

COMMUNIQUE OF THE GENERAL MEETING & SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM OF THE WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS (WAPCP) HELD AT THE GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES CONFERENCE CENTRE, ACCRA, GHANA, 3rd – 5th MAY, 2021

The West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) held its 32nd/33rd Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana, from 3rd – 5th May, 2021. The theme of the Conference was “*Universal Health Coverage: The Role of Digital and Collaborative Services*”; with the following sub-themes: (1) E-prescribing and Dispensing in a Universal Healthcare System; (2) Quality and Safety of Herbal Medicines for Universal Health Coverage; and (3) Universal Healthcare Coverage in Africa - Collaborative Multidisciplinary Healthcare Delivery through Digital Technology.

Goodwill messages were given by Mr Benjamin Botwe, President, Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana, ably represented by Rev Dr Dennis Sena Awitty; Prof Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye, Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC), ably represented by Dr. Gbenga Fajemirokun; Prof Philip Mshelbwalla, Secretary General, West African College of Surgeons (WACS); Prof Fostina Oware Tachie, President, West African College of Nursing (WACN); Prof Tarpowah Kear, Jr, representing the Director General, West African Health Organization (WAHO); and Mrs Yvonne Esseku, Rector, Ghana College of Pharmacists.

Mr Daniel Marfo, Senior Vice President of Zipline International, Accra, Ghana, delivered the keynote address. Conference sub-themes, were presented by Dr John Serbe Marfo, Prof (Mrs) Cecilia Igwilo, and Mr Loye Akomolafe, respectively.

Investiture of One hundred and ninety one (191) new Fellows of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) into different specialty areas (i.e. 110 Fellows of the 2019 set and 81 Fellows of the 2020 set) was performed.

Conference deliberated on the themes and other contemporary health related issues and resolved as follows:

1. Recognized the need for a paradigm shift from the use of manual records to digital services for patient care, hence member countries should formulate policies to guide e-prescriptions and e-dispensing to promote Universal Health Coverage.
2. Member countries should advocate for regulation and implementation of e-pharmacy to ensure that people can receive their pharmaceutical care in a responsible virtual manner in the West African region.
3. Pharmacy Curriculum in the region should incorporate e-prescription and e-dispensing with hands-on training in a multidisciplinary setting.
4. Regulatory bodies of member countries need to take proactive measures to check the irrational herbal medicine use practices. Conference advocates for appropriate strategies towards the training of herbal medicine practitioners in the region.

5. Supply Chain of herbal products should be effectively monitored by incorporating current good manufacturing practices and hazard analysis using analytical technology tools.
6. Given the problems of contamination, pesticide residues and adulteration associated with herbal medicines, safety monitoring of herbal medicines to reduce the risks of adverse events should be vigorously pursued.
7. Member countries are encouraged to advocate for integration and collaboration between the public and private sector on telemedicine and e-pharmacy. Consequent upon this, member countries are further encouraged to canvas this to their various Ministry of Health for budgetary provision.
8. Conference advocated for integration of the Francophone WAHO member countries into West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists using the umbrella of WAHO. This will reduce barriers and bring members close to the College.
9. Conference hailed the recent circular from the Council on Establishment in Nigeria, approving the consultancy status for Pharmacy. While congratulating the Government of Ghana for an earlier similar approval, conference appeals to the other member countries to recognize and implement the pharmacy consultancy status to enhance efficiency in service delivery in healthcare.
10. Conference thanked the good people of Ghana for the immense support and hospitality towards the successful hosting of the conference.
11. Conference noted with much appreciation, the sum of US\$10,000.00 (Ten thousand US Dollars) donated by WAHO in support of the conference.
12. Conference resolved to hold the 34th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium and 64th Council meeting in Nigeria in 2022.
13. At the end of the Annual General Meeting, conference elected the following officers for 2021/2023 biennium:
 1. Prof (Mrs) Cecilia I. Igwilo - President (Nigeria)
 2. Mr Joseph Weah - 1st Vice President (Liberia)
 3. Dr Mohammed Sesay - 2nd Vice President (Sierra Leone)
 4. Prof Ibrahim Oreagba - Secretary General (Nigeria)
 5. DCOP Daniel Kwame Afriyie - Deputy Secretary General (Ghana)
 6. Dr (Mrs) Fatoumata Jah Sowe - Treasurer (The Gambia)
 7. Dr. Gbenga Fajemirokun - Editor-in-Chief (Nigeria)

(Sgd)
Mrs Markieu Janneh Kaira, *FPCPharm*
President, WAPCP

(Sgd)
Prof Noel N Wannang, *FPCPharm*
Secretary General, WAPCP