

**28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM OF THE WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS (WAPCP) HELD AT THE PAYNESVILLE CITY HALL AND GOLDEN GATE HOTEL, PAYNESVILLE, , REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**COMMUNIQUE**

The West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) held her 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium at the Paynesville City Hall and Golden Gate Hotel, Paynesville, Liberia, 19<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017. The theme of Conference was *“Pharmaceutical Preparedness Towards Epidemic Outbreaks in West Africa”*, and the symposium topics were *'Review of New Chemical Agents for Emerging Diseases'*, *'Pharmacists Role in Diseases Surveillance at the Primary Care Level'* and *'Pharmacists prescribing: Lessons from The Scottish experience'*.

The President of The Republic of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, represented by the Hon. Minister of Health, Republic of Liberia Dr. Bernice Dahn was present at the Opening ceremony. The Opening Ceremony was blessed with the presence of Pharm. Clavenda Bright-Parker, *the Foundation President of West African Pharmaceutical Federation (WAPF; 1978-1981) now christened West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP)*; also present were Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia, H.E. Alh. Mohammed Tahir; Liberian Ambassador to the UK and Holy See and immediate past 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of West African College of Surgeons(WACS), H.E. Dr Mohammed Sheriff; Mrs Trudi McIntosh, a Pharmacy Lecturer from Scotland; President of WACS, Prof King-Solomon Terna Yawe; The President, Ghana College of Pharmacists, (represented by Prof Mahama Duwiejua); Country Representative of WACS and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Liberia Postgraduate College of Medicine, Prof. Robert M. Kpoto; Representative from WAHO. The Guest of honour was Hon. Tolbert Nyenswah.

Delegates came from the following member Countries: The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone

The President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, represented by the Hon. Minister of Health, Republic of Liberia Dr. Bernice Dahn, declared the meeting open. Pharm. Luke Bawo Jr., delivered the keynote address titled: *“Pharmaceutical Preparedness Towards Epidemic Outbreaks in West Africa”*; The symposium topics were presented by Dr Michael Edokpolor *FPCPharm.*, Pharm. Benjamin Botwe *FPCPharm* and Mrs Trudi McIntosh. A total of 19 podium and 18 posters were presented.

A total of 153 (2015 Set) and 168 (2016 Set) students that passed the Part One, were admitted as Members of WAPCP. Inducted 193 (2015 Set) and 265 (2016 Set) new Fellows of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists into various specialties of pharmacy and two (2) elected Fellows. Honorary Fellowship (FPCPharm (Hons) was awarded to President of The Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Conference deliberated on the theme and symposium topics and other contemporary health related issues and resolved as follows:

1. Policy makers should integrate Pharmacists into disease surveillance team as part of expanding roles of pharmacists in the health care team as a result of the growing incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases of public health concern.
2. The training curricula of Pharmacy in the region should include competencies required to deliver services appropriate to meet regional health challenges and Public Health should form part of students' training curriculum to be handled by a special Department of Public Health Pharmacy so as to support rapid response to epidemics
3. Encouraged member countries to embrace the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D.) degree program, and commence as soon as possible

4. Noted the continuing efforts of the member Countries at the prevention of disease outbreaks and recommended the need to strengthen the capacity of health work force to respond to health emergencies. Pharmacists must design a supply chain management system that will ensure timely delivery of essential commodities at times of needs.
5. Encourages Pharmaceutical Companies to collaborate with Research Institutes towards the discovery of new medicinal substances /molecules.
6. National Medicines Regulatory Agencies in the region should collaborate with international agencies in the review of new chemical entities and provide support to the local Pharmaceutical industry in introducing new products into the market
7. Reiterated the need for intra- and inter-professional collaboration among healthcare workers towards improved service delivery 60<sup>th</sup>
8. Congratulates all the newly elected Presidents in the member countries (The Gambia - President Adama Barrow and Ghana - President Nana Akufo-Addo) and wishes them a successful tenure and Gods guidance.
9. Resolved to hold the 30th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium and Council meeting in The Gambia, March, 2018
10. Thanked the Government and good people of Republic of Liberia for the hospitality accorded the delegates.
11. At the end of the AGM, the following officers were elected for 2017-2019 biennium
  - a. President - Prof Emeritus Kwame Sarpong
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Prof Cecilia I. Igwilo
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Mrs Markieu Janneh-Kaira
  - d. Secretary General - Prof Noel N. Wannang
  - e. Deputy Secretary General - Major Thomas Tucker
  - f. Treasurer - Mr Joseph S. Weah
  - g. Editor-in-Chief - Dr Olufunsho Awodele
  - h. Immediate Past President - Rev. Tijli Tarty Tyee, Sr.

**Signed**

Rev. Tijli Tarty Tyee, Sr.  
**President, WAPCP**

**Signed**

Prof Wilson O. Erhun  
**Secretary General, WAPCP**