



APHPN NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Public Health Physicians
of Nigeria

FEATURES

From the President

PAGE 1

Update from the Secretariat

PAGE 2

Public Health Spotlight:
Creating a Functional Health System for
Nigeria

PAGE 3

News in Brief

PAGE 5

Appointments and Promotions

PAGE 6

APHPN 38th Annual General Meeting
and Scientific Conference - Ilorin 2022

PAGE 7

Global Public Health Dates

PAGE 8

EDITORIAL BOARD

Omosivie Maduka - Editor
Ulunma Mariere
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From the President

PROF. ALPHONSUS ISARA

It is with much joy and a sense of fulfilment that I write to you in this second quarter of the year of our Lord 2022. We have vigorously pursued the implementation of the decisions reached at the last annual general meeting in Ilorin. The membership of the APHPN Board of Trustees (BOT) has been changed at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Prof. Ayuba Zoakah has been fully decorated as a member of APHPN BOT. The business arm of APHPN christened APHPN Consultancy Services Ltd (ACSL) has also been registered with the CAC. APHPN is currently carrying out a nationwide study on the perception of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination by Nigerian civil servants. The APHPN Journal website was recently launched and this will serve as a precursor to the indexing of the journal in many highly rated academic indexing bodies. The bi-monthly series of APHPN webinars has commenced. All these great achievements were made possible by the hard work, dedication and commitment of APHPN members. The EXCO remain grateful to you all.

You will agree with me that the second quarter of 2022 has been eventful for APHPN. Our association recorded tremendous public health activities in many states of the country. Notable days of public health importance such as World Health Day, World Malaria Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Hypertension Day, and World Immunization Week were celebrated in many states. The media and stakeholders' engagements, community mobilization and public enlightenments



on topical issues such as the monkeypox outbreak, sickle cell disease, and health insurance were commendable. State branches should maintain this momentum and do more to sustain our presence in the Nigerian public health space.

As you are all aware, the 2023 APHPN conference holding in Port Harcourt is just six months away. It is my pleasure to inform you that one of our partners Ave Health Sense have fulfilled her commitment to APHPN by releasing the sum of ₦250,000.00 (two hundred and fifty thousand naira), being the Professor Tanimola Makanjuola Akande Annual Grant for APHPN Conference Planning, to the local organizing committee. On behalf of the BOT, executive council and members of APHPN, I sincerely register my appreciation to the Chief Executive Officer and team members of Ave Health Sense.

As always, I encourage APHPN members to contribute to the APHPN newsletter and give regular feedback to the Editorial team. I wish you a happy reading.

Update from the Secretariat

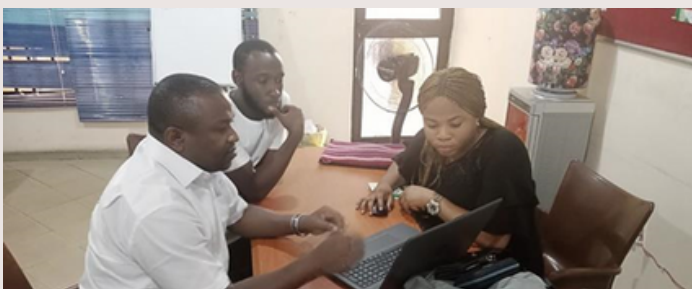
DR ALPHONSUS AIGBIREMOLEN

Some significant milestones in APHPN were attained in this quarter in our quest for a more viable and robust association that meets the yearnings of its members and the expectations of the public. These important achievements and other events are:

Rebranding of APHPN website and launching of APHPN Journal online: The official website of APHPN has been rebranded to have better aesthetics and content. The website, www.aphpn-ng.net now has sections for state reports allowing APHPN state branches to showcase their activities to the global community. In addition, the Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care (JCMPHC) is now available online at <https://jcmphc.org> providing a platform to increase the readership of articles published by APHPN members and other professionals. The website also contains all previous editions of the Journal. These two milestones were made possible through the collaboration between APHPN and Ave Health Sense Limited.

Key activities during the period include:

- The partnership between APHPN and World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) was further strengthened with the creation of login access for APHPN members on the WCEA platform. With this development, members now have personalized access to all WCEA resources.
- Registration of APHPN Consultancy Services (ACSL): Deriving from the mandate of the AGM held in Ilorin in March 2022, ACSL has been incorporated in Nigeria. ACSL is the business arm of APHPN with a mission to render quality consultancy services in the Nigerian health sector through professionals practising public health in communities across the length and breadth of Nigeria.
- Three lock-up stores have been allocated to APHPN at the Kuje Ultra-Modern Market and will soon be available for rent or lease. The stores were paid for earlier this year following the recommendations of the APHPN Investment Committee.



APHPN Secretary-General reviewing posts on the APHPN website with APHPN Admin staff, and Ave Health sense staff in Abuja



APHPN Secretary-General on a visit to the Chairman, FCT Branch, Dr. Sebastine Esomonu

The Secretary-General paid a visit to Ave Health Sense Limited where he interacted with the technical team supporting the maintenance of the APHPN website. He also paid a visit to the Chairman of APHPN FCT branch. The Secretary-General used the opportunity to appreciate the Chairman and members of FCT for their support for the operation of the Liaison Office.



Journal of Community Medicine & Primary Health Care Launches Website

In a bid to continue to improve the quality, and increase the readership of publications and visibility of the Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care (JCMPHC), an official website of the journal (<https://jcmphc.org/>) has been launched. The website has also been created to facilitate the online submission of manuscripts by authors. Therefore, authors are encouraged to submit their manuscripts online.

The journal website can also be accessed via the APHPN website - <https://aphpn-ng.net>

For more information or enquiries, kindly visit the journal website: <https://jcmphc.org/>

Entrepreneurship in Public Health Practice

DAPRIM OGAJI

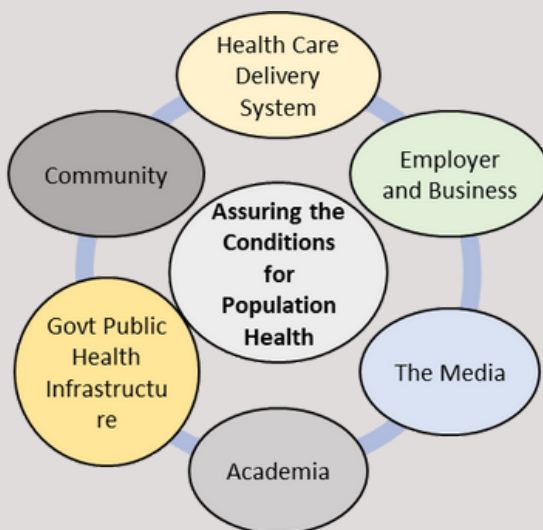


Daprim S.T Ogaji
MBBS (UPH), MQI (Helsinki), MBA (New South Wales), PhD (Manchester), MNIM, FMCPH, FISQUa

INTRODUCTION

Public health practice as a major and critical aspect of healthcare delivery is rapidly expanding with the emergence of new stakeholders and challenges that pose a great risk to population health in recent times. The intervention of the public sector in matters relating to population health is now becoming inadequate and strained. This trend provides imperatives for private sector participation in the delivery of public health services. Private sector involvements in public health practice are expected to operate under legally recognised for-profit or not-for-profit enterprises which may be owned by one person, a partnership, corporation or a limited liability company. To support the growth of private participation in the delivery of public health services, training on entrepreneurship is required to develop the capacity of individuals who intend to venture into private practice in the field of public health. Entrepreneurship is now a mandatory course at both undergraduate and graduate levels in many universities in Nigeria. There are also opportunities for the self-development of entrepreneurs outside the university system. This presentation is premised on the notion that entrepreneurship is a transferable skill that can be taught and learned. After going through this discourse, the reader should be able to:

- Understand the meaning of entrepreneurship and enterprise
- Know how entrepreneurship is driven in Nigeria
- Be aware of some entrepreneurship opportunities in public health practice
- Understand various types of entrepreneurial start-ups for public health practitioners
- Design strategies for starting new public health practice
- Understand some challenges that public health entrepreneurs may face in Nigeria.



**FIGURE 1:
THE PUBLIC
HEALTH SYSTEM**

Definition of concepts

Despite a lack of consensus on the most appropriate definition of entrepreneurship, there is a gradual convergence on the key requirements that define entrepreneurship such as vision, change, and creation of value (Kuratko and Hodgetts, 2004). Entrepreneurship can simply be defined as the process of forming a new business or commercial enterprise. Similarly, entrepreneurship is the process of expending efforts and resources to create something valuable, bearing the associated financial, psychological, and social risks; and receiving the resultant rewards in financial value, personal satisfaction and independence of decision making (Pahuja, 2015). From these definitions, an entrepreneur is anyone who drives this process through searching, identifying, responding and exploiting opportunities that would lead to the creation and management of an enterprise for public value and wealth creation.

Entrepreneurs are keen on identifying potentially valuable and/or profitable opportunities and then going forward to develop strategies that would drive the idea from the laboratory to the marketplace (Baumbach and Mancuso, 1975). Although entrepreneurship often involves the creation of new businesses (services or products), it could also occur within an existing public or private business (intrapreneurship) with the latter driven by employees responsible for transformative innovation and growth in public or private businesses (intrapreneurs or corporate entrepreneurs).

Professor Daprim Ogaji is a Professor of Public Health and Health Systems in the University of Port Harcourt. He can be reached at the African Centre for Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research, University of Port Harcourt. or via email at daprim.ogaji@uniport.edu.ng

Public health is commonly defined as the “art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society” (Acheson, 1988). This definition illustrates the need for close collaboration among all structures in society for the effective delivery of public health services. The practice of public health involves the mobilization and engagement of local, state, national, and international resources to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. It can be deciphered from the foregoing that public health activities are undertaken to provide solutions to health, social, political, and economic challenges. As such, public health operates as a system, a profession, a method, public service, private service, individual responsibility, and collective responsibility in accordance with the Institute of Medicine framework.

Context

There are increasingly attractive entrepreneurship opportunities in public health which is influenced by the rapid population growth; complexities in the pattern of diseases and interventions; increasing need for more public health services and products; competition for limited public resources and opportunities; limited capacities in the public sector; increasing emphasis and rewards for ingenuity and productivity; globalization and exchange of ideas, initiatives and growth opportunities; growth and competition in local and international businesses and support for the establishment of micro, small and medium scale enterprises in the local setting. There is a need for current and future public health practitioners and enthusiasts to get involved in establishing public health enterprises that would provide solutions to the mirage of challenges in society.

Public Health Enterprise

Based on the scale and number of employees, public health enterprises can be seen as micro, small or medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs). These categories of business remain the engine of growth in many countries of the world. In Nigeria, Micro (1 - 9 employees) Small (10 - 49 employees), and Medium Enterprises (50 - 249 employees) are generally referred to as enterprises. There are more than 37 million MSMEs in Nigeria accounting for more than 84% of jobs, contributing at least 48.5% of GDP and 7.27% of exports. There are emerging and exciting opportunities for entrepreneurs in public health practice with the introduction of the newer model of social enterprise that combines all the principles of charity and profit model to ensure the sustainability of public health interventions. An inexhaustive list of entrepreneurial opportunities in public health practice includes the establishment and management of the following outfits:

- Preventive Clinic
- Data Clinic
- Wellness/wholeness/lifestyle medicine
- ICT and System Solutions
- Generic Public Health Consultancy
- Specialised Public Health Consultancy (along subdisciplines of public health)
- Community Health/Foundation/NGO
- Health Campaign and Promotion
- Research Entrepreneur
- Manufacturing of Health Products e.g., vitamins, minerals, probiotics, etc

Important steps to take in establishing a public health enterprise is shown in figure 2. However, every public health entrepreneur must provide answers to critical questions before venturing into the establishment of an enterprise. These questions revolve around the who, what, how and afterwards, s/he must proceed to answer questions on the why, where, and when? Providing honest answers to these questions would support the development of the enterprise within a niche of comparative advantage. Effective strategies for implementing the plan for the establishment of the enterprise will comprise the prescriptive (showing what to do) and the description elements (showing how to do it).

As the entrepreneur is central to the enterprise, a comprehensive self-assessment before venturing into establishing a public health enterprise is a sine qua non. This would enable the prospective entrepreneur to know his interest and capabilities. The background training, degrees, license, and certification of the practitioner, as well as his/her experience, interest, risk profile, resources, and network, are important considerations at the early phase of planning the public health enterprise.

Professionals within the public health practice space may operate as generic professionals (consultants/enthusiasts) or they may be engaged in specific subdisciplines within the multidisciplinary public health practice. The latter involves setting up practices for interventions around environmental health; occupational health; health systems; health information; health administrator; epidemiologist; public health project management or public health educator.

The core competencies required to be a successful entrepreneur in public health practice like other ventures include cognitive skills; conceptual skills; ability to develop plans (corporate, business, and operational); communication skills; marketing skills; interpersonal skills; management skills; leadership skills. The prospective entrepreneurs should conduct a self-assessment of their entrepreneurial prowess using the scale in table 1. A score ≥ 54.6 (score range of 13 to 65), corresponding to 80% will be reassuring for the prospective entrepreneur. Additional hallmarks of successful entrepreneurs are their abilities to identify opportunities, develop networks, drive strategic vision, commercialize their services/products and harness resources for the enterprise.

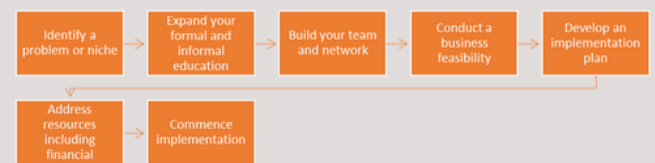


FIGURE 2: CRITICAL STEPS IN ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEALTH ENTERPRISE

The job of an entrepreneur is quite challenging and revolves around innovation and taking initiative; preparing business plans; organising resources; setting up the business entity; measuring and managing risk; analysing opportunities and threats; monitoring the development and growth of the business; providing leadership; supervision and control; ensuring appropriate knowledge management and coordinating the social responsibility of the enterprise.

To answer questions on the where and when of the new venture, a business feasibility study should be conducted, and findings used to develop the business plan. A comprehensive business plan will include the corporate strategy (goal, objectives, vision, mission, and values), environmental assessment (e.g., SWOT, PESTILI), business operations (personnel, finance, operations, knowledge, supply chain, culture, marketing/promotion, quality, risk, change management) and forecast. Before commencing operations, the enterprise must fulfil legal and regulatory requirements such as registration and annual filing with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the state where the enterprise is located and for limited liability companies, registration with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is essential. Other registration required in most cases are with the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) and the National Pension Commission (PENCOM).

Sustainability of the Public Health Enterprise

Foundation companies or start-ups can be formed from research and development activities carried out in universities, research institutes, or large corporate organisations. This could result in scalable ventures with attractive high growth potentials that would arouse great interest from investors. It is critical to consider issues around intellectual property (patents, copyrights, trademarks, brand names, trade secrets) early in the establishment of the business venture. Irrespective of the type of setups (small business, buyable, scalable, offshoot), most business enterprises go through a similar lifecycle encompassing launch/development, growth, shake-out, maturity, and renewal/decline. Consequently, business sustainability should be considered from the time of establishing the business. Critical sustainability pillars of a private-public health enterprise include resourcefulness, adaptive leadership, partnership, a strong monitoring system, a clear communication plan, zero tolerance for corruption, capacity building of staff, and working with a commercial mindset.

Assessment of entrepreneurial prowess (1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum))					
Skills	Scoring				
	1	2	3	4	5
Being passionate					
Being proactive and self-motivated					
Being business savvy					
Level of self-confidence					
Ability to make a business plan.					
Ability to manage resources					
Being a visioner					
Willingness to take a risk and live with high uncertainty					
Mental abilities					
Creative skills					
Staying power (not giving up)					
Technical skills area of business interest					
Ability to lead teams					

Table 1. Self-assessment of entrepreneurial prowess

Consequently, business sustainability should be considered from the time of establishing the business. Critical sustainability pillars of a private-public health enterprise include resourcefulness, adaptive leadership, partnership, a strong monitoring system, a clear communication plan, zero tolerance for corruption, capacity building of staff, and working with a commercial mindset.

Risk Management

Risk analysis and management is an important aspect of effective business management as it guarantees the continuity of the business despite surprises and challenges during implementation. The business implementation plan should include a structured risk management framework that provides for the deliberate and conscious identification, assessment, and management of risk; contingency arrangements to ensure that enterprise progresses as desired with minimal deviations to the satisfaction of all stakeholders; timely and effective communication and management of change with the involvement of stakeholders. The risk management process - risk identification, risk evaluation, risk handling, and risk controlling. The risk score for identified risk is a product of the likelihood of occurrence of that risk (1 - rare, 2 - unlikely, 3 - possible, 4 - likely, 5 - almost certain) by the impact if that risk occurs (1 - insignificant, 2 - minor, 3 - serious, 4 - disastrous, 5 - catastrophic).

Challenges and Support for the Enterprise

Enterprises as open systems are influenced by the vagaries of the external operating environment. Typical challenges faced by old and emerging businesses in Nigeria include the high cost of business financing, power and other support infrastructure, multiple taxations, policy/regulatory changes, lack of market information and difficulties in hiring and retaining appropriately skilled human resources. Some of the government incentives to support MSMEs are administered through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Bank of Industry (BOI) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). However, entrepreneurs should be proactive to ensure the survival of their enterprises in chaotic business environments like Nigeria. Being proactive will require inculcating a commercial mindset, innovativeness in all aspects of the business and having an obsession with responsiveness to customers' needs and preferences.

Conclusion

Prospective entrepreneurs in public health practice should see the creation of value and proffering solutions to public health challenges in the population as core motivation. Based on the above consideration, the reader is invited to exploit the various entrepreneurial opportunities in public health practice in Nigeria.

News in Brief

BY OMOSIVIE MADUKA & TERKAA BITTO

APHPN EDO STATE BRANCH PAID COURTESY VISIT TO A RETIRED APHPN MEMBER

The Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN), Edo State branch paid a courtesy visit to her Pioneer branch Chairman in the person of Dr. (Mrs.) E. S. Ilubera. Dr. Ilubera retired from the services of Edo State Government as a Permanent Secretary in 2009. It was indeed a joyous moment for everyone present as she welcomed the team to her home with so much excitement exuding from her. She marveled at the fact that she was remembered and honoured with a plaque for her meritorious service over the years and encouraged the team to keep up the good work. In his response, the APHPN National President, Prof. Alphonsus Isara thanked her for receiving APHPN and also encouraged other State branches to emulate the Edo State branch and reach out to their founding members and honour them while they are still alive.



The executives of APHPN, Lagos branch presenting a birthday gift to the PS during the courtesy visit.



From L to R: Treasurer, APHPN Edo State, Dr. Orezimena Omo-Ikirodah, Prof. Stephana Ighedosa, Dr. (Mrs.) E. S. Ilubera, APHPN National President, Prof. Alphonsus Isara, APHPN Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Vivian Omuemu, and Chairman, APHPN Edo State, Dr. Andrew Obi.

APHPN Plateau State educates citizens On-Air

The Association of Public Physicians of Nigeria, Plateau State Branch was on air on the radio and television to educate Plateau citizens and other listeners outside the State on rising cases of Monkey Pox disease, its cause, signs and symptoms, complications, and preventive measures.



Drs. Philip Udoh and Grace Dasat of the Department of Community Medicine, Jos University Teaching Hospital.

APHPN, LAGOS BRANCH PAYS A COURTESY VISIT TO LAGOS STATE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE BOARD (LSPHCB)

The Chairman of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, Lagos Branch, Dr. Tolu Olufunlayo and some members of the State Executive Committee paid a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary (PS), Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB), Dr. Ibrahim Mustafa on the 3rd of June, 2022 at the PS's Yaba, Lagos Office. Others present at the visit were Dr. Doyin Ogunyemi - General Secretary, Dr. Brenda Isikekpei - Treasurer and Dr. Anuli Emecheta - Secretary, LOC BSC 2021. Alongside the PS to receive the delegation was Dr. Veronica Iwayemi (LSPHCB).

PROF. AYUBA IBRAHIM ZOAKAH DECORATED AS MEMBER OF APHPN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prof. Ayuba Ibrahim Zoakah was on Thursday 19th May 2022, decorated as a member of Trustees of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN), at the Seminar Room of the Department of Community Medicine, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos.



Group photograph after the ceremony. From Left to Right: Dr. Chundung Asabe Miner, Dr. Esther Enzuladu, Secretary, APHPN Plateau State Branch Dr. Elizabeth Okoh, Prof. Ayuba Zoakah, Dr. Hadiza Agbo, Chairman, APHPN Plateau State Branch Dr. Luret Lar, Prof. Oluwabunmi Chirdan, Dr. Jonathan Daboer.

Register on the APHPN WCEA portal In order to gain access to useful Public Health training. Users will need to have an account in the app or website. You can use the following link to set up your account <https://engagement.wcea.education/aphpn>

Appointments and Promotions

BY OMOSIVIE MADUKA



The National President Prof Alphonsus Isara and the entire members of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria warmly congratulate our dear Past Chairman Prof Obegi Okojie on her election as a Fellow of the Nigeria Academy of Medicine



The Board of Trustees, National President Prof Alphonsus Isara, the executive and the entire members of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, warmly congratulate our Vice President 2, Dr Sunday Aderibigbe on his well-deserved elevation to Professor of Public Health, University of Illorin.

Coming Soon

OMOSIVIE MADUKA

FOR ADVERTISEMENT, EXHIBITION AND SPONSORSHIP

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www.aphpnagsm2023.com

PRE-CONFERENCE
Hands-on Training in Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment
PRE-CONFERENCE FEE: N10,000

CONFERENCE FEE

- Early Bird (Begins on 1 May 2022) - N25,000
- Late Registration (Begins 1 November 2022) - N30,000
- Onsite Registration - N35,000
- Virtual Registration - N15,000

To register, Click or visit:
www.aphpnagsm2023.com

Watch out for more information on accommodation options available

APHPN website: www.aphpn-ng.net

39th Annual General Meeting/Scientific Conference

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS OF NIGERIA
PORT HARCOURT 2023

39th Annual General Meeting/Scientific Conference

THEME: PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE: NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW CHALLENGES

Date: 30th January - 3rd February 2023
Venue: L.A Kings Dome, #31 Stadium Road, Port Harcourt

Abstracts are invited from intending participants for oral or poster presentations during the conference. Abstract submission opens on 1st May 2022 and closes at 11.59 pm on 30th November 2022.

Abstracts must not exceed 300 words (excluding author(s) details, titles, affiliations, contact details (phone, email) of corresponding author and keywords). Abstracts must be structured according to background, methods, results, and conclusions. Abstract submission should align with one of the following themes/subthemes of the conference. Please upload your abstract via the conference website www.aphpnagsm2023.com or via <https://forms.gle/5xoDpy4yQv1WwZxW9> latest 11:59 pm 30th November 2022

For further enquiries, please call Dr Maduka (08033298096) or Prof Tobin-West (08033170115)

APHPN 2023 PORT HARCOURT

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Abstract must not exceed 300 words and must be structured under: Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion. Abstract should be submitted under any of these 6 categories.

- Building resilient healthcare in Nigeria
- Sustainable financing for healthcare in Nigeria
- Digital innovations, research and entrepreneurship in public health practice
- Public health solutions to environmental pollutants in Nigeria
- Aging population and the health workforce
- Other subspecialties of public health

Submissions must be in an editable Microsoft Word format. Title of the abstract and details of all authors should be clearly specified in the MSWord document. All abstract are to be made to the Scientific Subcommittee and uploaded through the Conference website: www.aphpnagsm2023.com

For enquiries, please call Dr Maduka (08033298096) or Prof Tobin-West (08033170115)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION opens 1st May 2022 and closes 30th November 2022.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, 29th JANUARY 2023

- Arrival of BOT and NOC members
- Meeting of BOT

MONDAY, 30th JANUARY 2023

- Arrival of members and participants
- Registration
- Courtesy visits
- NOC and LOC meeting
- Pre-conference workshop
- Welcome cocktail

TUESDAY, 31st JANUARY 2023

- Registration
- Opening ceremony
- Plenary session
- Scientific session

WEDNESDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2023

- Plenary session
- Round-table discussions
- Scientific session
- Poster presentation

THURSDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2023

- Strategic session
- Annual General Meeting
- Conference dinner & award night

FRIDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY 2023

- Departure of participants

SOME MEDIA EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



Dr Alero Roberts educating the public on Irrational Drug Use



PUBLIC HEALTH DAYS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER



JUL 28 2022
WORLD HEPATITIS DAY



AUG 01 2022 - AUG 07 2022
WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK



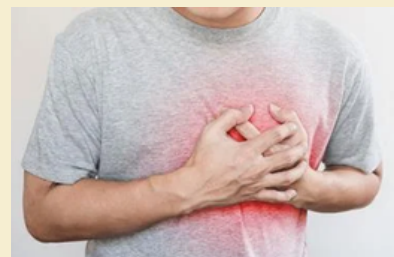
SEP 10 2022
WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY



SEP 17
WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY



SEP 28 2022
WORLD RABIES DAY



SEP 29 2022
WORLD HEART DAY