

**Association of Public Health
Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN)**

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**
2021 – 2025





NATIONAL OFFICERS COMMITTEE

2021 – 2025



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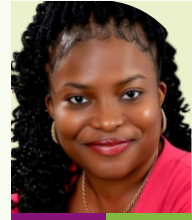
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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
A DOCUMENTATION OF AHPN ACTIVITIES FROM
17TH JUNE 2021 TO 12TH MARCH 2025**

Presented to

**THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS OF
NIGERIA (AHPN) HELD ON THE 13TH OF MARCH,
2025 AT THE JUNE 12 CULTURAL CENTRE, KUTO,
ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE**

By

**PROF. ALPHONSUS RUKEVWE ISARA
AHPN GOLDEN PRESIDENT
2021 - 2025**

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1.0 THE ROAD TO PRESIDENCY

My journey in the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) began in 2008 when I was appointed as Secretary of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) to organise the 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scientific Conference of APHPN which was held in Benin City from 22nd to 25th April 2009.

The secretariat of the LOC under my leadership embarked on massive mobilization of APHPN members in all the states of the country for the conference. We created an APHPN listserv and members were regularly updated on preparations for the conference. The daily count down to the conference was done three months to conference. This active mobilisation resulted in an unprecedented number of members who attended the Benin conference.

2009 – 2013: I was elected Secretary General of APHPN during the AGM in April 2009, with Prof. Obehi Okojie as Chairman. I diligently served APHPN in this capacity till March 2013. During the period, the APHPN constitution which hitherto existed only in soft copies was produced into hard copies and distributed to all members. In 2011, we produced the maiden edition of APHPN Directory which documented the contact details and area of special interest of members. Another advocacy tool was the APHPN calendar which was produced during the period under review.

2013 – 2017: I served APHPN as the Ex-Officio II in the Prof. Tanimola Akande led EXCO. In this capacity, I provided support and necessary assistance to the then Secretary General Dr. Sunday Aderibigbe and the entire EXCO.

2017 – 2021: I declared my intention to serve APHPN as Vice Chairman, but I had to defer to a senior member who expressed interest in serving in the same capacity. However, the Prof. Uzochukwu led EXCO appointed me as a member of the constitution review committee which had Prof. James Bamidele (*my Egbon*) as chairman. One remarkable amendment to the APHPN constitution was that members who wish to serve in the National EXCO would have to indicate interest by submitting nomination forms to the National Secretariat four weeks before the date of the election, and the list of nominees are published by the Secretary General at least two weeks before the AGM.

It was during this period that I conceived and consolidated my intention to lead APHPN as President with a very clear vision.

2.0 PREAMBLE

It was indeed a rare privilege to be in the right place at the right time. My tenure as President coincided with when APHPN clocked fifty years. Thus, in the history of APHPN, there can only be one Golden President, and that is my humble self. The Golden Jubilee celebration in 2024, chronicled and rekindled the journey which started in 1974 with our founding fathers' collective resolve to promote public health in Nigeria and beyond.

The report of my stewardship of APHPN as the President covers the period of Thursday 17th June 2021 being the date we were sworn in, to Wednesday 12th March 2025. The vision *“Excellence in Public Health Practice by Public Health Physicians at all levels contributing to the attainment of better health, equity and well-being”* and mission *“To develop and sustain excellence in public health practice by public health physicians at all levels through world class trainings, mentorship, leadership, public health researches and information dissemination to strengthen health systems”* of APHPN as contained in the Strategic Plan of APHPN 2018 – 2023 were the guiding principles and the modus operandi of this EXCO.

The EXCO wasted no time after the swearing-in to hit the ground running. The detailed account of how we fared as an EXCO and the various activities we embarked on are presented in this report.

3.0 UPDATE ON STATE BRANCHES

APHPN National derives its strength from the State Branches. When this EXCO came on board, APHPN had 31 State Branches. I am delighted to inform you that, with the formal inauguration of APHPN Adamawa State Branch on 26th February 2025, and APHPN Niger State Branch on 1st March 2025, APHPN currently has 33 State Branches. However, Kano State Branch has been dormant throughout the duration of this tenure.

In order to support and strengthen State Branches to be more vigorous in their activities, and as part of my commitment to scale up APHPN branches in the country, I initiated a working visit to the States Branches. Although it was my desire to visit all the States Branches before the end of the tenure of this EXCO, I was able to visit 19 (63.3%) out of the 30 active State Branches. They include: Edo (charity begins at home), Bayelsa, Delta, Ebonyi, FCT, Kaduna, Lagos, Rivers, Osun, Anambra, Ogun, Benue, Borno, Nasarawa, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Kogi, Enugu, and Plateau. My visit to the State Branches provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with members and exchange ideas on how to contribute our quota, and remain relevant in the public health space in Nigeria. I commend the States Branches for promoting public health and APHPN in the country.

During my visit to Anambra State, I commissioned the Anambra State APHPN secretariat. I commend Anambra State for blazing the trail as the first State Branch with a functional

physical secretariat. In appreciation of this laudable venture, the EXCO donated a brand-new state-of-the-art photocopier to APHPN Anambra State Branch. My visit to Borno and Kogi States afforded me an opportunity to supervise their respective Branch elections and subsequently inaugurated their substantive first EXCO. Also, my visit to Osun State yielded positive results, as the APHPN Osun State Branch which had been dormant since 2017, now has a substantive EXCO that was inaugurated on Thursday 20th June 2024. In all my visits, I relish the joy, warm reception and hospitality accorded me by APHPN members. I urge the incoming EXCO to intensify efforts to establish APHPN Branches in Katsina, Jigawa, Kebbi, and Yobe States.

I would like to state that I made several attempts to visit APHPN Kano State Branch, following a mandate from the APHPN Board of Trustees (BOT) on the need to resuscitate the Branch which has not changed leadership for almost two decades, and has not participated in APHPN activities since 2017. However, all my efforts to visit Kano proved abortive.

4.0 CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OF MEMBERS

Building the capacity of APHPN members to deliver efficient and effective quality healthcare services and respond better to the avalanche of public health challenges confronting us in Nigeria, was a major focus of the EXCO.

4.1 APHPN Capacity Building Webinars

APHPN signed an agreement with the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA). The WCEA provides sustainable eLearning and mobile learning continuing professional development (CPD) solutions to stakeholders to assist them to build capacity. WCEA provides the following to APHPN at no cost: access to Free CPD from globally respected providers, ability to study online and offline, access to African based research, ability to host our own CPD modules and webinars, and access to medical eBooks. The only obligation of APHPN is to promote WCEA among its members.

In collaboration with the WCEA, the APHPN Capacity Building Committee headed by the Vice President II, Prof. Sunday Aderibigbe, who usually served as moderator, organized a total of 14 webinars. The guest speakers in these webinars were drawn from Nigeria, South Africa and United Kingdom. Participants from all over the world attend the webinars. Thus, through the WCEA webinars, we have made APHPN known to the whole world. As a matter of fact, in each of the webinars, the international participants were overwhelmingly more than APHPN members. Apart from medical doctors, nurses and other categories of healthcare workers were regular participants at the webinars. The details of the webinars are shown in table 1.

Table 1: APHPN/WCEA Capacity Building Webinars

S/N	Date	Topic	Speaker	Participants
1.	12-07-2022	Rudiments of Project Management	Prof. Gordon Osagbemi	437
2.	13-09-2022	Health Governance and Universal Health Coverage	Prof. Daprin Ogaji	467
3.	08-11-2022	Contemporary Challenges of Gender Equality and Discrimination	Prof. Onyemocho Audu	389
4.	17-01-2023	Evidence-Based Public Health: Basics of Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	Dr. Gregrey Oko-Oboh	577
5.	14-03-2023	Ethical Imperatives for Collaborative Research	Prof. Iliyasu Zubairu	342
6.	09-05-2023	Essentials of Risk Communication for Disease Prevention and Control	Prof. Muawiyah Sufiyan	432
7.	11-07-2023	The Role of Nutrition in the Prevention and Control of NCDs	Prof. Priscilla Utoo	909
8.	12-09-2023	Contemporary issues in tobacco use and control	Dr. Akindele Adebisi	672
9.	14-11-2023	How to get published in high impact journals	Dr. John Ford	781
10.	13-02-2024	Meta-analysis using Jamovi software: Hands-on experience	Prof. Patrick Oyibo	53
11.	21-05-2024	Preparing for the Future: Developing Comprehensive Epidemic Preparedness and Response Plans	Prof. Omosivie Maduka	410
12.	13-08-2024	Addressing Environmental Injustice and Health Disparities: A global Perspective	Prof. Stephen Abah	609
13.	12-11-2024	Conflict of Interest in Health Research and Practice	Prof. Leslie London	297
14.	18-02-2025	Integrating Mental Health into Reproductive Health Care: Why it Matters	Prof. Adenike Olugbenga-Bello	585

4.2 APHPN Environmental and Occupational Health Training Series

The APHPN Environmental and Occupational Health Caucus headed by Prof. Stephen Abah carried out a six-week intensive training on Environmental Health. The early career APHPN members benefitted maximally from the training series. The details of the training are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Six-week Intensive Training on Environmental Health

S/n	Date	Topic	Speaker	Participants
1	17-01-2024	Introduction: Environmental and Occupational Medicine – Hazards Assessment	Prof. Stephen Abah	135
2	24-01-2024	Exposure Assessment, Risk Matrix, and Risk Management Planning	Prof. Stephen Abah	145
3	31-01-2024	Environmental Assessment - Scoping Exercise and Stakeholder Engagement	Prof. Stephen Abah	135
4	07-02-2024	Explore EIA Process, Biophysical Assessment, and Real Case Studies	Prof. Stephen Abah	129
5	14-02-2024	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA)	Prof. Stephen Abah	146
6	21-02-2024	Impact Assessment Matrix	Prof. Stephen Abah	135

4.3 APHPN Health Management Lecture Series

The APHPN Health Management Caucus headed by Prof. Daprim Ogaji organised the Health Management Lecture Series. A total of six lectures were held during the period under

review. The speakers in this lecture series were subject matter experts who shared practical knowledge and experiences in the field of management pertaining to the Nigeria healthcare delivery system. The details of the lectures are shown in table 3.

Table 3: Health Management Lecture Series

S/n	Date	Topic	Speaker	Participants
1	12-08-2023	Brain Drain in Nigeria: Drivers, Deterrents and recommendations for The Stakeholders	Prof. Clara Ejembi	154
2	11-11-2023	Getting Health Reforms Right in Nigeria	Prof. Akin Osibogun	208
3	10-02-2024	Health Policy Development in Nigeria	Prof. B. S. C. Uzochukwu	252
4	11-05-2024	Examining the Current Interventions in Nigeria Health System	Dr. Salma Ibrahim Anas	162
5	09-11-2024	Health Security: An Overview and Role of Public Health Physicians	Dr. John Oladejo	130
6	08-02-2025	Medical Officers of Health Functions in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities	Dr. Emmanuel Okpetu	102

4.4 APHPN Health Education Lecture Series

The APHPN Health Education, Information and Communication Caucus was resuscitated during the 2024 AGM. The Caucus, under the headship of Prof. Muawiyah B. Sufiyan organised the Health Education Lecture Series. A total of seven lectures were held during the period under review. The details of the lectures are shown in table 4.

Table 4: Health Education Lecture Series

S/n	Date	Topic	Speaker	Participants
1	17-10-2024	Fundamentals of Health Education and Promotion I	Prof. Muawiyyah B. Sufiyan	Over 100
2	24-10-2024	Fundamentals of Health Education and Promotion II: Health Education Intervention	Prof. Muawiyyah B. Sufiyan	60
3	31-10-2024	Fundamentals of Health Education III: Health Education Theories and Models	Prof. Muawiyyah B. Sufiyan	59
4	14-11-2024	Fundamentals of Health Education and Promotion IV: Communication and Ethical Issues in Health Education and Promotion	Prof. Muawiyyah B. Sufiyan	59
5	30-01-2025	Risk Communication and Community Engagement for Public Health Emergencies: The Role of Public Health Physicians	Dr. Yahya Disu	97
6	13-02-2025	Understanding Communication Strategies and Their Application in Health Interventions	Dr. Yahya Disu	85
7	19-02-2025	Message Development: Design and Crafting Compelling Messages for Effective Communication	Dr. Olayinka Badmus	90

4.5 APHPN Public Health Nutrition Training and Webinar

The APHPN Public Health Nutrition Caucus was also resuscitated during the 2024 AGM. The Chairman of the Caucus, Prof. Priscilla Utoo attended a national training of trainers' course on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, organised by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare from 18th to 25th March 2024 in Keffi, Nasarawa State. The

Caucus have also organised a webinar the details of which is shown in table 5.

Table 5: Public Health Nutrition Training

S/N	Date	Topic	Speaker	Participants
1	11-01-2025	Promoting Gardening for Health and Economic Benefits	Prof. Priscilla Utoo	53

4.6 Training of members of the APHPN Publicity Committee

To build the capacity of the committee on the mandate to produce the APHPN quarterly newsletter, a one-day training on “Fundamentals of news writing and reporting” was organized for members of the committee on the 5th of September 2021. A renowned Mass Communication expert, Prof. Abigail Ogwezy-Ndisika of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos, was the resource person at the training. Some senior members of APHPN were also in attendance at the training.

4.7 Training of members of the APHPN Audit Committee

Auditing is very critical in any organization. In order to strengthen the APHPN Audit Committee to effectively deliver on their constitutional mandate, a one-day training on “Basic Rudiments of Auditing” was organized for members of the

committee on the 25th of April 2023. The resource person at the training was a Chartered Auditor, Mr. Peter Omokaro. Members of the National Officers Committee (NOC) were in attendance in the training. This training was moderated by the APHPN Internal Auditor, Dr. Innocent Osi Alenoghena.

4.8 Training on Health Care in Danger

In collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the training of healthcare workers on Health Care in Danger (HCiD) was successfully held in Plateau, Edo, Rivers Borno, and Cross Rivers States. Our members, including other categories of healthcare workers were trained in this important subject matter. The dates and venues of these training are as shown in table 6.

Table 6: Health Care in Danger Trainings

S/N	Date	State	Venue
1	17-03-22 to 18-03-22	Cross River	University of Calabar Teaching Hospital
2	21-03-2022	Rivers	NMA House, Port Harcourt
3	08-09-2022	Plateau	Jos University Teaching Hospital
4	26-01-2023 to 27-01-2023	Edo	University of Benin Teaching Hospital
5	08-02-2023 to 09-02-2023	Borno	University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital

4.9 Journal Editors Workshop

As part of the continuous commitment of APHPN to build the capacity of members to offer invaluable services to the Association, the APHPN Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Ololade Wright attended the National Editorial Workshop and League of Academic Journal Editors in Nigeria (LAJEN) Conference which held from 5th to 7th December 2024 in Area 11, Abuja.

5.0 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care (JCMPHC)

The visibility and impact factor of our highly esteemed journal has increased considerably and this has placed the journal in a very competitive pedestal. We successfully launched a very functional website (<https://jcmphc.org>) for the Journal, using the open journal system (OPS). In addition to the previous indexing bodies such as AJOL, the journal is now indexed in Google Scholar, IJIFACTOR, and SCOPUS. We are currently processing the indexing of the journal in PubMed. We have increased the number of issues per year from two to three and the journal is up-to-date in its publication. To assist the Editorial Board to serve us better, we have also employed an Editorial Assistant.

The journal won the competitive Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) award worth five million naira only for professional and content development. I encourage members to

send quality papers to our journal so that we can sustain the frequency of production, and explore the possibility of increasing the frequency to four issues per year. The hard work and dedication of the immediate past Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Vivian Omuemu, the current Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Ololade Wright, the Editorial Advisor, Prof. Adedeji Onayade, and all members of the Editorial Board, is highly commendable.

5.2 APHPN Conference Proceedings

For two consecutive years, we have published the conference proceedings from the abstracts presented in our conferences. This was made possible through the hard work of the Editors-in-Chief (past and present) and the positive response of members who developed their presentations in extended abstracts immediately after the respective conferences. The publication of the APHPN conference proceedings has come to stay. This represents more visibility for our journal.

5.3 APHPN Newsletter

The APHPN newsletter was one of the first output of this EXCO. It was borne out of the maxim “knowledge is power” and “information is key to knowledge”. We consistently published and circulated the very educative and informative APHPN quarterly newsletter without a break. We have published four volumes and 14 issues of the newsletter to date. In each issue, a public health topic of national importance is discussed in detail in the “Public Health Spotlight” column. I sincerely thank our colleagues who, in spite of their very busy

schedule, took out time to write in this column of the newsletter. They include: Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, Prof. Tanimola Akande, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya, Prof. Daprim Ogaji, Prof. Best Ordinioha, Prof. Stephen Abah, Prof. Auwal Umar Gajida, Dr. Mininim Oseji, Prof. Emmanuel Aguwa, Prof. Luret Lar, Prof. Mohammed S. Ibrahim, Prof. Mansur Raji, Prof. Matilda Banwat, and Prof. Chika Ubajaka.

It is important to note that the APHPN newsletter has served as a veritable advocacy tool of the Association. I sincerely register my appreciation to the dynamic Chairman of the Publicity Committee Prof. Omosivie Maduka, and members of her team, for the effort they put in to produce each edition of the newsletter.

5.4 APHPN Research Output and Grants

A Research and Grants Committee headed by Dr. Nyemike Awunor was constituted with the mandate to explore research grant opportunities that are beneficial to the vision and objectives of APHPN, and to develop research linkages between APHPN and reputable grant institutions. To build a research history for the Association, the Research and Grants Committee in 2022, successfully carried out a nationwide study on the perception of Nigerian civil servants concerning the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination. The study participants were drawn from two states in each of the six geopolitical zones of the country making a total of 12 states, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The study was fully funded by APHPN. The results of the study and a policy brief developed from the

findings were presented during one of the plenary sessions in the 2023 AGM held in Port Harcourt.

In a related development, with a grant from the ICRC, APHPN successfully carried out a multi-centre study which assessed the prevalence and patterns of violence against healthcare workers in Nigeria. This study was conducted in three selected States from the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Borno State in northeast, one of the areas affected by armed conflict, Plateau State in northcentral, affected by other situations of violence, and Abuja the FCT, an area not affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence.

From the results of these studies, I am delighted to inform you that APHPN has officially published three manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals (two from the nationwide study and one from the healthcare in danger study). The manuscripts and their links are shown in table 7.

Table 7: APHPN Publications in Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals

S/N	Manuscript	Journal	Link
1	Knowledge, Perception, and Uptake of Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination among Nigerian Civil Servants: Implications for Evidence-Based Policies	<i>Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care (JCMPHC)</i>	DOI: 10.4314/jcmphc.v35i2.9
2	Views of Nigerian civil servants about compulsory COVID-19 vaccination: A qualitative study	<i>African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine (PHCFM)</i>	DOI: 10.4102/phcfm.v16i1.4208
3	Assessment of the Prevalence and Patterns of Violence against Healthcare Workers in Nigeria: A Multicentre Study	<i>Nigerian Postgraduate Medical Journal (NPMJ)</i>	DOI: 10.4103/npmj.npmj_221_24

The APHPN Research and Grants Committee has on behalf of APHPN, made several grant applications to granting bodies. These applications are being followed up closely and we hope that one or two may be successful. I sincerely thank the Chairman and members of the Committee, the State focal persons, and all members worked tirelessly to see to the successful first ever APHPN nationwide and multi-centre studies, manuscript preparation and publications, and grant applications.

6.0 APHPN LIAISON OFFICE AND WEBSITE

6.1 Liaison Office

The APHPN Liaison office in Abuja had been in abeyance for so many years when this EXCO came on board. We saw a liaison office that was not befitting of APHPN. The first action we took was to furnish the office with quality office equipment and materials. Secondly, we employed an Administrative Staff, Miss Pamela Obidike on the 4th of January 2022, to man the office. Miss Obidike worked with us till 31st December 2022 before resigning her appointment to further her education in the United Kingdom. The current Administrative Staff, Miss Caroline Momoh assumed duties in our liaison office on the 11th of January 2023.

During one of my working visits to the FCT, I paid a courtesy visit to the then Executive Secretary of the FCT Primary Health Care (PHC) Board, Dr. Ndaeyo Akpan Iwok, and pleaded with him to give the approval for the formal ratification of the APHPN liaison office as part of office spaces required in the Board. Dr. Iwok was kind enough to graciously approve my request. In a letter dated 11th March 2025, APHPN was formally allocated the office in the FCT PHC Board. The implication of this is that, APHPN is now officially entitled to an office space within the Board.

The well-equipped APHPN Liaison office is presently in a very good shape. It is manned by a very competent administrative staff who has been trained in visual design and website

management. It is now a resource base for all APHPN materials, archives and history. The portraits of all APHPN past Chairmen and past Presidents are hanging on the wall of the office. I encourage members to visit the liaison office anytime they are in the FCT. Although, we now have a decent office in the FCT, our future projection is to build a permanent APHPN secretariat that will be named “APHPN House” in the FCT. The dream secretariat shall be manned by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with the full complement of an administrative team as obtained in similar organizations like the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA).

May I use this opportunity to thank the APHPN Liaison Officer Dr. Terfa Simon Kene and the Chairman of APHPN FCT Branch Chairman, Dr. Sabastine Esomonu, for their support and maintenance of the liaison office. I also thank the APHPN Administrative Staff Miss Caroline Momoh for her dedication to duty.

6.2 APHPN Website

It is my pleasure to inform you that APHPN now has a functional website. The APHPN website “www.aphpn-ng.net” is very active and running. We engaged a very competent web designer to re-design the APHPN website. The web designer managed the website for three months which corresponded with the duration of the training of the APHPN Administrative Staff. Following the completion of her training, the Administrative Staff has successfully managed the APHPN website to date.

APHPN activities at the national and state levels are regularly uploaded to the website in real time. This has enabled us to build an appreciable traffic for the website over these few years. I encourage members to regularly visit the website to sustain the traffic we have established and for information about our Association and sundry issues. APHPN State Branches were regularly encouraged to send their activities to the secretariat for upload to the website. It is not enough to carry out activities, but it should be seen to have been carried out. The website is an opportunity for APHPN to showcase its activities to the outside world.

In 2024, during the APHPN golden jubilee celebration, the APHPN website served as an authentic tool to identify the most active State Branch of the Association. An independent assessor who was neither a medical doctor nor a Public Health Physician, was consulted to visit the website and recommend the most active State Branch based on reported activities. The assessor went a mile further by assigning weighted scores to State Branch activities on the basis of whether such activities targeted only APHPN members or the general public or both. Today, we celebrate the award-winning APHPN Plateau State Branch as the most active APHPN State Branch. During my official working visit to APHPN Plateau State, I saw commitment, dedication, unity, and camaraderie among members of the branch. Therefore, I can confirm unequivocally that the award was indeed well deserved. I encourage other State Branches to take lessons from APHPN Plateau State

Branch ably led by the very dynamic, amiable and hardworking Chairman, Prof. Chundung Asabe Miner.

7.0 APHPN INVESTMENTS AND REVENUE BASE

Before the advent of this EXCO, membership annual dues and profit from AGM/Scientific Conference were the only sources of revenue for APHPN. It is unfortunate that over the years, less than 25% of APHPN members pay their annual dues. Also, the proceeds from our annual conference have assumed a declining trend. For example, the 2024 conference hosted by APHPN Ondo State Branch returned a deficit balance sheet. This may be explained by the current economic situation of the country that has made sponsorship by government and non-governmental organizations more difficult. I am very delighted to inform you that, with your continuous support, we have successfully expanded the revenue of APHPN.

7.1 APHPN Branded Items

We produced the following APHPN branded items: lapel pins, ties and scarfs. These items are still being sold to members at a very subsidized rate. Apart from the minimal income generated to the Association, they have also served as advocacy tools.

7.2 Lock-Up Stalls at the Kuje Ultra-Modern Market

In 2022, we purchased three lock-up stalls at the Kuje Ultra-Modern Market, Kuje, Abuja. The three stalls measure six square metres (shop number IO-16), 10 square metres (shop

number BO-18), and 12 square metres (shop number EO-55) respectively. The 10 and 12 square metres shops have been rented out to tenants and we have collected rent for two consecutive years – 2024 and 2025. I register my sincere appreciation to the Vice Chairman of APHPN FCT Branch, Dr. Ramsey Msheliza Yalma, who facilitated the procurement of the lock-up stalls.

7.3 MyWallet Shops

We invested in Telecommunication virtual top-up unit (VTU) by opening four online shops with Virgin Platform International Ltd. So far, the return on investment has been very encouraging. It will interest you to note that the commission we have received from the shops is more than the total amount paid by members as annual dues. We have been running our Liaison Office including payment of the salaries of our Administrative Staff with commissions from these shops.

7.4 APHPN Consultancy Services Limited (ACSL)

We successfully registered the APHPN Consultancy Services Limited (ACSL) with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). This is the business and consultancy arm of APHPN that will enable us to carry out consultancy services and health related businesses with both government and non-governmental organizations. With ACSL, we are vigorously searching for jobs that will generate revenue for the Association.

8.0 APHPN CAUCUSES AND COMMITTEES

Most of the activities of the APHPN caucuses and committees have been captured in a previous section of this report. However, it is pertinent to state that all the caucuses and committees were adequately mobilized and galvanized into action in this dispensation.

8.1 Association of Schools of Public Health Committee

During the period under review, APHPN championed the call for the establishment of the Department of Public Health in all secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities in Nigeria. State Branches were commissioned to engage their respective Ministries of Health and relevant stakeholders on the subject matter. However, to compliment the efforts of the State Branches, the Association of Schools of Public Health Committee headed by Prof. Daprim Ogaji, is currently carrying out a nationwide study tagged “Project AISPSFIN” (Project for the Introduction and Strengthening of Public Health Practice in Secondary Health Facilities in Nigeria) to synthesize evidence for the actualization of this laudable project. Data collection is currently ongoing in the project. The results of the study will generate valuable advocacy evidence.

8.2 Medical Officer of Health Technical Assistance Committee

The Medical Officer of Health Technical Assistance Committee headed by Chief Dr. Raymond Ogieva is working assiduously to push for Medical Officers of Health (MOH) in Nigeria to work optimally in the Local Government Area (LGA) amidst

the obvious challenges. The committee is also leading an advocacy drive for all States in Nigeria to appoint medical doctors as MOHs to take charge of the healthcare services in their respective LGAs. APHPN will complement the effort of the committee and lobby for the enactment and implementation of the Public Health Laws by the State Houses of Assembly to give credence to the functions of the MOH in the LGA.

9.0 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

We have maintained strong relationships with our partner organizations and agencies. During the APHPN Golden Jubilee celebration in 2024, awards of recognition were presented to them in appreciation of their support and contribution to the APHPN vision of promoting excellence in Public Health Practice by Public Health Physicians at all levels contributing to the attainment of better health, equity and wellbeing for Nigerians.

9.1 APIN Public Health Initiative

APIN Public Health Initiatives is a leading non-governmental organization that focuses on the provision of prevention, care and treatment services to patients with diseases of public health significance such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. They have supported all our conferences for the period under review. We thank the Chief Executive Officer our own Dr. Prosper Okonkwo for his invaluable support and commitment to APHPN. The presidential reception given to me by Dr. Okonkwo and his team when I paid a courtesy to his

organization in Abuja on Thursday 20th February 2025 is worth mentioning over and over again.

9.2 Breakthrough-ACTION Nigeria

Breakthrough ACTION Nigeria is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded social and behaviour change (SBC) project designed to increase the practice of priority health behaviours in the areas of malaria; maternal, newborn, and child health, including nutrition (MNCH+N); family planning/reproductive health; and tuberculosis. In addition to supporting all our conferences, they also sponsored the publication of the communique issued at the end of the 2022 and 2023 conferences in a national newspaper. We are deeply appreciative of our own Dr. Bolatito Ayenugba and Dr. Eno'bong Idiong.

9.3 The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. The collaboration between AHPN and ICRC has yielded many positive results. In addition to the grant from ICRC with which we carried out the violence against healthcare workers study, they have also supported and participated in our conferences, and sponsored the training of our members and other healthcare workers in our respective institution on Health Care in Danger (HCiD). More remarkably is the fact that HCiD has been included in the undergraduate curriculum in the following medical schools in Nigeria: University of Lagos, Lagos State University College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Enugu campus, University

of Benin, University of Jos, University of Ilorin, University of Abuja, University of Maiduguri, University of Port Harcourt, Delta State University Abraka, and University of Calabar. Our vision is the scale it up in the entire country.

9.4 Ave Health Sense Limited

Ave Health Sense Limited is an employee-owned public health social enterprise organization for quality public health research and sustainable public health program implementation. In 2022, they instituted the Tamimola Makunjola Akande grant for conference sponsorship. This grant provides seed money for the host of our conference. They have been very consistent in supporting all our conferences through this grant which is worth a minimum of two hundred and fifty thousand naira only. I express my deep appreciation to the Chief Executive Officer/Team Lead of Ave Health Sense Limited, Dr. Terfa Kene for this wonderful initiative that has provided succour to the hosts of our conferences especially during the early stages of conference preparation.

9.5 Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN)

Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) is a national organization involved in public health nutrition, program implementation and policy advocacy. We have maintained our partnership with CS-SUNN. Dr. Terfa Kene is currently representing AHPN in the Board of Trustees of CS-SUNN.

9.6 Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC)

We thank the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC) for supporting the 2022 and 2023 APHPN conferences through their donation and free comprehensive medical screening programme.

10.0 VISIT TO VERY SENIOR MEMBERS OF APHPN

10.1 High Chief Dr. Emmanuel Nyong Nsan

On the 8th of May 2024, during my working visit to APHPN Cross River State Branch, I visited our elder statesman High Chief Dr. Emmanuel Nyong Nsan in his country home in Calabar. I was accompanied in the visit by the Chairman, Dr. Obaji Akpet and members of the Cross River State Branch. He and his wife were delighted to receive me. Dr. Nsan was the LOC Chairman when the Cross River State Branch hosted the APHPN conference in 2012. He has always been a father figure to our members in Cross River State. I thank God for the opportunity given me to see Dr. Nsan again before his demise on the 12th of December 2024. May God rest his soul in the peace of Christ. Amen.

10.2 Gen. Dr. Bernard Ewa Abang

On the 25th of July 2024, the Chairman of APHPN FCT Branch Dr. Sabastine Esomonu accompanied me in a visit to the longest serving APHPN BOT member, Gen. Dr. Bernard Ewa

Abang in his home in Kurudu, Abuja. He was full of joy when we presented the award of dedicated service to APHPN as member of the Board of Trustees from 2007 to date, and the golden jubilee magazine to him. May God continue to strengthen him for us.

10.3 HRH. Eze Dr. Promise Abuwa

On the 18th of September 2024, Prof. Adedeji Onayade and I visited a very senior elder of APHPN, HRH. Eze Dr. Promise Abuwa in his residence in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Eze Dr. Abuwa was the Chairman of the opening ceremony during the APHPN conference in Port Harcourt in 2023. He suffered some health challenges immediately after the conference, but we thank God that his health had improved greatly as at the time we visited. We pray that God will grant him total and complete recovery and many more years ahead.

10.4 Prof. Boniface Anthony Nduaguba Nwakoby

On the 22nd of January 2025, I visited a past APHPN Chairman and former member of APHPN BOT, Prof. Boniface Anthony Nduaguba Nwakoby in his home in Enugu. I was humbled when the current APHPN BOT Chairman Prof. Christopher Obionu volunteered to accompany me in this visit. The Chairman of APHPN Enugu State Branch, Prof. Chinyere Mbachu and members of the Branch were on ground to expand the entourage. The joy of Prof. Nwakoby and his wife knew no bounds during the visit and they have specifically requested me to expressed their joy and gratitude to all members of APHPN

for remembering them. The award of meritorious service presented to him in recognition of his dedicated service to AHPN as the Chairman from 1995 to 2001, during the golden jubilee celebration was conspicuously displayed in his living room.

11.0 NECROLOGY

For the period under review, on a sad note, many of our members passed on to eternal glory. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. The statistics of the necrology is shown in table 8.

Table 8: APHPN Necrology

S/n	Date of Demise	Name	State Branch
1	15-03-2021	Prof. Amobi Linus Ilika	Anambra
2	24-05-2021	Prof. Ademola Olugbenga Awoyemi	Kwara
3	11-06-2021	Col (Dr) Chinedu John-Camillus Igboanosi	Enugu
4	17-11-2021	Dr. Nkiru Vivian Obierika	Enugu
5	10-12-2021	Dr. Efunsole Sowemimo	Lagos
6	03-12-2022	Dr. Jonathan Kwaghtsulesega	Benue
7	14-12-2022	Dr. Uche Ezeoke	Enugu
8	02-10-2023	Prof. Umaru Shehu	Borno
9	10-11-2023	Prof. Kamil Olanipekun Alausa	Ogun
10	17-12-2023	Dr. Patience Ndidiamaka Chuks-Ezeali	Ebonyi
11	21-12-2023	Dr. Alfred Una	Ebonyi
12	11-01-2024	Prof. Wilfred Okey Ndifon	Cross River
13	01-04-2024	Prof. Oladipo Olusegun Hunponu-Wusu	Lagos
14	04-05-2024	Dr. Innocent Vakkai	Taraba
15	22-06-2024	Prof. Achunam Simeon Nwabueze	Anambra
16	12-12-2024	High Chief Dr. Emmanuel Nsan	Cross River
17	22-01-2025	Dr. Terseer Augustine Ahemen	Benue

The EXCO on behalf of the Association, always condoled with the families of our departed members and performed the constitutional responsibilities to the next of kin of the departed members who were financially up-to-date as specified in

Article 21 of the APHPN constitution. A member of the APHPN Board of Trustees (BOT), Prof. Clara Ejembi and I were in Maiduguri, Borno State to commiserate with the family of our foremost Ceremonial President and BOT Chairman, Prof. Umaru Shehu. I attended the Fidau prayer for Prof. Kamil Olanipekun Alausa in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State. As at the time of his passing, Prof. Alausa was the Chairman of the APHPN BOT. I also attended the funeral of Prof. Achunam Simeon Nwabueze in his home town of Ukpor, Anambra State. Prof. Nwabueze was the immediate past Internal Auditor of the Association. In addition, I visited the wife and family of our departed colleagues, Prof. Wilfred Okey Ndifon, and Dr. Terseer Augustine Ahemen, in Calabar, Cross Rivers State, and Makurdi, Benue State respectively.

12.0 APPRECIATION

I thank Almighty God for the wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and the strength to lead APHPN. For the divine protection and journey mercies as I traversed the length and breadth of the country in the discharge of my duties as President, I give Him all the glory, honour and adoration.

My wife Mrs. Helen Isara, children, and family members were very supportive during this period. I am very grateful to them for their love and prayers. May God continue to bless them for me and bless me for them.

With all sense of humility, I register my appreciation to members of the APHPN BOT for their parental support and guidance to the EXCO in particular and their commitment to APHPN in general.

I am very grateful to all members of the EXCO for their dedication, commitment, and team spirit that saw us through for three years and nine months. At one point or another, members of the EXCO have made sacrifices in rendering their services to the Association. Without any prejudice, I particularly commend, the APHPN Publicity Secretary, Prof. Omosivie Maduka, who donated her zoom platform free of charge for use in all our APHPN meetings and webinars. May God richly repay you for your magnanimity.

To all State Branch Chairmen and their respective EXCO members, and Chairmen and members of APHPN committees, I say a big thank you for your hard work in repositioning APHPN during the period under review. The success story of this national EXCO is not complete without you. May I at this juncture commend the Chairman of the Golden Jubilee Committee, Prof. Vivian Omuemu and her team for putting together an excellent documentation of the history and activities of APHPN for the past 50 years. The output of the Golden Jubilee Committee gave rise to the constitution of the APHPN Archives and Documentation Committee during the 2024 AGM. Another person worthy of commendation is the Chairman of the APHPN Research and Grants Committee, Dr. Nyemike Simeon Awunor, for driving the research activities that has registered APHPN in the academic space.

I honestly express my profound gratitude to all the Chairmen and members of the APHPN caucuses. This is the first time in the history of APHPN that all the caucuses were up and running almost to the point of competition between them. Thank you Dr. Terfa Simon Kene (Epidemiology Caucus), Prof. Sunday Aderibigbe (Reproductive Health Caucus), Prof. Stephen Abah (Environmental and Occupational Health Caucus), Prof. Daprim Ogaji (Health Management Caucus), Prof. Priscilla Utoo (Public Health Nutrition Caucus), and Prof. Muawiyah Babale Sufiyan (Health Education, Information and Communication Caucus). May God bless you abundantly.

I thank the APHPN Administrative Staff, Miss Caroline Momoh, and the APHPN Editorial Assistant, Mr. Ejiro Clitt Ucho, for the excellent services you are rendering to APHPN. May the experiences you are garnering in APHPN catapult you to greater heights. The efforts of the web master, Mr. Daniel Aina Odiah in training the APHPN Administrative Staff, and making himself available for consultation in all issues relating to both the APHPN and the journal websites cannot go unmentioned. We are indeed very grateful to him, and we pray that God will reward him for the priceless time and skills he has committed to APHPN.

I am extremely grateful to all our partners/collaborators for supporting APHPN in many invaluable ways. May you flourish in all your respective businesses and services to humanity.

My deep appreciation goes to the Chairman, APHPN Ogun State Branch, Dr. Adewale Daniel Adesanya, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chairman Dr. Olorunfemi

Amoran, and all members of the LOC for their hard work and dedication in organizing APHPN 2025 conference. May God richly bless you.

Finally, I profusely thank all members of APHPN for the support, advice, encouragement and prayers I received throughout the tenure of this EXCO. Most importantly, I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve our great Association, which I cannot take for granted. Together, we can move APHPN to an enviable height.

Long live APHPN

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Prof. Alphonsus Rukevwe Isara
APHPN Golden President



PHOTO GALLERY



President and Dr. Prosper Okonkwo during official visit to APIN Public Health Initiative



President and Dr. Terkaa Bitto during official visit to APHPN Benue State Branch



During the Fidau prayers for Prof. Kamil Olanipekun Alausa in Ijebu Ode



Condolence visit to the wife of Prof. Umaru Shehu in Maiduguri



Presentation of award to the APHPN Plateau State Branch during the Golden Jubilee celebration



Visit to High Chief Dr. Emmanuel Nyong Nsan in Calabar



Official visit to APHPN Delta State Branch



During the funeral of Prof. Achunam Simeon Nwabueze at Ukpok, Anambra State



Official visit to APHPN Ogun State Branch



PHOTO GALLERY



During the commissioning of APHPN Anambra State secretariat at Neni



Presentation of Golden Jubilee award to Gen. Dr. Bernard Ewa Abang in Kurudu, Abuja



APHPN Liaison Office in Abuja



Official visit to APHPN Bayelsa State Branch



Courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary, FCT Primary Healthcare Board, Dr. Ndaeyo Akpan Iwot



HCiD Training in UBTH, Benin City



Official visit to APHPN Osun State Branch



Official visit to APHPN Kaduna State Branch



Official visit to APHPN Akwa Ibom State Branch



Visit to Prof. Boniface Anthony Nduaguba Nwakaby in Enugu