

## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING OF SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON) HELD IN IBADAN BETWEEN NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup> 2011**

The Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) held her Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Premier Hotel, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

The **Theme** of the Conference was **Promoting Universal Access to Maternal and Newborn Health** while the **Sub-Themes** were: Training the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Resident in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Ethical issues and litigation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology practice; The role of Computers in Reproductive Health.

The **Theme of the Pre-conference Workshop** was Diagnostics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The Conference attracted over 500 participants from within and outside Nigeria. These included Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Paediatricians, Nurses and Midwives, policy makers, representatives of development partners, Pharmaceutical and Allied companies, and representatives of Federal Medical institutions and members of the mass media.

The First Lady Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan who was the Special Guest at the opening ceremony was represented by the wife of the Senate President Chief(Mrs) Helen Mark.

Three state governors were also present at the opening ceremony; His Excellency, Senator Abiola Ajimobi (Executive Governor of Oyo State); Dr. Olusegun Mimiko (Executive Governor of Ondo State); Dr Emmanuel O.E Uduaghan (Executive Governor of Delta State).The Keynote Address Titled **Africa in a world of 7 billion.The case for meeting MDG 5a and b** was delivered by Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, the Executive Director of UNFPA and former Minister of Health.

### **New Inductees**

Sixty one new members were inducted at the opening ceremony.

## **Honourary Fellowship Awards OF SOGON**

Three eminent Nigerians and one Cameroonian were awarded Honorary Fellowship of our Society for their immense contribution to the improvement of women's health in Nigeria. They are; Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan (The First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria), Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State, Dr. Ejike Oji (Country Director of Ipas), Prof. Justin C. Konje (a renowned Obsterician and Gynaecologist from the United Kingdom).

The Pre-Conference Workshop was devoted to diagnostic modalities in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The Pre-Conference was unique in the sense that participants were availed of hands on practical exposure to modern facilities.

The scientific sessions consisted of 27 poster presentations, 133 original scientific papers, 9 sponsored symposia and 2 interactions with the press.

The conference focused on feasible best practices that will enhance women's health.

### **Arising from the above, the conference made the following resolutions:**

1. That the National Health Bill is very vital to the health of our people and therefore called on Mr. President to sign the Bill to further enhance the care of women and children in Nigeria.
2. That compulsory 'no blame' maternal mortality Audit for all maternal and neonatal deaths at orthodox, mission and traditional institutions be adopted as a national policy
3. That a functional Quality Assurance Unit be established within the Federal Ministry of Health to improve health care of our people
4. That simple, sustainable and cost-effective measures to reduce maternal and perinatal diseases and deaths such as the **Midwifery Service Scheme (MSS)** should be well supported and funded
5. That the various governments (Federal, State and Local) should make health facilities accessible through free maternal and child health care

policy and made more user-friendly for safe pregnancy and childbirth of our women, as well as care for our children. This will encourage our mothers and children to attend antenatal clinic, hospital delivery and care.

6. Those health care professionals utilise treatment modalities that are evidence-based to achieve global best practices for Nigerian women and newborns.
7. That SOGON endorses the internationally recognised maternal health care programmes e.g. free maternity and under-five services being implemented by some state governments and recommend their adoption nation wide
8. That health workers should be encouraged through adequate incentives to provide care for our rural community
9. That family planning is a core issue in improving women's health. Therefore, provision of family planning information and services should be readily available and accessible to all Nigerians.
10. That pre-pregnancy Folic acid administration which is known to reduce maternal anaemia and congenital malformations in the babies should be adopted as a policy for women planning for pregnancy
11. That SOGON reminds all doctors and nurses that pregnancy dating by ultrasound scan should be based on the earliest scan performed by trained personnel, as pregnancy dates cannot be changed by subsequent scans.
12. That prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV services should be free and compulsory for every pregnant woman in Nigeria. This is to reduce the burden of paediatric HIV in the country.

### **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:

- **Dr. Fred Achem – President**
- **Prof. J.I.B. Adinma – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

- **Dr. Habib M. Sadauki --2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**
- **Dr. Chris Agboghroma--Secretary General**
- **Dr. Silas Ochejele – Honorary Treasurer**

### **Venue of 2012 Annual Scientific Conference/AGM**

The Conference unanimously adopted that the 2012 edition of the Annual Scientific Conference/AGM should hold in Abakiliki, Ebonyi State.

**Dr. Fred Faruna Achem**  
President, SOGON

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