

SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON)



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SOCIETY OF GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS OF NIGERIA (SOGON) HELD IN LADI KWALI CONFERENCE CENTRE, SHERATON HOTEL AND TOWERS, ABUJA, NIGERIA, NOVEMBER 24TH TO 27TH, 2015.

The Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) held her 9th International Congress, 49th Annual General Meeting and 50th year Anniversary of the Society between November 24th and 27th, 2015 at the Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, Nigeria.

The Conference attracted over one thousand participants from within and outside Nigeria. These included Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Paediatricians, Resident doctors, Nurses and Midwives, Politicians, Policy makers, Lawyers, Women's Rights Activists, Development partners, Pharmaceutical and Allied companies, Government departments and Agencies, representatives of civil society and members of the mass media.

The Theme of the Conference was SOGON at 50: Promoting Women's Health in Nigeria, while the Sub-Themes were: Advances in infertility management and fertility regulation; Safety nets in maternity healthcare in Nigeria; The Mother, Newborn and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and Reproductive Health Cancers.

Her Excellency, The First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – H.E. Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, who was represented by H.E. Dr. Zainab Atiku Bagudu, the First Lady of Kebbi State, declared the congress open. The Minister of Health who is a member of SOGON, Prof. Isaac. F. Adewole, was in attendance also and represented

the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo. Also in attendance at the opening ceremony were the Executive Governor of Ondo state, His Excellency Dr. Olusegun Mimiko and his counterpart from Anambra State, Dr. Willie Obiano represented by his Deputy, Dr. Nkem Okeke. The President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) of the United Kingdom, Prof. David Hugh Richmond was among other dignitaries that graced the occasion. The Jubilee Guest Lecture titled “Patient safety – who is responsible?” was delivered by Prof. Paul Fogarty, the Senior Vice President of RCOG.

New Inductees

Ninety new members from across the country – including the wife of the Governor of Niger State H.E. Dr Amina Sani Bello were inducted at the opening ceremony.

Awards and Honours

The Executive Governor of Anambra State, Dr. Willie Obiano and Dr. Kees Waaldjik of the Fistula Hospital kastina were admitted as Honorary members of SOGON. Professor Linus Ajobor got the Jubilee Award. The former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Emeritus Prof. Nimi Briggs, was awarded the 2015 Distinguished Service Award in Administration while Dr. Yomi Ajayi was awarded 2015 Distinguished Service Award for his services to SOGON and Nigerian Women. Five members were honoured for attaining the age of seventy. They include Professor E. E. Emuveyan, Dr. M. I. Anozie, Dr. Charles O. Osula, Dr H. Akanwa and Dr. S. A. Griffin.

Pre-Conference Workshop and Scientific Sessions

Four Pre-Conference workshops were held with the following themes –

- Simulation hands-on training in Reproductive Health sponsored and organized by JHPIEGO.
- Hand-held Vacuum device in assisted delivery.
- Kiwi, the latest innovation in Obstetrics; Hands-on training on intra-uterine insemination.
- Doppler Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The scientific sessions consisted of 40 poster presentations, 67 original scientific papers, 10 symposia and 3 plenary sessions. Prof. Osato Giwa-Osagie delivered the

Prof. Ogan Memorial Lecture titled – Pioneering research and practice in infertility. The inaugural Frontiers of Medical Education Lecture, in honour of Prof. Linus Ajobor was delivered by Prof Friday Okonofua. The conference also featured sessions for the African Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AFOG) and RCOG meetings.

The conference focused on various issues relating to maternal and sexual and reproductive health. The transition from the MDGs to SDGs was a major focus in this conference. In addition, the need to upgrade training curriculum in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education was raised and the contribution of SOGON to the attainment of this goal highlighted.

The SOGON HOUSE built almost exclusively by the contribution of SOGON members under the able leadership of the president, Prof. Brian I. Adinma, within a period of three months, was commissioned by the Hon. Minister of Health, Prof I.F. Adewole. The Conference rounded up with a Banquet dinner on Friday 27th November 2015. The thematic areas of special interest to SOGON were stressed. To help achieve some of its objectives, three committees were set up. These were the Continuous Professional Development (CPD), the Ethics development committee and the curriculum review committee.

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

1. There is need to maintain and improve on the momentum already gained in the pursuit of the MDGs, in achieving the SDGs.
2. There is dire need of greater political will on the part of Government in the formulation and implementation of policies to enhance maternal and newborn health.
3. SOGON has made giant strides in improving maternal health in Nigeria, including care for the internally displaced persons in the north-eastern part of the country.
4. SOGON is committed to implementing the Volunteer Obstetrician Scheme (VOS), as its specific contribution to improving maternal health.
5. There is need by the Federal Ministry of Health to fast-track the implementation of the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) – an initiative of SOGON.
6. The Government of Nigeria should increase funding for postgraduate medical education as a way of improving its quality, to meet international standards.

7. The urgent need to revise the curriculum of medical education in Nigeria.
8. Sub-specialization in obstetrics and gynaecology should be accelerated.
9. The conference condemns the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the medicalization of the practice and called on government and its members to stop these practices at every level.
10. 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.

Venue of 2016 Annual Scientific Conference/AGM

The Conference unanimously adopted that the next edition of SOGON Annual Scientific Conference/AGM will hold in Ondo State based on invitation by the Executive Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, in November 2016 while Sokoto was awarded the hosting right for the 2017 edition.

Appreciation

SOGON is grateful to the wife of the president, Mrs. Aisha Mohamadu Buhari, the Hon. Minister for Health, Dr. Isaac Adewole and the numerous guests that made the conference, one to be remembered. We are also grateful to the various organisations that sponsored and contributed to the success of the 9th International Congress and 50th year anniversary celebration.

Signed

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

Signed

Dr. Chris Agboghoroma
Secretary General, SOGON

