



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING OF SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON) HELD IN ABAKALIKI, EBONYI STATE, NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

The Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) held her Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting between November 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Osborn La Palm Royal Resort, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

The **Theme** of the Conference was **Challenges in managing gynaecological malignancies in resource poor setting**, while the **Sub-Themes** were: **Making Motherhood Safe; Gender Based Violence; Obstetrics Fistulas and Family Planning.**

The **Theme** of the **Pre-conference Workshop** was **Aids to Scientific Research & Publication and Gynaecological Endoscopy.**

The Conference attracted over 650 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.

Two state governors were present at the opening ceremony - His Excellency, Chief Martin Elechi CON, MFR (Executive Governor of Ebonyi State); Dr. Emmanuel E Uduaghan CON (Executive Governor of Delta State). The Honourable Minister of Health was represented by the Chief Medical Director of University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu. Dr. Olusegun Mimiko (Executive Governor of Ondo State) was represented by the Medical Director of Mother and Child Hospital, Ondo.

The Keynote Address titled **Making Motherhood Safe in Nigeria: How far have we gone?** was delivered by Emeritus Prof. Nimi Briggs, OON, FAS, former Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt.

## **New Inductees**

Sixty four new members were inducted at the opening ceremony.

## **SOGON Honourary Fellowship Awards**

Two eminent Nigerians were awarded Honorary Fellowship of our Society for their immense contribution to the improvement of women's health in Nigeria. They are; **His Excellency Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan (Executive Governor of Delta State) and Her Excellency Chief (Mrs) Josephine Elechi (Wife of the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State). Sir Dr. Cornelius Ovigho Agori-lwe JP was honoured for attaining the age of 70 years.**

The Pre-Conference Workshop was devoted to capacity building in manuscript writing and publication and Gynaecological Endoscopy. The Pre- Conference was unique in the sense that participants were availed of hands-on practical exposure to modern facilities.

The 2012 Directory of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Nigeria was successfully launched at the opening ceremony.

The scientific sessions consisted of 18 poster presentations, 109 original scientific papers, 5 sponsored symposia and plenary sessions. Prof E. E. Okpere delivered the Prof J. B. Lawson Memorial Lecture titled **Sub-specialization in Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Nigeria.**

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

The Conference rounded up with a State Banquet organised by the Government of Ebonyi State.

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

1. Maternal Health indices in Nigeria remain poor. The various levels of Government, non-governmental organizations and development partners in Nigeria are called upon to accelerate actions that will revert this trend.

2. The high incidence and case fatality of cancer of the cervix and cancer of the breast in our Society is worrisome. We call on Government and health care managers to introduce into the health care system, regular cervical screening and breast examinations in order to detect these conditions in the precancerous or early cancer stages.
3. SOGON Commends the Federal Government for introducing the **SURE –P** and sustaining the **Midwifery Service Scheme (MSS)** programme. If properly managed, these programmes have the potential to improve maternal health in the country.
4. To cater for the large numbers of VVF patients in Nigeria, Government should establish more VVF centres and support existing ones to improve their capacity and quality of care rendered to clients.  
Fistulae care in Nigeria should be made free.
5. SOGON will work with the Federal and States Ministry of Health to introduce Maternal Death Review (MDR) programme in the country. This will ensure all maternal deaths are properly investigated to identify preventable causes and how to prevent recurrence of similar deaths.
6. SOGON to commence Voluntary Obstetricians Scheme (VOS). This will involve voluntary engagement of Obstetricians in rural and sub-urban centres in the country. This is in response to the lack of trained providers in many parts of the country.
7. That sub-specialisation among Obstetricians and Gynaecologists should be introduced in Nigeria. The postgraduate medical colleges are encouraged to develop curriculum to actualise this. This will lead to improvement in the quality of care rendered to clients.
8. That a functional Quality Assurance Unit be established within the Federal Ministry of Health to improve health care of our people
9. 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 postnatal care.
10. That health care professional utilise treatment modalities that are evidence-based to achieve global best practices for Nigerian women and newborns.
11. That family planning is a core issue in improving women's health. The Federal Government recent declaration of free family planning services in Nigeria and its

commitment to provide substantial funding for family planning commodities is highly commendable.

SOGON enjoins all its members and stakeholders to take advantage of this favourable Government policy to ensure all Nigerian couples have access to family planning information and services.

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.
13. SOGON appreciates all persons and organizations that contributed to ensure a very successful conference. We are particularly grateful to our Chief Host and Executive Governor of Ebonyi State, Chief Martin Elechi and his wife; the Executive Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan and the Executive Governor of Ondo State, Dr Olusegun Mimiko.

#### **Venue of 2013 Annual Scientific Conference/AGM**

The Conference unanimously adopted that the 2013 edition of the Annual Scientific Conference/AGM should hold in Lagos.

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

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