



ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA PROF FATIU A AROGUNDADE ON 6TH AUGUST 2019.



Protocols.

I consider this enormous trust you have all given me a rare honour and privilege to be able to serve our young but dynamic Association and humanity. I must express my profound appreciation to all of you for the confidence reposed in me that culminated in my emergence as the 3rd President of our Association. Let me appreciate my predecessors in office, our other founding fathers in TAN. It's now about 12 years that a few of us gathered at the Jade restaurant in Isaac John Street ruminating on the need for this Association. That crop of individuals laid the solid foundation on which this Association is firmly established. We are grateful to them and this will be marked within the next couple of years. Let me also congratulate the LOC under the leadership of our indefatigable, Treasurer Prof CO Amira for the massive mobilisation for this conference. It appears to me to be the conference with the highest attendance since inception. Congratulations for a very successful meeting.

We are still growing and I must say things have continued to improve particularly with Kidney and Cornea transplantation. Bone marrow transplantation has not grown much and liver transplantation is still not existent in Nigeria.

There is no gainsay in the fact that the New National Health Bill that have been passed into law need to be vigorously pursued to see to its practicability and actualisation. We need to be able to network with major stakeholders locally and internationally to ensure its realisation particularly that aspect on deceased donation.

Kidney transplant centres are now 14 even though it's been erratic in most government owned hospitals because of bureaucratic bottlenecks and support from managements. We must continue to encourage our colleagues in the private sector who have continued to ensure that we remain relevant in the community of transplant countries. Same applies to Cornea transplantation championed by colleagues in the private sector.

Our main goals in the next 2 years will focus on the following

Regular Executive Council Meetings: We shall continue to have regular executive council meetings at a venue and time that would be convenient for most members and at minimal cost to them or to our Association. This is essential since we do not reimburse transportation or accommodation expenses.

Workshops to maintain skills: We have our scientific meeting every 2 years, this period is relatively long. There is the need to have some additional academic or training programs at least once in 6 months such that in between conferences we could have 3 meetings perhaps regionally to reduce the physical and financial stress on members.

Training opportunities: We need to explore training opportunities for our junior ones and further capacity building for the seniors especially as the procedure is relatively irregular in most public centres. We may be creating fellowships that would be sponsored by colleagues, philanthropists or our Association.

Patrons: We decided on a set of patrons 8 years ago but they were never inaugurated mainly because there has not been any constitutional provision for it. We shall include this in our constitution and get well-meaning individuals in the community to partner with us as patrons.

Networking with MOH, ISN and TTS: We shall collaborate with other stakeholders and engage the FMOH to further strengthen transplant programs in the country and stem the tide of organ trafficking and the financial drain on the economy of our country.

Social media enhancement for smoother communication: Whatshap, Instagram, Twitter, active website etc. We have utilised whatshap application very effectively in the planning of this conference. We can further positively project our Association by using other social media networks. Our website need to be upgraded and updated urgently and maintained regularly.

Financial Standing: We need to support our Association. Many of us pay our annual dues biennially and this has contributed to our poor financial standing. We shall explore ways of further generating funds for our Association but we need to support the Association by fulfilling our financial obligations.

Journal: There is that dire need to kick start our journal. We need a younger, interested and enthusiastic fellow to champion this task and we also need to review the editorial board if there is any in place. The name could be Nigerian

Journal of Transplantation subject to your approval or that of the Executive. We may start with a set of review articles on transplantation and gradually improve over time, Can be initially bi annual i.e. Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec.

Development and sustainability of Transplant Programs & Guidelines Committees:

This Executive shall set up Committees on Development and sustainability of Transplant Programs. This committees will assess our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to sustainable transplant programs. In addition they shall design guidelines for transplantation in Nigeria based on their observations and experience over the years. In case of Liver transplantation they shall explore the major challenges with the objective of finding solutions to them. These committees will include:

- Committee on further enhancement of Kidney Transplantation
- Committee on further enhancement Cornea Transplantation
- Committee on sustainable Bone Marrow Transplantation
- Committee on sustainable Liver Transplantation

Recognition of Contributions – Awards of excellence: This Executive shall encourage excellence and would reward outstanding contributions from all and sundry. We shall institute prizes for best resident presentation, best poster presentation, best nurses presentation etc and could name these after individuals if they support the institution of the prizes with handsome donations. We shall be recognising our founding fathers and decide on the desirability or otherwise of Fellowship of our Association as well as Distinguished Fellowship as the highest honours we could give to members.

In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, I want to solicit your understanding, cooperation and support to be able to realise all these lofty goals. I wish us journey mercies back to our various destinations. God bless us all. Long live Transplant Association of Nigeria.



Professor Fatiu Abiola Arogundade

MBBS (Lagos), FMCP, FWACP, FRCP (Edin), FRCP (London), ISN Fellow.