

SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON)



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 47TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING OF SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON) HELD IN EKO HOTEL, LAGOS, NOVEMBER 27TH TO 29TH 2013

The Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) held her Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting between November 27th and 29th, 2013 at the Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos, Nigeria.

The **Theme** of the Conference was **Family Planning & Development in Nigeria**, while the **Sub-Themes** were: **Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Ethics in Reproductive Health Care and Improving Maternal and Newborn Health: Role of Primary Health Care.**

The Conference attracted over eight 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.

The Honourable Minister of Health was represented at the Opening Ceremony by the Director General of Nigeria Institute of Medical Research. The keynote address titled Role of International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) in Women's Health was delivered by Professor Wolfgang Holzgreve - Honorary Treasurer of FIGO.

New Inductees

One hundred 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. Oladipo Emmanuel Otolorin received Excellence in Service Award, in recognition of services to SOGON and Nigerian Women. Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewale received Excellence in Research Award, in recognition of his contribution to research and improvement in the health of women in Nigeria. Dr. Chief Oluyomi Finnih, a Past President of SOGON was honoured for attaining the age of 70 years.

Five Pre-Conference workshops were held with the following themes – Prenatal Diagnosis, Assisted Reproductive Technology, Endoscopy, Colposcopy and Neonatal Resuscitation. The Pre-Conference Workshops were unique in that they were devoted to capacity building in cutting edge technology.

The scientific sessions consisted of 42 poster presentations, 82 original scientific papers. Four symposia and eight plenary sessions were held during the conference. Prof. B. O Osinusi delivered the Prof. O. K. Ogan Memorial Lecture titled - **Maternal Mortality Reduction Programme - Lagos State Experience.**

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

The Conference rounded up with a Banquet dinner on Friday 29th November 2013.

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

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 at reversing this trend.
2. That family planning is a core issue in improving women's health. It remains a veritable means of preventing maternal death and a potent tool in socio economic and demographic re-engineering. 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 call for

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.

3. 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.
4. 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 by ensuring availability of trained and skilled birth attendance in all parts of the country.
5. SOGON commends the Federal Government and National Council on Health for the adoption of Maternal Death Review (MDR) as an initial step in Maternal Death Surveillance and Response in the country. SOGON will work with the Federal and States Ministry of Health and other agencies and departments in ensuring MDR programme is effectively introduced in the country. This will ensure all maternal deaths are accounted for by accurately reporting and investigating all maternal deaths to identify preventable causes and how to prevent recurrence of similar deaths.
6. The Conference appreciated the wiliness of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to partner with SOGON in introduction of the Voluntary Obstetricians Scheme (VOS) programme. This has the potential to significantly improve access to highly skilled manpower across the country.
7. That the various governments (Federal, State and Local) should make maternal health care services accessible through free maternal and child health care policy. Maternity services should be more user-friendly. This will encourage our mothers and children to attend antenatal clinic, hospital delivery and postnatal care. Respectful maternity care must be the focal point in all obstetrics practice in the country. The Conference strongly recommends the institutionalisation of

PARTOGRAPHY by ALL facilities conducting deliveries in Nigeria, for the monitoring of all cases of labour in the their care.

8. That prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV services should be free and compulsory for every pregnant woman in Nigeria. This will reduce the burden of paediatric HIV in the country.
9. SOGON notes the worrisome trends and consequences of the growing menace of MEDICAL TOURISM and calls on her skilled and knowledgeable members to enthrone quality medical care based on patient satisfaction; with financiers and skilled managerial partnership we would then, commence the arduous task of rescuing our nationals from the THROES of Medical Tourism, restoring our lost medical imagery and updating our training facilities.
10. SOGON appreciates all persons and organizations that contributed to ensure a very successful conference.

Venue of 2013 Annual Scientific Conference/AGM

The Conference unanimously adopted that the next edition of SOGON Annual Scientific Conference/AGM will hold in Asaba, Delta State in November 2014.

Signed

Dr. Fred Faruna Achem
President, SOGON

Signed

Dr. Chris Agboghroma
Secretary General, SOGON