

**27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM OF THE WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS (WAPCP) HELD AT THE WELCOME CENTRE HOTEL LAGOS NIGERIA, 29TH JUNE – 2ND JULY, 2015
COMMUNIQUÉ**

The West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) held her 27th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium at the Welcome Centre Hotel Lagos, Nigeria, from 29th June – 2nd July, 2015. The theme of Conference was “*Diseases of Public Health Importance in West Africa*”, and the sub-themes were ‘*Pharmaceutical Sector Response in the Management of Ebola Virus Disease*’ and ‘*Intra-pharmacy Collaboration in the Management of Public Health Diseases*’.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Prince Julius Adelusi Adeluyi *mni*, *FPCPharm*. Barr Danladi Kifashi, CFR, Head of Service, Federal Republic of Nigeria represented by Dr (Mrs) Amina Bello Shamaki, *mni*, Director, Special Duties, declared the conference open. Other important dignitaries, included Mr L.N. Awute *mni*, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria, represented by Dr (Mrs) Vera Ogbechie, Director Food and Drugs Services, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria; Dr (Mrs) K. Omodele, Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, represented by Dr E. Erinosh, Director, Disease Control; Dr Paul Orhii, Director General, NAFDAC, represented by Dr Monica Izamoje, Director, Registration and Regulation, NAFDAC; President of WACS, Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun, and Prof K.S. Gamaniel, Director General, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research & Development, Nigeria. Delegates from member countries, viz. The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, attended the conference.

Dr (Mrs) Ogori Taylor, *FPCPharm*, WHO National Medicines Adviser (Nigeria), presented the Keynote Address. Conference sub-themes were presented by Rev T.T. Tyee, Sr (Liberia) and Mr Edward Amporful (Ghana). A total of 15 podium and 11 posters were presented.

Goodwill message was received from West African College of Surgeons (one of the Sister Colleges).

Conference deliberated on the theme and sub-themes of the symposium and other contemporary health related issues and noted as follows:

1. The induction of 171 new Fellows of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists into various specialties of pharmacy.
2. The growing incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases of public health interest and the burden on the populace in terms of morbidity, mortality and the attendant cost.
3. Antimicrobial resistance, due to irrational use of drugs, contributes to the re-emergence of many diseases. Consequently, pharmacists should continue to promote responsible use of antibiotics.
4. The commendable efforts of the governments of Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone in the control of the Ebola Virus Disease and recommended the need to strengthen the capacity of health work force to respond to health emergencies.
5. The need for intra- and inter-professional collaboration among healthcare workers towards improved service delivery.

The conference recommended:

- 1 The need to strike a balance between access and control of use of medicines, especially narcotics in palliative care. Decentralisation of procurement and distribution is an effective strategy to promote access.
- 2 Communication and advocacy in emergencies should be targeted at identifiable community leaders.
- 3 The training curricula of Pharmacy in the region should include competencies required to deliver services appropriate to meet regional health challenges.

The conference then resolved:

- 1 To focus on operational research for the purpose of addressing contemporary healthcare related challenges.
- 2 To hold the 28th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium and 58th Council meeting of WAPCP in Liberia in March 2016.

At the end of the AGM, the following were elected principal officers of the College for 2015/2017 biennium:

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| a. | Rev T T Tyee, Sr | - | President (Liberia) |
| b. | Mr Harrison K Abutiata | - | 1 st Vice Present (Ghana) |
| c. | Prof (Mrs) Cecilia I Igwilo | - | 2 nd Vice President (Nigeria) |
| d. | Prof Wilson O Erhun | - | Secretary General (Nigeria) |
| e. | Mrs Markieu Janneh Kaira | - | Deputy Secretary General (The Gambia) |
| f. | Major Thomas W Tucker | - | Treasurer (Sierra Leone) |
| g. | Dr Ibrahim Oreagba | - | Editor-in-Chief (Nigeria) |

Conference expresses its profound appreciation to His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the good people of Nigeria for their warm reception and hospitality.

(Sgd)

Rev T T Tyee, Sr, FPCPharm
PRESIDENT, WAPCP

(Sgd)

Prof W O Erhun, FPCPharm
SECRETARY GENERAL, WAPCP