



NIGERIAN CARDIAC SOCIETY

SECRETARIAT: C/O Professor Chizindu Alikor, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medical Sciences, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. Admin Contact: +234 810 670 5782

Website: <https://cardiacng.org>

Email: generalsecretary.ncsociety@gmail.com

President

Prof Augustine Odili

Department of Internal Medicine, College of Health Science, University of Abuja
+234 8033954983

Vice President

Prof Kamilu M. Karaye

Department of Medicine, Bayero University, Kano.
+234 803 704 2171

Secretary General

Prof Chizindu A. Alikor

Department of Medicine, River State University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt.
+234 8160257962

Asst. Secretary General

Dr. Ejiroghene Umuerrri

Department of Medicine, Delta State University Teaching Hospital, Oghara.
+234 8033487741

Treasurer

Dr Bosede E. Adebayo

Department of Paediatrics, University College Hospital, Ibadan.
+234 0803 318 2969

Publicity Secretary

Dr. Adeseye Akintunde

Department of Medicine, Ladoko Akintola University of Technology.
+234 803 393 2076

Ex-officio 1

Dr. Okechukwu Ogah

Department of Medicine, University College Hospital, Ibadan.
+234 8067747121

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 52ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN CARDIAC SOCIETY (NCS), HELD AT ORIENTAL HOTEL, LAGOS FROM THE 11TH TO 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PREAMBLE

The Nigerian Cardiac Society (NCS) was founded in Ibadan in March 1971 as one of the earliest Specialist Societies in the country. It is currently an affiliate member of the World Heart Federation, the Pan-African Society of Cardiology, and the European Society of Cardiology.

The Society strives to disseminate current and evidence-based information on cardiovascular diseases to the public and promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles by the general public through cardiovascular disease preventive measures that have been borne out of sound scientific research. The society has since its inception regularly held its annual scientific conference as well as annual general meeting.

The 52nd Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference (AGSM) of the Nigerian Cardiac Society was held from the 13th to the 15th of September 2023 at the Oriental Hotel, Lagos. The theme of the AGSM was 'Cardiovascular care across the life course: from Womb to Tomb: Prevention to Palliation'. Sub-themes included 'Cardiovascular training in the 21st Century', 'Man versus Machine in Cardiovascular care: Opportunities and Challenges'.

The meeting was preceded by a pre-conference medical workshop held at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) and Oriental Hotel, Lagos on the 11th and 12th of September 2023. There was also a preconference surgical workshop at LASUTH on the 10th of September 2023 with opportunities for hands-on and skill acquisition in interventional Cardiology and various

(All correspondence should be addressed to the office of the Secretary General)

devices including Pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators among others. It also featured Advanced Echocardiography training for adult cardiology and Echocardiography training for Paediatric Cardiologists.

The Cardiovascular Educational Foundation led by Dr. Obi Emerole has been in collaboration with the Nigerian Cardiac Society for 10 years and this synergy has enabled the advancement of cardiovascular medicine in the area of training and research. Members of the Foundation were greatly appreciated for the consistency in ensuring capacity training and increased exposure to the latest in the field of cardiology. The President of the Association of Black Cardiologists in the United States, Dr. Anekwe Onwuanyi also attended this year's NCS with a promise of ensuring yearly admittance of at least two resident doctors with the best abstracts to be invited for their yearly meeting in alliance with the Pan African Society of Cardiology.

The opening ceremony of the scientific conference was held under the distinguished Chairmanship of Prof. Folasade-Tolulope Ogunsola, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos. She was ably represented by the Dean, the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Kikelomo Ololade Wright (FMCPH). The conference was declared opened by Prof. Ogunlesi. The Annual Asuquo Antia lecture was delivered by Prof. Elizabeth O. Ofili from the More House School of Medicine and the Chief Medical Officer of the More House Choice Accountable Care Organization. The lecture highlights the gaps and opportunities in Artificial Intelligence in present-day clinical Practice. The Fabian Udekwu Memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Bode Falase on Open Heart Surgery in Nigeria: The registry experience. He highlighted the increased number of open-heart surgeries being done especially by local teams and the need for increased cardiovascular funding for heart care including open heart surgeries. He also highlighted the template being used for local training of cardiovascular surgeons with an application by four reputable institutions for a joint accreditation to the West African College of Surgeons for accreditation for Cardiothoracic surgery, the results of which are awaited. Four (4) members of the Nigerian Cardiac Society were awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the Nigerian Cardiac Society *(FNCS)* during the colourful opening ceremony. Also, thirty-four (34) Members and forty associated members (40) were inducted during the opening

ceremony. In attendance were over 357 registered delegates which comprised Adult Cardiologists, Cardiothoracic Surgeons, Paediatric Cardiologists, Anaesthetists, Intensivists, Radiologists, Cardiovascular Nurses, Perfusionists and local and international partners.

OBSERVATIONS

The Nigerian Cardiac Society noted with concern the following issues relating to the theme and sub-themes:

1. Cardiovascular diseases and their complications are currently on the rise in the country and this is due to increasing prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors.
2. Artificial intelligence is a novel technology that can be applied in the field of Cardiovascular medicine to improve cardiovascular outcomes.
3. There is intense pressure on the personnel involved in the management of CVD in sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Artificial Intelligence is an advanced branch of Computer science that has ushered in the fourth revolution with myriads of opportunities in health care including cardiology.
5. While the developed world has embraced such technology, there is still a great deficiency in developing countries including Nigeria.
6. In Nigeria and most LMICs, cardiology practice and medicine as a whole can leverage on AI in areas such as epidemiological mapping for preventive cardiology, remote supervision and training of non-physician health workers, data acquisition for clinical trials, ECG, echocardiography and other imaging modalities.
7. Hypertension affects more than 30% of Nigerians having been identified as the most important risk factor for cardiovascular disease.
8. There is an increasing prevalence of ischaemic heart disease in Nigeria with poor facilities for diagnosis and adequate treatment. We however note the increasing number of local open-heart surgeries performed in centres across Nigeria with a

call for increased funding by health insurance and health foundations for open-heart surgeries. Cardiovascular surgeries and interventions are currently gaining more grounds in the country but there is need for funding, partnership and effective collaboration for sustainability.

9. Cardiovascular care (medical and surgical) is not adequately financed in the country and this has contributed immensely to the burden and poor outcome of cardiovascular disease in Nigeria. Funding for cardiovascular care is still sub-optimal and there is limited increased insurance coverage by the National Health Insurance Act and the Universal Health Coverage for all.
10. There is an urgent need to engage in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases through public enlightenment campaigns and advocacy programs.
11. There is a need for adequate sponsorship and improved funding to advance cardiovascular research in the country. This should be by health endowments, the establishment of cardiovascular research consortiums/foundations, and public and private partnerships.
12. There is an urgent need for advocacy and collaboration to improve cardiovascular training in Nigeria.

RESOLUTIONS:

Rising from its 52nd AGSM, which was held in Lagos, the Nigerian Cardiac Society resolves as follows:

1. The Nigerian Cardiac Society would continue its evidence-based advocacy as a major stakeholder in shaping the political agenda for cardiovascular health in Nigeria.
2. The Nigerian Cardiac Society calls for the adoption of advanced technology (Artificial Intelligence) in cardiovascular medicine to scale up with the demands of the 21st century.

3. The Nigerian Cardiac Society calls for deliberate and robust funding for cardiovascular care, research, and training.
4. The Nigerian Cardiac Society calls for improved cardiovascular public health education in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.
5. Nigerian Cardiac Society strongly advocates for the inclusion of specialized cardiovascular care and services in the National Health Insurance Act to help improve the accessibility and affordability of cardiovascular care in Nigeria.
6. Nigerian Cardiac Society enjoins all Nigerians to engage in healthy lifestyles to reduce the burden and scourge of cardiovascular disease.
7. The Nigerian Cardiac Society calls on the Federal Government and relevant stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the Cardiovascular Health Policy via effective legislation.
8. The Nigerian Cardiac Society advocates for a greater role of the National Health Insurance Act towards health care financing to advance cardiovascular care.
9. The Nigerian Cardiac Society wishes to encourage the Honourable Minister of Health and the various other stakeholders for the integration of management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (hypertension and diabetes) into the primary health care program.
10. The 53rd Annual General and Scientific Meeting of the Nigerian Cardiac Society will be held in the garden city of Port Harcourt from the 16th to the 21st of September, 2024.

APPRECIATIONS.

Nigerian Cardiac Society immensely appreciates the members of the Local Organizing Committee ably led by Prof. Amam Mbakwem for the successful hosting of the 52nd Annual Scientific and General Meeting of the Nigerian Cardiac Society tagged EKO 2023. Immense thanks to the Cardiovascular Education Foundation for the 10 years of collaboration in advancing cardiovascular training and care in Nigeria and also to the Association of Black Cardiologists in the United States led by the President, Dr. Onwunayi. We also like to place on record the support received from industries and

individuals towards the successful hosting of this conference. We would also like to thank the 2023 Asuquo Antia lecturer, Prof. Elizabeth O. Ofili, and the 2023 Professor Udekwu lecturer, Dr. Bode Falase.

Long Live the Nigerian Cardiac Society

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Prof Augustine Odili, FNCS



President

Prof. Chizindu A. Alikor, FNCS



Secretary General

Prof. Adeseye A. Akintunde



Publicity Secretary