

# **SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON)**



## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING OF SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON) HELD IN GRAND HOTEL AND RESORT CENTRE, ASABA, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

The Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) held her Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting between November 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at the Grand Hotel and Resort Centre, Asaba, Nigeria.

The **Theme** of the Conference was **Human Resources Development in improving Maternal and Child Health in Nigeria – looking beyond the MDGs** , while the **Sub-Themes** were: **Family Planning in National Development, New Concepts and Technology in Urogynaecology and Fetal and Newborn Care.**

The Conference attracted about seven hundred participants from within and outside Nigeria. These included Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Paediatricians, Nurses and Midwives, policy makers, development partners, Pharmaceutical and Allied companies, government departments and Agencies and representatives of civil society and members of the mass media.

His Excellency, The Governor of Delta State, Dr Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan CON, FNPMC along with members of the State Executive Council attended the opening ceremony of the conference which he declared open. The Guest Lecture titled Establishing sub-specialization in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Nigeria: learning from the current European models was delivered by Prof. Leroy Edozien, a consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist practising in the United Kingdom and a member of the council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist of United Kingdom.

## **New Inductees**

Fifty new members spread across the country were inducted at the opening ceremony.

## **Awards and Honours**

Two senior members of SOGON were honoured with Distinguished Services Awards. Prof. Joseph A.M. Otubu received Excellence in Research Award, and Prof. Mutairu Ezimokhai received the excellence award in Health Administration. Three members were honoured for attaining the age of seventy. There were Dr. Felix Ekhaguere, Dr. M. A. Momodu and Dr. Modupe Akinluyi.

## **Pre-Conference workshop and scientific sessions**

Four Pre-Conference workshops were held with the following themes – Colposcopic assessment and ablative therapies, Fetal anatomical survey and Doppler velocimetry, critical skills in the management of primary post partum haemorrhage and research grant writing.

The scientific sessions consisted of 32 poster presentations, 43 original scientific papers. Three symposia and seven plenary sessions were held during the conference. Prof. Michael Diejomaoh delivered the Prof. Ojo Memorial Lecture titled – **Achieving sustainable improvements in women’s health in Nigeria**. The conference focused on capacity development in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as several aspects of women’s health including improving the use of modern family planning methods by women of reproductive age in Nigeria.

The Conference rounded up with a Banquet dinner on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 hosted by His Excellency, The Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan.

## **Arising from the Conference, the following Observations and Resolutions were made:**

1. To strengthen Emergency Obstetric Care at the Primary Health Care level through building capacity of middle level personnel on high impact Obstetrics interventions. To this end SOGON initiated Volunteer Obstetricians Scheme (VOS) should be rolled out nationally.

2. SOGON Commends the Federal Government for introducing the **SURE –P** and sustaining the **Midwifery Service Scheme (MSS)** programme. Congress however, noted the deterioration of the MSS due to poor funding and called all stake holders to renew their commitment towards the scheme by way of funding.
3. Congress notes the virtual absence of sub-specialty training in the country and recommends the acceleration of the development of sub-specialties in Obstetrics and Gynaecology towards high Tech Medical Care to stem the exodus of our citizens outside the country for specialised care. This will also encourage medical tourism into Nigeria
4. Congress notes the deficiency in the number of trained Obstetricians and Gynaecologist at an average of 1 to 180,000 population in the country and further observes the sub-optimal utilisation and mal-distribution of the trained available ones. Therefore government is encouraged to increase the training positions and engage and retain the trained specialist.
5. That family planning is a core issue in improving women’s health. The Federal Government policy of free family planning services in Nigeria and its commitment to provide substantial funding for family planning commodities is highly commendable. There is a call on government at all levels to embark on training and capacity building for long acting family planning methods.  
  
SOGON enjoins all its members and stakeholders to take advantage of the favourable Global and Government policy to ensure all Nigerian couples have access to effective family planning information and services.
6. SOGON notes and commends the Federal Government on its programme to eliminate mother- to- child transmission of HIV.

### **Election of new officers for the Society**

At the Annual General Meeting, the following members were elected to run the affairs of the Society for the next 3 years:

- **Prof J. I. Brian-D Adinma – President**

- **Dr. Oluwarotimi Ireti Akinola – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**
- **Professor Etedafe P. Gharoro --2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**
- **Dr. Chris Agboghroma--Secretary General**
- **Dr. Silas Ochejele – Honorary Treasurer**

### **Venue of 2015 Annual Scientific Conference/AGM**

The Conference unanimously adopted that the next edition of SOGON Annual Scientific Conference/AGM will hold in Abuja, in November 2015.

### **Appreciation**

SOGON is grateful to the Delta State Governor, His Excellence Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan for his support towards the very successful conference. We are also grateful to the members of the Delta State Executive Council, the MacArthur Foundation and other partners that supported the Conference.

Signed

**Prof J. I. Brian-D Adinma**  
President, SOGON

Signed

**Dr. Chris Agboghroma**  
Secretary General, SOGON