



# APHPN NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Public Health Physicians  
of Nigeria

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### EDITORIAL BOARD

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Ulunma Mariere  
Terkaa Bitto  
Victor Ahoma Mbanuzuru  
Blossom Maduafokwa

## From the President

**PROF. ALPHONSUS ISARA**

Dear colleagues, it is my utmost pleasure to write to you after a very successful scientific conference and annual general meeting in Port Harcourt. I congratulate you all for your active participation at the conference and for the confidence you reposed in us, to pilot the affairs of our great Association for another two years. I welcome on board, the new entrants in the EXCO, Dr Innocent Alenoghena, Internal Auditor, and Prof. Ololade Wright, Editor-in-Chief. On behalf of the newly elected EXCO, I can confirm that we are committed to consolidating on the achievements of the past two years and moving the Association to even greater heights


I am indeed very grateful to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chairman of the Port Harcourt conference, Prof. Daprim Ogaji and members of his team for their hard work and dedication in organizing this very successful conference. More importantly, I am glad to inform you that, for the first time, APHPN has published the proceedings of the 39th Annual Scientific Conference. I sincerely commend the Port Harcourt LOC for blazing the trail in this regard. I am deeply appreciative of the efforts of the immediate past Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Vivian Omuemu, towards the achievement of this great feat. In the future, may I assure you that the publication of the conference proceedings after our annual scientific conference is here to stay. Therefore, the host of our future conferences and all members should kindly note that this is now a vital deliverable from our conferences.




Ahead of a significant milestone of 50 years of APHPN come 2024, we have commenced preparations for the celebration of a very remarkable golden jubilee. While soliciting your usual commitment and support for a memorable celebration, we welcome suggestions from members on how we can leverage on this, to add value to the Nigerian public health space.

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

### CONTACT US:

 <https://aphpn-ng.net/>

 [aphpn.national@gmail.com](mailto:aphpn.national@gmail.com)

 +2347058621544

## UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

**Dr Alphonsus Aigbiremolen**

Here are some important updates from the National Secretariat for the first quarter of 2023:

The 39th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of APHPN was hosted by the Rivers State branch and held in Port Harcourt from 30th January to 3rd February 2023 with the theme Public Health Practice: New Opportunities and New Challenges. Apart from the AGM in which election of national Officers was conducted, other important and statutory meetings of the Association held during the conference. These include meetings of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and Board of Trustees (BOT).

Arising from deliberations of the 2023 Conference, members have been nominated into various committees of the Association and all committees were jointly inaugurated by the President, Prof. Alphonsus Isara, on the 22nd of February, 2023. Similarly, Chairmen and Secretaries of APHPN Caucuses have been duly appointed for period of 2023 to 2025.

Two Capacity Building Webinars made possible by the partnership between APHPN and World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) were held in the period under review. The January 2023 edition with the theme Evidence-based Public Health: Basics of Systematic Review and Meta-analysis was facilitated by Dr. Gregory A. Oko-oboh. Another webinar on Ethical Imperatives for Collaborative Research anchored by Prof. Zubairu Iliyasu was held in March, 2023. Both webinars had participants from across the globe.

Data collection for the ongoing APHPN and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) nationwide study on Violence against Healthcare has been completed. The study is expected to provide evidence for the development of strategies to mitigate the rising number of cases of violence against healthcare in Nigeria and beyond.

### APHPN JOS GETS NEW EXECUTIVE



From L to R: Dr. C. Igoh, Vice Chairman, Dr. H. Kwatmen, Secretary, Prof. C. A. Miner, Chairman, Dr. O. Nnorom, Treasurer, Dr. E. Otokpa, Assistant Secretary, Dr. F. Ogbaji, PRO.

## MEET THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

**Prof Kikelomo Ololade Wright**



**Prof. Kikelomo Ololade Wright**  
**Editor-in-Chief JCMPHC**

A Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM) and the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH). She is the current Dean Faculty of Clinical Sciences (FCS), LASUCOM. A member of several administrative and management committees at the university, state and national levels of the Nigerian health and education systems.

Her research interests include Reproductive Health, Child Health and Global Health.

She is the current Chairman Lagos State Ministry of Health Research Committee. She is also a member of the Lagos State Biobanking and Biosecurity Governing Council. Prof. Ololade Wright is a recipient of several local and international grants. She is widely published with over 90 publications in local and international scientific peer-reviewed journals.

# PUBLIC HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

## ONE HEALTH IN NIGERIA: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD

**Prof Auwal Umar Gajida**

Department of Community Medicine, Aminu Kano

Teaching Hospital/Bayero University Kano

Email: augajida@yahoo.com



**Prof Auwal Umar Gajida**

Following the interaction between human and animal populations, it is important to note that some rodents, birds, and other animals can easily adapt to anthropogenic environments, which can be attractive due to food waste and other favourable conditions, acting as reservoirs of organisms with the potential to cause diseases among animals.<sup>1</sup> Potentially, different risk factors such as poor housing situation, inappropriate garbage accumulation, and unregulated community growth can significantly aggravate this situation.<sup>1</sup> Several other injuries from contact with animals continue to pose a significant public health problem globally.<sup>1</sup> The improvement in technologies and policies for ecologically sustainable agriculture and improve food security minimizes impacts and can result in adequate supply and equitable distribution of food.<sup>2</sup>

The health risks associated with genetically modified organisms, chemical substances, pesticides, prion diseases and other microorganisms, which represent potential risks to human health may be transmitted by the consumption of contaminated food.<sup>3</sup> The utilization of non-therapeutic chemicals and drugs in animals as an approach to increase production, which is associated with the emerging resistance of human pathogens to various antibiotics,<sup>4</sup> resulting in increased suffering in the affected people and animals, has significant economic and social consequences because of the costs of treatment with social effects.<sup>5</sup> These signify the need for global and national policies for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, with the inclusion of animal data and the One Health approach.<sup>6</sup>

In 2008, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) launched the concept of “One World, One Health,” in which the term “One Health” was a concept suggested to demonstrate the relationship between human, animal, and environmental health.<sup>7</sup> One Health is an approach to designing and implementing programs, policies, legislations and research in which multiple sectors plan, communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes for all the sectors.<sup>8</sup> The “approach is also required for other public health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. These include food safety and security, antimicrobial resistance and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with consequent spillover from animals to humans and vice versa.<sup>8</sup>

As Nigeria’s and other countries’ food is becoming increasingly globalized, the need to improve the food safety systems between countries is clearly becoming more evident. The development of the Framework for Action on Food Safety, based on the principles of Codex Alimentarius and systems of food control, is important. It is critical for stakeholders in Nigeria to ensure the implementation of the Framework for Action on Food Safety taking into consideration the strategies, guidelines and experiences highlighted by the Global Food Safety Strategy, UN Food System Summit, and estimation of the global burden of foodborne diseases through WHO, Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG).<sup>9</sup> In addition, the United Nations recently stressed that inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary measures and a unified view of health care are critical to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>10</sup>

The Federal Government of Nigeria recognizes the need to join forces across sectors and, has developed a 5-year strategic plan and a 1-year implementation plan for One Health in Nigeria (2019-2023).<sup>11</sup> The Nigeria One Health initiative with the coordination of NCDC has the vision of creating a nation of healthy people and animals living in a balanced ecosystem. The mission is to build a strategic, dynamic and functional platform that advances human, animal and environmental health through multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration.<sup>11</sup> This was targeted to be achieved through creating partnerships, leadership and coordination, using a skilled workforce with an emphasis on research, innovation and development. The plan was to be implemented through surveillance and response, training and research, governance and leadership, communication and resource mobilization.<sup>11</sup>

## Challenges

In the absence of a specific disease threat, examples of national commitment to One Health are increasingly difficult to find due to competing health and development priorities competing for attention and programmatic funding.<sup>12</sup> Few public health policies comprise all pillars of the One Health approach to prevent diseases and to protect and promote health by joining efforts from different sectors through multidisciplinary collaboration and by recognizing the interdependence between the different components of the human/animal/environment triad. Minimal importance is given to the institutional, political, and social factors associated with the implementation of public policies within the One Health approach.<sup>7</sup>

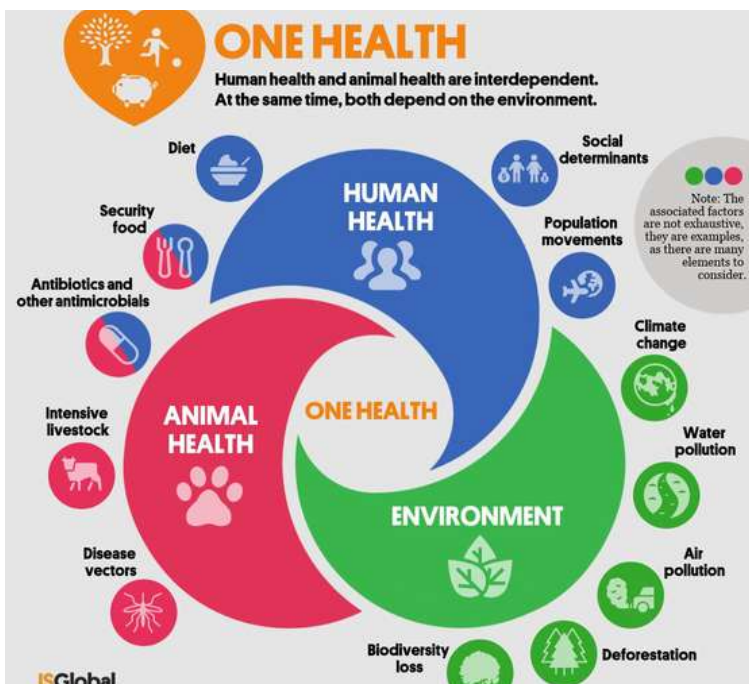
## Ways forward

It will be essential to consider the following practical steps to improve One Health in Nigeria .<sup>1</sup>

1. After action review of the Nigerian One Health strategic plan (2019-2023), this will provide an idea of what was done and what is needed to strengthen the One Health approach in Nigeria
2. Assessment of the level of implementation of the strategic plan at the state level
3. Curriculum guidelines should include One Health at all levels of training
4. Legal framework that legitimizes public health practices from the perspective of One Health;
5. Research support towards the implementation of One Health as a public policy; and
6. Various working groups and fora consisting of the government, private sector, and civil society to identify public health issues within the scope of One Health.

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## APHPN NATIONAL PRESIDENT COMMISSIONS ANAMBRA STATE SECRETARIAT

**Dr. Victor Ahoma Mbanuzuru**

It was all joy among the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) family of the Anambra State Branch on Friday 20th January 2023, as the National President of APHPN, Prof. Alphonsus Isara, commissioned the Secretariat of APHPN Anambra State. The Secretariat was inherited and renovated by the current Dr Ahoma Mbanuzuru-led Executive Committee of APHPN Anambra State. The commissioning was preceded by a courtesy visit to the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital (NAUTH), Nnewi, Dr Joseph Odili Ugboaja (KaChisiemeamaka), who was represented by the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) of the Hospital, Dr Ogochukwu Ezejiofor and other members of the Management Team.

The National President was accompanied by some elders and stakeholders of APHPN Anambra State, Professors, Executives of Anambra APHPN and some Resident doctors. The President praised the giant developmental strides of the current Management led by Dr Ugboaja. He further commended the efforts of the Hospital Management in extending the hand of fellowship to the members of APHPN and the Department of Community Medicine & Primary Health Care. He showered praise to the Hospital Management (past and present) for the space used as the Anambra APHPN Secretariat at the Center for Community Medicine & Primary Health Care NAUTH Neni, Anaocha LGA.

Prof Isara emphasized the ever-readiness and capacity of Public Health Physicians in handling and tackling Public Health emergencies and disease outbreaks like COVID-19, Monkeypox, Lassa fever, Ebola, etc., and pledged more commitment from the Association to providing the highest standard of Public Health practices in Anambra State and Nigeria in general. He further thanked the CMD/Management for the strategic appointments of some members of APHPN in the Hospital Administration. These include Prof. Chigozie Ifeadike (Coordinating DCMAC), Prof. Chika Ubajaka (HOD, Community Medicine & PHC), Prof. Achunam Nwabueze (Head Quality Assurance), Dr Chioma Ajator (Head Ukpo Outstation), Dr Nkiru Ezeama (Team Lead, Strategic Planning), and Dr Ahoma Mbanuzuru (Head, Monitoring & Evaluation).

Then the National President was taken to the Neni Outstation of the Hospital where the Secretariat was. The Secretariat was commissioned to the glory of God and the use of humanity. The President on behalf of the National body of APHPN was moved to donate one HP Printer, Model: M130 to the Anambra State Branch of APHPN. It is believed that the visit of National President, Prof Alphonsus Isara will continue to bring more good things to APHPN Anambra State.



# PHOTO GALLERY

39th Annual General Meeting & Scientific Conference of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria.  
30th January - 3rd February 2023



HRH Eze Dr P.N.C Abuwa - Chairman Opening Ceremony of the 23rd Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference



Dr Akinwunmi Fajola. Regional Health Manager - Community Health, Nigeria (SPDC) and the Isaac Oluwole Memorial Lecturer



Event comperes and members of the High Table during the opening ceremony



Group photograph at the Preconference event of the 39th AGM & SC



Prof Tanimola Akande & Dr Prosper Okonkwo at the APIN Public Health Initiatives led plenary session of the conference



Dr Eno'bong Idiong & Dr Adaora Obiagwu after the plenary session by Breakthrough ACTION Nigeria



Dr Kene Terfa. MD/CEO AVE HEALTH SENSE (Conference Partners) presented at the conference



Exhibition booth manned by the Academy for Health Development (AHEAD) - partners with the conference



Prof B.S.C Uzochukwu chairing the plenary session led by the National Health Insurance Agency



A cross-section of conference participants at the AGM



Strategy session presided by Dr Akin Adebisi



National President and Publicity Secretary APHPN at the Conference



Dr Agiriye Harry, PS RSPHCMB gave the opening remarks at the conference dinner



SPDC Health-in-motion team provided free medical screening, diagnosis and treatment throughout the conference



Dance troupe thrilled guests at the opening ceremony of the conference



There was a lot of dancing at the conference dinner



The Local Organising Committee gave awards of appreciation to conference partners and sponsors



Prof Daprin Ogaji (LOC Chairman) and Dr Glory Worgu LOC Secretary

# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

APHPN celebrates its members who have risen to enviable heights of service to mankind



Dr. Achunam Nwabueze – Professor of Community Medicine, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi Campus.



Dr Ofonime Effiong Johnson Professor of of Community Medicine University of Uyo Akwa Ibom State



Prof. Alhaji Aliyu – Appointed Provost, College of Health Sciences, Ibrahim Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State.



Dr. Maureen Ntaji - Associate Professor Community Medicine, Delta State University, Abraka



Dr. Nyemike Awunor - Associate Professor Community Medicine, Delta State University, Abraka



Dr Anyiekere Morgan Ekanem - Associate Professor Community Medicine at the University of Uyo Akwa Ibom State



Dr. Andrew Obi – Associate Professor Community Health, University of Benin

## Know your APHPN Executive



**From Left to Right:**

- Dr Alphonsus Aigbiremolen - Secretary-General, Prof Alphonsus Isara - President, Prof Mustapha Jamda - Ist Vice President, Prof Sunday Aderibigbe - 2nd Vice President, Prof Kikelomo Wright - Editor-in-Chief, Prof Omosivie Maduka - Publicity Secretary, Dr Adesuwa Aigbokhaode - Treasurer
- Others (not in the picture)
- Dr Ulunma Mariere - Assistant Secretary, Dr Innocent Alenoghena - Internal Auditor