



Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria

# APHPN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 NO 1

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

## From the President

Distinguished Members of APHPN,

It has been about one month since I was elected your President, and I have found it difficult to put my gratitude into words.

APHPN has witnessed progressive growth and development, and in the past few years, a dynamic shift to align with the demands of our dear profession.

I am not oblivious to the task ahead, which can be perceived as daunting but not insurmountable, especially with the overwhelming support I have received and will continue to receive from you.

Once again, as the leader of the incumbent National Officers' Council (NOC), I pledge our commitment and dedication to serve and take the Association to greater heights.

We will hit the ground running early, so in the coming days, we will make known the leadership of various Committees and Caucuses and other plans/activities that will be carried out.

I would appreciate it if our state branches could do what's needed regarding elections, handovers, and other activities as deemed fit. The State Executives will be hearing from us soon.

I want you to know that the trust you have reposed in us won't be taken for granted.

APHPN is Ours !!

Public Health is Our Business!!

Let's all play our role to make it work!!

Be Exceptional!!!

Let's Innovate for the Common Good!!



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## Editorial Board

**Adegboyega Oyefabi – Editor-in-Chief**


**Kure Ibrahim Shekwonyadu - Member**


**Omosivie Maduka - Member**

**Caroline Momoh - Editorial Assistant**

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# UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

**Dr. Augustine Ajogwu**

The Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) had its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference (AGM/SC) tagged "Abeokuta 2025" with the theme "Primary Health Care Delivery in the Face of Multidimensional Challenges" held from 9<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A World Press Conference preceded this to brief the General Public, the Nation, and the World at large about the importance of the conference and the choice of the theme in the face of multidimensional health challenges the country is currently grappling with.

The opening ceremony was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, chaired by the Former President of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Prof. Akin Osibogun. The Executive Governor of Ogun State was ably represented by the Commissioner for Health, Dr Tomi Coker, where the Governor sent his pleasantries and committed to revamping Primary Health Care in the State.

The Annual Dr. Issac Oluwole Memorial Lecture was presented by the erudite Prof O. Odusanya, titled "Public Health is our Business," who emphasized the need to approach Public Health Services as a social and business enterprise. Thus, Public Health Physicians should take up our practice as a business and be entrepreneurial in our intention for the benefit of all. Furthermore, he suggested that stakeholders should have a holistic view of the health sector challenges, take ownership, and make pragmatic steps towards improving the system.

During the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference, the former executives were officially dissolved on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 at the general meeting after the successful completion of their mandatory two terms in office. A returning officer in the person of Prof Bamidele was immediately appointed to conduct a new election for the association. Thereafter, voting was conducted online over a period of two hours, after which the results were announced, and new executive officers emerged. The following are the newly elected officers of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria to steer the affairs of this noble association for the next two years;

1. President- Dr. Terfa Simon Kene
2. Vice President I- Prof. Omosivie Maduka
3. Vice President II- Dr. Nyemike Awunor
4. Secretary General- Dr. Augustine Ajogwu
5. Assistant Secretary- Dr. Garba Danjuma
6. Treasurer- Dr. Juliette Ango
7. Publicity Secretary- Prof. Adegboyega Oyefabi
8. Internal Auditor- Dr. Alenoghena Innocent
9. Editor-in-Chief- Prof. Lolade Wright
10. Ex-Officio I- Prof. Alphonsus Isara
11. Ex- Officio II- Dr. Alphonsus Aigbiremolen

The new officers were immediately sworn in by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Association in the presence of the returning officer and all the members of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, in Abeokuta, Ogun state, Nigeria.

## MEET THE NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



New Executives and Outgone Executives with the Returning Officers.



Swearing of the New Executives by the Board of Trustees.



The Golden President, Prof Alphonsus Isara, handing over essential Documents to the New President, Dr Terfa Kene.



Members of the New Executives with outgone Executives of APHPN

# PUBLIC HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

## Public Health is Our Business

Abridged version of the Isaac Ladipo Oluwole Memorial Lecture given at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of AHPN

### Prof. Olumuyiwa Omotola Odusanya

Professor of Public Health Medicine  
Consultant Community Health Physician  
De-Chancellor  
Oyo State University Of Science And Technology  
Odu

### Relationship between public health and business

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts for the sanitation of the environment, the control of community infections, the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing services for the early diagnosis and preventive treatment of diseases and the development of the social machinery which will ensure to every individual in the community, a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health.

Business refers to an organization or enterprise entity engaged in commercial, industrial, or professional activities whose purpose is to organize the economic production of goods and services.<sup>2</sup> Human capital development is at the heart of the definition of public health given earlier.<sup>1</sup> When human capital is present, industrialization can occur, businesses can flourish, and the economy can grow. Businesses thrive where public health works. During the first and second industrial revolutions, there was economic growth, industries were established, there was little thought about safety, environmental sanitation, and disease outbreaks were common, as new pathogens were introduced in areas previously free of them and to non-immune populations. The resulting effects were deaths and reduced economic growth until the public health concerns were addressed.<sup>3,4</sup>

We all know the severe disruption Covid-19 brought to nearly all aspects of the world, particularly the business community in areas such as aviation, hospitality, transport and logistics, manufacturing, and global finance.<sup>5</sup> Many businesses were brought to a abrupt stop by a public health problem. Perhaps one lesson Covid-19 taught us is that public health is vital to the survival of business. It is important for business owners to pay adequate attention to the health of their workforce, the environment, and indeed public health.

Public health requires the cooperation of the society working together to improve both the health and the environment in which people live. Public health when properly organized, enables people to be productive and contribute to nation-building. It is therefore an enabler of economic productivity and growth for any nation. This should change our perception that public health is primarily for the masses or the poor. There is no society without its vulnerable population, but public health is about population health and provides for the betterment of human beings wherever they live



Prof. Olumuyiwa Omotola  
Odusanya

Another concept of public health, herd immunity infers that until most of us are protected against infectious diseases, no one is truly safe, no matter the wealth they may have acquired. This was evident during the Covid-19 pandemic in which the rich, the mighty, and even some who did not venture out of the comfort of their homes contracted the virus through exposure to household members with some fatalities.

### What are the characteristics of business that are important to public health practice?

1. **Planning and the deployment of processes** are key elements to business success. A typical business may have an annual plan or a five to ten-year strategic plan. There is a focus on their market share or market penetration. This involves data collection, monitoring and evaluation to make decisions to effect this. As public health practitioners, do our departments, practices, and Schools of Public Health have plans for the health of the people we serve, starting from knowing the population size we cover and setting targets for some essential services?
2. Another important attributes of successful businesses include clearly stated **vision and mission statements**, skills development, human resource development, effective customer service, passionate leadership and ability to adapt and change.
3. **Businesses also are accountable to their stakeholders** and as public health practitioners, this must be to our communities, patients and funders.

### Good Public Health Practice Framework

The Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom has developed a set of standards or framework for good public health practice. The framework is briefly reviewed here and has four domains.<sup>7</sup>

1. Knowledge, skills and development which focus on competence, being up-to-date, and compliance with the law and good standard of practice.
2. Patients, partnership and communication which deal with protecting the health and wellbeing of the population served, care of vulnerable groups and use of evidence-based practices including research.
3. Colleagues, culture and safety with appropriate emphasis on honesty, truthfulness and meaningful communication and respect for others including trainees.
4. Trust and professionalism focusing on integrity, honesty, objectivity and importantly with clear understanding of the need to maintain personal and professional boundaries.

Good public health practice is crucial and a key element if public health will become a profitable business. It guides the practitioner on the essentials of his practice while seeking for business ventures in the field.



## Return on investment of public health interventions

### ROI = (Benefits or revenue-cost)/cost.

For indicators to be effective, they depend on accurate data, akin to a thermometer measuring body temperature correctly to diagnose fever. This underscores the importance of collecting high-quality data initially to ensure accurate project tracking and decision-making. Identifying quality data remains a crucial aspect.

Governments, business owners, and stakeholders want to know if the investment was worth it and what profit has been made. The WHO in its publication, *The Case for Investing in Public Health*, shows clearly that public health can be part of the solution and presents data on the cost of not acting and that of providing solutions. Cost effective interventions include behaviour change, vaccination, screening, those focused on environmental determinants (such as road traffic injury prevention) and those on the social determinants of health (such as healthy employment programme), see Table 2.<sup>11</sup>

Return on investment	Cost-effective approaches where the financial benefits to health and other sectors outweigh the initial investment, giving a return on investment
Cost saving	Cost-effective approaches that generate additional health (and other) benefits at a cost that society is willing to pay these will be cost-saving if the additional
Cost pressure/business as usual	Continued delivery of current practice with predicted increase in health care costs over time.

Figure 1. A suggested hierarchy of prevention interventions

### Characteristics of businesses that survive

The business environment is very harsh and unfriendly. The cost of business globally is rising and that is why business outsource and look to produce goods where the cost is lowest. It is known that many businesses easily fold up and become extinct because of financial insolvency, poor management and lack of innovation. Current examples of businesses and products that have gone under include Kodak and the Nokia 3310 phone, who previously were the market leaders.

#### What do businesses that survive have in common?

**1. First, such organizations can scan and shape the future.** They can project, deliver products and services that people require. As public health business people, we must think of the changing demographics, climate change, disease epidemiology, particularly non-communicable diseases, and the wider determinants of health. How well will these shape the future of the health of populations? What tools, diagnostics, vaccines, and new drugs are required, and what changes should we make to adequately prepare the human resources for health for the future changes? Without an eye for the future, we will become extinct.

**2. A second characteristic of such organizations is their ability to innovate and create products and services for the future.** The creation of the mobile phone led to the near extinction of fixed telephone lines. Mobile banking apps led to the disappearance of queues in banks and faster and better services. In the research community, it is now easy to find literature and full-text articles. What innovations will be needed in the public health space? Can we find funding to create large databases of reliable and credible information online, for example, concerning to genomics of Nigerian citizens and personalized medicine? Big data may be the next gold mine. The future is "pregnant" and waiting to be delivered of near impossibilities for public health experts who dare to be creative and innovative.

**3. Successful organizations also prepare their human resources for the future.** The required skills, training, expectations and potential outcomes are proposed in advance. There is a culture of experimentation in such places and failure is not punished. A good example is the people involved in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. At the present time in the health sector, AI models for chest X-ray, diagnostics are already in use and being positioned with implications for human resources and the future of practice.

**4. Businesses that survive also pay adequate attention to the competition.** No business can remain a monopoly for life and even patents expire. A look at the mobile phone market will help us learn. The top companies continue to improve and watch how their competitors are performing. Public health space has many players and experts whose purposes may be at variance with us and profess to be equivalent or better than us. In Nigeria, we now have graduates with a first degree in public health who will earn a doctor of philosophy (Ph. D) sooner than later and claim their Ph.D is better than the Fellowship Diploma and besides, there are other interest groups. How is AHPN understudying and preparing to maintain relevance, equip its members to be at the top of required expertise in public health in the country? These are some areas to think about if we are not to be forgotten or rendered irrelevant in the public health business.

## Essential business skills of public health physicians

- 1. Leadership skills ;** Successful businesses require great rather than good leaders. Such leaders can see and shape the future, take risks and take the organization from one level to the other.
- 2. High ethical and moral standards are required of leaders of business,** who must be persons of proven integrity. Funds available in the public health space are often from the citizenry, international partners and willing donors which must be accounted for.
- 3. Financial literacy is another important skill.** Most business decisions are simply financial, whether it is about recruitment, payment of bills, travel, or research. We should be knowledgeable about financial management. In addition, we should be able to read financial statements, forecasting, mergers , acquisitions, and perform simple financial operations.
- 4. Team building is another important skill.** Often team members differ in knowledge, disposition and expectation but it is for the team leader to develop a common vision and pull the members towards achieving the team objectives.
- 5. Negotiation is necessary for the success of any business.** Negotiation requires willingness to shift position, adjust and ask for the best deals from an informed position in the best interest of the business.
- 6. Project management is important for a successful business.** Project management is the core of business whether it is about delivering interventions, outreach services or constructing buildings.
- 7. Compelling client communication is required** if we are to turn public health to a profitable business. The AHPN group involved with health education should take this as a challenge.



## Recommendations

1. **There must be a paradigm shift on several fronts, including change in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour.** We must move away from thinking and seeing public health as health for the poor or health service by the government for the poor, powerless and voiceless masses. It must be seen as a veritable and profitable business of making people and populations healthy where they live and work. Thus, it is more than consultancy or seeking for grant or projects. It must create its own ecosystem and stakeholders who seek to promote, protect and improve the health of populations.
2. **There is the need to create special purpose vehicles in the forms of consortia, research groups and professional bodies to carry on the business of public health.** The Association of Public Health Physician of Nigeria should take the lead in this. Our duties amongst other things (some of which we are doing) will include to; develop position papers, conduct research to show the profitable value of public health on the economic wellbeing of the country.
3. **Our training both at academic and professional post graduate levels including residency training should have an enlarged scope to include health economics** and practical exposure to methods of running viable businesses and improving financial literacy.
4. **Research should now have some focus on cost-benefit and ROI in Nigeria.** Large well conducted studies are needed. Continuous advocacy for improving the public health sector and services must be done by AHPN.
5. We must model appropriate business behaviour in all our undertakings: clinics, ward rounds, journal clubs and postings at both teacher and trainee levels. The Head of Department should begin to function like the chief executive officer (CEO) of the business venture called Community Health Department.

## Conclusion

Public health works. It holds the key to long life, wellbeing and productivity. As major stakeholders, we should take ownership and give it its place of pride in Nigeria. We must all by appropriate behaviour, training, competencies and right attitude push the boundaries to make public health our business, and indeed a profitable business for the health and good of Nigerians.

## References

1. Winslow CEA. The untilled fields of public health. Science. 1920; 51:23-33.
  2. What Is a Business? Understanding Different Types and Company Sizes. Available from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/business.asp>. Accessed February 27, 2025.
- Full version of this presentation is available on our website; <https://aphpn-ng.net/>



## NECROLOGY

Late (Dr.) Terseer  
Augustine Ahemen  
AHPN Benue  
State Branch

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Congratulatory visit and request for partnership by EXCO of Taraba State AHPN Branch to the newly appointed ES of Taraba SEMA, Dr (Mrs) Audu, she is also the Treasurer of AHPN Taraba State Branch.



AHPN Adamawa inaugurated on 26th February, 2025  
• Chairman - Dr. Sulaiman Bashir  
• Secretary Dr. Jacob Vasumu



The Plateau State Branch on Thursday 6th February, 2025 held its AGM. Elections took place where all the members of the exco were re-elected for a second tenure. These include: Chairman - Prof. Chundung Miner, Vice Chairman - Dr. Catherine Igoh, Secretary - Dr. Hilary Kwatmen, Asst Secretary - Dr. Elijah Otokpa, Treasurer - Dr. Onome Nnorom, P.R.O. - Dr. Ferdinand Ogbaji, Ex-officio I - Prof. Luret Lar, Ex-officio II - Dr. Elizabeth Okoh



The President, Dr. Terfa Kene at the 14th floor of Access Bank Towers, Victoria Island Lagos on 7th March, 2025 to launch a Solar for Health Product. With this product, interested hospitals in Nigeria can get up to N100m to finance their dream Solar Solution over a 48-month tenure.



# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

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



Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim  
Associate Professor of Community Medicine  
Kaduna State University.



Dr. John Samson Bimba  
Associate Professor of Infectious  
Disease Epidemiology and Public Health  
Bingham University



Dr. Amina Mohammed  
Associate Professor in Community  
Health Abubakar Tafawa Balewa  
University (ATBU) Bauchi.



Dr Mininim Oseji  
Head of Service, Delta State.



Dr. Garba Danjuma  
Executive Secretary, Health Service Management  
Board Taraba State.



Prof. Prosper Okonkwo  
Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology,  
Bingham University.



Dr. Ikrama Hassan  
Chief Medical Director  
Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lafia,  
Nasarawa State



Dr Obi Obikeze  
MD/CEO, Healthnomics HMO PLC.



Dr. Bilkisu Nwankwo  
Associate Professor of Community Medicine  
Kaduna State University.



Prof. Miriam Ajuba  
Department of Community Medicine, Enugu State  
University of Science and Technology, Parklane, Enugu



Dr Arthur Chinedu Idoko  
Reader Department of Community Medicine  
University of Nigeria



Dr. Audu Echuseh Executive Secretary,  
Taraba State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)



# PHOTO STORY

## APHPN 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Day 1: Press Conference, Courtesy Visits and Pre-conference workshops



Group Photograph with Prof Adewale Musa-Olumu, the Medical Director (MD) Federal Medical Centre, Idi-Aba Ogun State, and his team.



APHPN Golden President at the Palace of His Royal Majesty Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo



APHPN BOT & LOC Members at the Paramount Ruler of Egbaland Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo



APHPN Past Executive with the LOC Chairman at the Press Conference



Courtesy Call on the Provost/CMD Neuropsychiatric Hospital Aro.



Group photograph of participants of the 'Rethinking Research Impact' pre-conference chaired by Prof Kofo Odeyemi



Group photograph of participants at the reproductive and family health pre-conference



# APHPN 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

## Day 2: Scientific Sessions and Opening Ceremony



Prof Gbenga Abodurin and Dr Obaji Akpet moderating the first oral abstract presentation session for the conference



Prof. Ololade Wright and other esteemed members of AHPN moderating another abstract presentation session during the AGSM



Dr Adeyanju presenting his poster abstract to Dr Ayemike Awunor, Prof Akinlolu Omisore and other members of the association



Honorable Commissioner for Health Ogun State at the opening ceremony of the AGSM



Cultural dance display during the opening ceremony



Chairman AHPN Ogun State Dr Daniel Adesanya giving the welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony



Prof Alphonsus Isara giving the President's remarks during the opening ceremony of the AGSM



Citation of Prof Olumuyiwa Odusanya, the Isaac Oluwole Memorial Guest Lecturer



Public Health is Our Business: Isaac Oluwole Memorial Lecture given at the Opening Ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> AHPN AGSM



Representative of the Honourable Minister for Health, Prof Akin Osibogun and the Commissioner for Health Ogun State Dr Tomi Coker



Daughter of Prof Olanipekun Alausa receiving a post-humous award in his honour



Presenters, Session Chairs, and rapporteur at the last abstract presentation session for the day



# APHPN 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

## Day 3: Scientific Sessions and Annual General Meeting



Members of the Prof Alphonsus Isara-led National Executive Council after a meeting during the AGSM



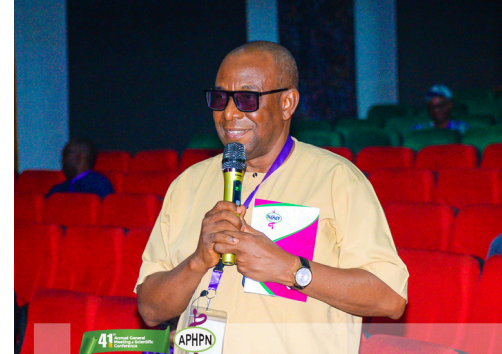
Professors Omosivie Maduka, Adekunle Fatusi, Esther Enuladu and Desola Olumide after the SAYPHIN plenary session discussing Adolescent Medicine and the 4<sup>th</sup> SAYPHIN conference holding 13-16<sup>th</sup> August 2025



The electoral returning officer, Prof James Bamidele and Secretary Dr Carol Joseph with the outgoing President discharging their duties as unbiased umpires



Swearing in new national executive led by Dr Kene Terfa



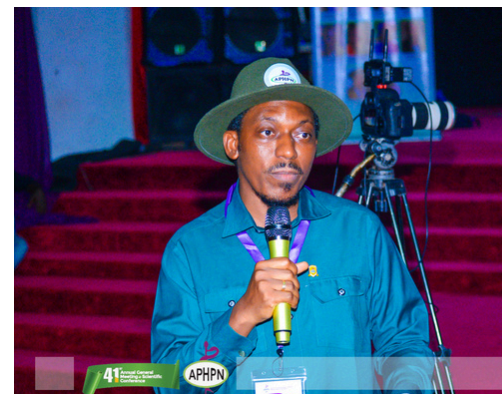
Prof Tanimola Akande accepting his nomination as member of the Board of Trustees AHPN



Presenters of the plenary session on digital tools for community surveillance of infectious diseases



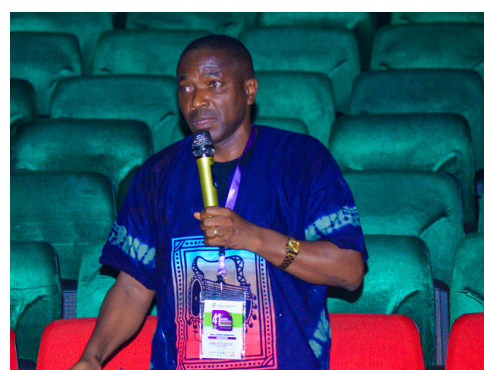
A photoshot with the Golden President



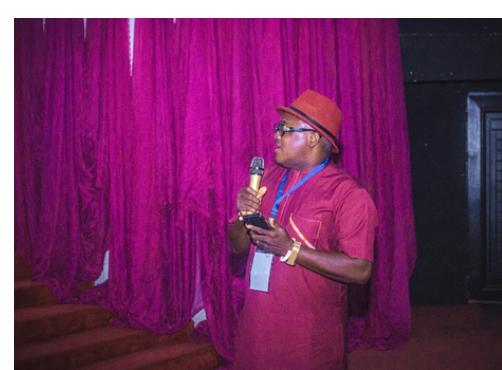
Dr. Demilade Iborngbe, Chairman, AHPN Ondo giving a report on the 40<sup>th</sup> AGSM held in Ondo State in 2024



Dr Akin Adebisi and Dr Alphonsus Aigbiremolen leading the AHPN Strategy Session I



Prof. Adegboyega Oyefabi reporting on the activities of the AHPN Health Management Caucus



Dr Raymond Ogiewa reporting on the activities and challenges of Medical Officers of Health in Nigeria



# APHPN 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

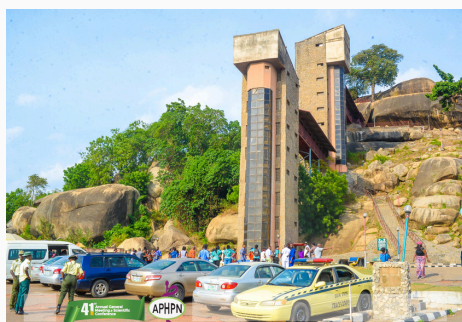
## Day 4: Tour of the Olumo Rock Abeokuta



Group Photograph at the Mountain Top of Olumo Rock



Stairway to the Mountain Top of Olumo Rock



Arial view of the Olumo rock



The Golden President and the Newly Elected President with APHPN delegates at the mountain Top of Olumo rock



Group Photograph before climbing Olumo Rock



# APHPN 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

## Day 4: Conference Dinner Party



Dinner Party Celebration cake A.B.K 2025



Cutting the Cake



The Golden President and the Newly Elected President with his wife at the dinner party



Prof. Ayuba Zoakah at the dinner Party



Dr. Demilade Ibirongbe and other members at the dinner party



Cross Section of APHPN Memebers at the dinner party



Immediate Past Sec. Gen and APHPN Members at the dinner party



Vote of thanks by the newly elected President Dr Terfa Kene



# Global Public Health Dates of Significance: April - June 2025

CULLED FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND UNITED NATIONS WEBSITES

