

Editorial

Refocusing the NAN Agenda

A half and a decade ago at one of our conferences, our doyen of nephrology and founding father of our association picked a copy of our conference booklet and scanned our presentation and abstracts to get a feel of what our conference was all about. He dropped it and called out that he was not satisfied. There in our conference proceedings was a *potpourri of menu*, as he described it. He admonished the seniors around to provide a guide and steer the academic and research work to a definite, recognizable, relevant, and cogent output. In other words, it is desirable for the Nigerian Association of Nephrology to establish a focus. But before we can embark on this, the association needs a research agenda, especially now that we are moving towards funding proposals and research. While not disputing the fact that academic enterprise is an open theatre for players, but in order to be relevant, we must identify areas that call for attention and which also address our kidney health and general health needs. As an example, the International Society of Nephrology took on the challenge of acute kidney injury (AKI), assemble a consortium of interested investigators^{1,2}, and recently published its findings.³⁻⁶ This served the dual purpose of advocacy and agenda setting. Although we are still evolving as an association, we can begin to set an agenda. Moving forward, we suggest an example. This is one that the world is taking up now, but which we have largely ignored as a body.

The National Institutes of Health and the International Society of Nephrology have recently developed special interest in chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology (CKDu). Again, the ISN recently published the findings.^{7,8} As we said earlier, the ISN began to tackle AKI about ten years ago and has achieved credible results. We are aware of an NIH grant submission on this, but unfortunately, this was not funded. Although, there has been a sprinkling of individual and group efforts at exploring this entity, the association needs to provide an impetus in this direction. There may be more worthy examples, but whichever we settle for, it will be necessary to work hard at it. They should reflect in our conference proceedings, our trainees' proposals, and our research collaboration. When we push an agenda forcefully, we will get listening ears.

It is our hope that we will take up this challenge at one of our meeting. The sooner the better.

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