

**OPENING CEREMONY OF 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGISTS  
AT THE LADI KWALI HALL, SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA**

**NAD President's Message**

**D**ear Colleagues and friends, it is with great pleasure I welcome you all to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual scientific conference and Annual general meeting of the Nigerian Association of Dermatologist taking place at **Ladi Kwali Conference Hall, Sheraton Abuja Hotel** in the Federal capital territory Abuja (FCT) from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015. As we are all we aware our annual meetings usually take place in June but had to move this year to accommodate other activities involving our members during that period. However, it is worthy of note that the various regional bodies celebrated the World Skin Health day in the month of June with seminars, market outreaches and Television enlightenment programmes. The World Skin Health Day (WSHD) was launched in Nigeria last year. The programme is an initiative of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) and the International League of Dermatology Societies (ILDS) of which NAD is a member. It is hoped that by dedicating a day to the skin, the attention of inhabitants of various countries, regions or communities will be drawn to the importance of the skin and its role in the health of individuals.

The theme for this year's conference is the "Skin Manifestations of Internal Diseases" and our lecturer is one of our own, Professor O. Onayemi of the Obafemi Awolowo Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife.

The skin is the largest organ of the body and its external location makes it easily accessible for examination. Some components of the skin share embryological linkages and similarities with cells from other organs in the body. Careful inspection of the skin may show abnormalities suggesting malfunctioning of these organs or others thereby leading to early diagnosis of diseases. Thorough inspection of the skin and adnexal organs remains a useful examination in poor resource countries like ours.

Unfortunately topical therapies and remedies used to reduce the effects or appearance of age (on the skin) may not reduce the age of the internal organs and may actually damage them in some cases; for example the

use of skin lightening agents.

As dermatologist, we continue to see the harmful effects from the wrong use of skin lightening agents in our daily practices, we will continue to educate the public on the complications of skin lightening agents which include chronic kidney disease and hypertension and continue to highlight the dangers of other topical agents available in the country which contribute to ill health of Nigerian citizens. We will partner with other agencies such as NAFDAC to ensure that Nigerians become aware of the dangers of using topical medications or cosmetics which may be dangerous to their health. The mission of the association is to ensure that Nigerians have adequate information to enable them choose rightly when it comes to issues of the skin.

The local organizing committee has also gone to great length to achieve one of the objectives of our association, which is to provide exciting and stimulating topics ensuring high standards of our practice in the sub region.

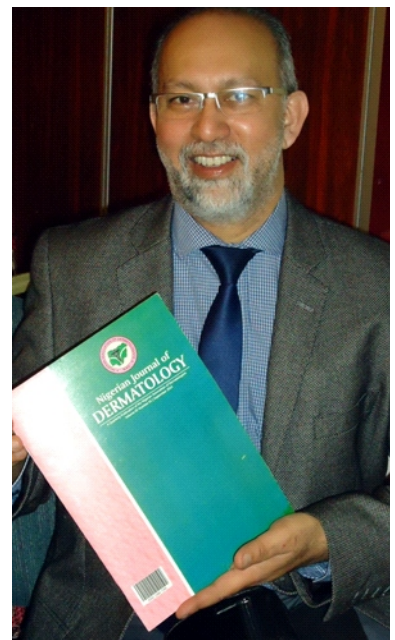
This year they have invited faculty from other areas of Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom to improve our skills in surgical and cosmetic dermatology at the pre-conference workshop.

In the last one year, the almighty has been good to us. The membership of the association has increased; we had representation and voted for the first time for the new executives at the meeting of the international league of dermatology societies in Vancouver earlier in the year. The NAD has also been nominated to host the first meeting of the African Society of Dermatology. This will take place in Abuja in June 2016.

On behalf of the executive of NAD, I would like to thank our trustees who continue to honour are invitations and give support and advise when necessary. They are Professor Okoro, Professor A Somorin, Emeritus Professor Yetunde Olumide, Professor Femi Soyinka and Professor Kubeinje.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the LOC under the chairmanship of Dr Bashir Danmallam for

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the hard work that has gone into the preparation for this meeting.

I would like to acknowledge all the contribution of the EXCO especially our secretary general, Ayesha Akinkugbe.

As we know the FCT remains one of architectural wonders of Nigeria. We thank God for the New Government in power and we pray the almighty will grant our leaders wisdom and boldness to continue to rule the country aright. Please enjoy your stay and update yourselves. I wish everyone a safe trip back home. God bless.