness of the advantages of peritoneal dialysis and appeals to the authorities concerned to help in the expeditious granting of import duty waivers in the importation of peritoneal dialysis fluids as this offers much benefits to adults and children with kidney diseases in our country. Many of these patients urgently require some forms of temporary renal replacement support. Local production of such should also be encouraged.
7. Acute kidney injury is still a major cause for concern especially in developing countries, hence the need for Nigeria to key into the global vision 0 by 25 project (reducing to zero the incidence of acute kidney failure by the year 2025). This is being championed by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN). Our Association commends Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Ministry of Health (MOH) on the recent approval of 24 sessions of Haemodialysis to enrollees of National Health Insurance Scheme as a step in the right direction.
8. The Association calls on the Federal Government to urgently help in reducing the import tariffs on pharmaceutical products especially anti hypertensives and post kidney transplantation immunosuppressive medications. The prohibitive cost of the medications as a result of current economic realities might increase the prevalence of chronic kidney disease and also worsen post transplantation outlook. This is the

main reason why the adoption of the proposal to give free immunosuppressive drugs to kidney transplant recipients by FGN from 2018 is a welcome development. We urge the MOH to follow this proposal through as it will alleviate the suffering of Nigerians and prevent untimely deaths.

The association would like to use this medium to thank the Government and the good people of the State of Osun for the conducive and peaceful environment. It also deeply appreciates His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of the source, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II for the wonderful and warm reception accorded the Executive Committee, Members of the Board of Trustees, Invited Faculties and the Organising Committee in his palace.

We thank the LOC, Chief Medical Directors of OAUTHC and LAUTECH Teaching Hospital Oshogbo and the entire management and staff of the OAUTHC Ile-Ife, the Obafemi Awolowo University, our corporate partners, dialysis services providers and pharmaceutical companies. We are also grateful to members of the Press and the security agencies (the Nigerian Police Force and the Department of State Security) for making the four day event a huge success.

Thank you.

**Professor BL Salako**  
**President**  
**Committee**

**Professor FA Arogundade**  
**Chairman, Organising**