

## **REPORT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (PSN) TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE PSA17 OF CPA IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 27<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017.**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) is happy to once more be an active member of CPA. Kudos to our visionary and purposeful President, Pharm. Ahmed I. Yakasai, FPSN, FNAPharm, FNIM. It is our pleasure to give a brief of our numerous activities as follows:

### **1. CONSULTANCY STATUS FOR GRADUATES OF WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS (WAPCP)**

The pursuit of Consultancy Status for holders of Fellowship Certificate of WAPCP by Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria got a giant leap with the recent release of two circulars from the Federal Ministry of Health in 2015. The first circular was for all tertiary health institutions in Nigeria to grant residency training permit to pharmacists who are on postgraduate programme of WAPCP in the hospital facilities. The second circular was to the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation intimating the Permanent Secretary in charge of creation of Consultant Cadre for Civil/Public Pharmacists. Sustained pressure is being mounted at the appropriate quarters of government through recent visits to Head of Civil Service of the Federation. Presently the coast appears clear for eloquent testimonies in the not too distant future.

### **2. 89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

This took place in Minna from Monday 7 to Saturday 12 November 2016. The conference was well attended. At the end of the Conference Annual General Meeting, the pharmacists below were elected in the reflected capacities:

1. Pharm. Ahmed I. Yakasai, FPSN, FNAPharm, FNIM - President
2. Pharm. John Enger, FPSN, KSM, FICEN - Deputy President (North)
- 3 Pharm. (Dr.) Dan Orumwense, FPSN, FPCPharm - Deputy President (South)
4. Pharm. Gbolagade Iyiola, MAW - National Secretary
5. Pharm. Uzoma Nwigudu - Asst. National Secretary
6. Pharm. Emeka Duru - National Treasurer
7. Pharm. (Mrs) Chinyere Osakwe - National Financial Secretary
8. Pharm. Amid Olanrewaju Alege, MAW - Internal Auditor
- 9 Pharm. (Dr.) Arinola Joda, Ph.D, MAW - National Publicity Secretary
10. Pharm. (Prof ) Bolajoko Aina - Editor-in-Chief
11. Pharm. Victor Okwuosa, FPSN - Unofficial Member
12. Pharm. Idris Pada, FPSN, FPCPharm - Unofficial Member
13. Pharm. Olumide Akintayo, FPSN, FPCPharm, FNAPharm, FNIM- Immediate Past President

The 90th Annual National Conference of PSN is scheduled to hold at Umuahia, Abia State from Monday, 6 to Saturday, 11 November, 2017. The theme of the Conference is: "Medicine Availability and National Security"

### **3. INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION (FIP)**

The 76th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 28 August to 1 September, 2016. The President, Pharm. Ahmed I. Yakasai, FPSN, FNAPharm, FNIM led a delegation of about fifty (50) Nigerian

Pharmacists to the Congress. The 2017 FIP Congress is scheduled to hold in Seoul, South Korea from 10 to 14 September, 2017. The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria is already making arrangements for its members.

#### 4. FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH (FMOH).

Efforts are also galvanized at ensuring the success of the recently approved new National Drug Distribution Guidelines which is targeted at total eradication of drug markets from our city centres with the introduction of Coordinated Wholesale Centres (CWC) with takeoff date of August 1, 2017. The stakeholders in the open drug markets are currently being trained on the regulatory requirements for the CWC. This is to put a total end to the chaotic drug distribution in Nigeria.

#### 5. WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY/WORLD DISEASE DAYS.

The World Pharmacists Day took place on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2016. Many State branches and technical groups hosted awareness programmes to celebrate the day. The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria hosted a press briefing in commemoration of the day. In the same vein, World Disease Days have been celebrated with Press Releases by the President in the last one year.

#### 6. COLLABORATION WITH HOWARD UNIVERSITY PHARMACY CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRE (HUPACE).

PSN recently signed MOU with HUPACE to enable pharmacists participate in the Strengthening of Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services (SIDHAS) project in Nigeria. The MOU is billed to bring a mutually beneficial relationship through which PSN will support SIDHAS objectives by;

- a) Encouraging enhance capacity and participation of community pharmacists to render services including early tuberculosis (TB) detection and referral, HIV testing and counseling (HTC), STI prevention etc.
- b) Providing pharmacy services in the community ART program and of strengthening anti-retroviral (ARV) refills at community pharmacies.
- c) Encouraging community pharmacists to act as preceptors and supervisors to provide an integrated service delivery model that appropriately links clinical and pharmaceutical services in the health facility and care services in the community.

PSN and PCN have designated registered community pharmacies as treatment centres for Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) for tuberculosis and provision of ARV for stable HIV clients. Lagos and Rivers State are currently being used as pilot centres.

#### 7. PHARMACISTS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (PCN).

The Council has been very proactive in its bid to reposition pharmacy practice in the country. The reflected are some highlights of PCN activities in the last few months:

1. PCN has step up enforcement, monitoring and control activities in a number of states of federation through the zonal/state offices.
2. The National Assembly in a recent resolution urged PCN to close down all unregistered premises in the country and ensure that safe, quality and affordable medicines are available to Nigerians. This resolution is being used by PCN as

advocacy tool to secure strong security cover for enforcement activities.

3. PCN is commencing the pre-registration examination prior to registration in Nigeria. The examination is billed to hold in August 2017 for those new pharmacists who has successfully completed their internship programme.

4. PCN has forwarded a memo to the Federal Ministry of Health seeking for the establishment of a centrally coordinated internship training programme under the auspices of the Federal Government in PCN approved centres. The aim is to reduce the difficulty in securing placement for internship training by the pharmacy graduates.

#### 8. APPROVAL OF PHARM. D BY NUC

The National Universities Commission (NUC) in July 2016 gave final approval to the implementation of Pharm. D curriculum in Nigeria as basic minimum qualifications to practice pharmacy in Nigeria. A good number of universities with Faculties of Pharmacy have been given full NUC accreditation to run Pharm. D curriculum.

During the recent advocacy visit to the Executive Secretary of NUC, Prof. Rasheed A. Adamu by PSN and PCN, approval was also given to harmonize the Fellowship program of WAPCP with postgraduate degrees in pharmacy, the students who completed part one and two of the fellowship programme will be expected to obtained masters and Ph.D degree in addition to a course work/project after six months and one year respectively.

#### 9. National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

The PSN in the last one year had continued to call for appointment of a qualified pharmacist as the substantive Director General of NAFDAC to replace Mrs Yetunde Oni, a chemist who had been in acting capacity for over a year.

#### 10. ON-GOING PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA PROJECTS

The President in Council has received the endorsement of National Council to implement new projects geared towards uplifting the practice environment which includes:

1. Group Insurance for Pharmacists – over 1000 insured for death through accidents.

2. Hoisting of Medicines Information Centre at the National Secretariat of PSN in collaboration with the UK Medicine Information Centre and Health Monitor Ltd.

3. PSN I.D. Card and Certificate Scheme – over 1500 delivered till date.

4. Collaboration with Nigerian Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) to commercialise the production of Niprisan and put it on the shelf of pharmacies for the treatment of Sickle cell anaemia.

4. Upgraded PSN website.

5. Judicial Redress of Offensive Statutes. National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN) matters Joint Health Sector workers Union (JOHESU) vs Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), JOHESU vs Medical & Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Alliance of Health Professionals Association (AHPA) vs Federal Government of Nigeria.

6. Negotiations for improved welfare for hospital pharmacists are ongoing.

## 11. PSN INTERVENTION IN PHARMA INDUSTRY

PSN has intervened in the 20% Import Adjustment Tax (IAT) recently imposed by the Federal Government of Nigeria on imported finished medicines which has created disharmony among the major stakeholders in the pharma industry. The impact of 20% IAT and the prevailing forex scarcity have skyrocketed prices of medicines. This scenario is already leading to scarcity of essential medicines in the country. PSN in a strongly worded open letter to the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, GCON, SAN canvassed for a review of the 20% IAT. Earlier last year in an advocacy visit to President Buhari, PSN requested for a zero import tariff for pharmaceutical raw materials.

## 12. ADVOCACY VISITS

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) and NEC members made several advocacy visits to key personalities and parastatals whose activities have direct/indirect impact on the practice of pharmacy in the year under review.

Among several others, these include:

- His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- His Excellency, General Ibrahim Babangida (Rtd), Former Military President of Nigeria.
- His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje Executive Governor of Kano State.
- His Excellency, Alhaji Abubakar Sanni Bello, Executive Governor of Niger State.
- His Excellency, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, Executive Governor of Abia State.
- Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara, Speaker, Federal House of Representatives.
- Prof. Isaac F. Adewole, FAS, Honourable Minister of Health.
- Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita, Head of Civil Service of the Federation
- Prof. Abubakar Adamu, mni, Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission.
- Dr. Mas'ud A. Kazaure, mni, Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education.
- Mr Ibrahim Idris, mni, Inspector General of Police.

These visits were geared towards improving the practice environment and encouraging harmony in the health sector.

PSN wishes CPA a blissful and eventful conference in Australia.

HON. PHARM. JOHN ENGER, FPSN, KSM  
PSN COUNCILLOR

PHARM. GBOLAGADE IYIOLA, MAW  
NATIONAL SECRETARY, PSN