



## PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGIST (NAD) ILE-IFE, 2018



**I**t is my great pleasure, on behalf the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists to welcome you all to the ancient city of Ile-Ife, the cradle of the Yoruba civilization. The tourism importance of this city, with all its cultural artifacts, art and craft, is known. The University in this town, Obafemi Awolowo University, has the only full Department of Dermatology, adds to why this town is a noble choice for the hosting of this year's Annual Dermatology Conference. We are indeed glad to be here.

The Main Theme of the conference is “The Changing Face of Dermatology in Africa; Accessible Skin Care for All”; while the Subthemes are:

- Re-emerging Tropical Skin Diseases;
- Ethnic/Racial/Rural Skin Diseases;
- Cosmetic Practices and Beauty in the Black Skin;
- Skin Bleaching as a Public Health Challenge and
- Role of Community in Skin Care

All these intend to address challenges of the practice of dermatology in Nigeria. I believe at the end of this 5- day meeting, we will be able to update our ideas and be poised to make more impact in our communities.

This conference is a unique one. The Country Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the representative of the Federal Minister of Health (FMoH) are in attendance; thus giving this conference a great validation. As dermatologists, there is a constant need to be vigilant and look out for once prevalent skin diseases, for the possibility of re-emergence. The WHO and the FMoH are interested in re-emerging tropical disorders. They have also promised to intervene, if the need arises. These disease conditions will be discussed extensively at this meeting.

Our Association has put in place infrastructure for the growth of the practice of Dermatology in Nigeria. This is not an easy task. We are inching slowly but surely to achieving a universal coverage for dermatological care. This, we cannot do alone. We are forging collaborations with stakeholders and partners, such as the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Patient Support Groups, Line Ministries, General Medical Practitioners and other Medical Specialties, other

dermatological societies outside Nigeria through the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), among others.

Arrangements are on-going for oversea trainings for our residents and interested consultants. The NAD executives has identified some gaps in our practice, namely in aesthetic dermatology, dermatopathology and dermatological surgery, and are poised to bridge it. Some sister dermatological Associations have indicated interest to assist in this regard.

It has been observed that most dermatologists are in the cities, leaving the rural majority unattended to. This is not acceptable. A well apportioned tele-dermatology project is being put in place to reach out to this hitherto unattended population. This will involve training, provision of key armamentarium, and a pilot.

Our members have made important strides in the past year. We have newly qualified Fellows and a new Associate Professor. I want to particularly celebrate one of our members, Dr. Folakemi Cole- Adeife, a member of Team AyunaHealth that came second in the keenly contested #HealthMeetsTechNG. The Team created an Application that allows verified health workers to report and notifies health authorities about suspected cases of infectious diseases. Thanks to her inspiration and experience in the field of dermatology, the Application was conceived. KUDOS!

The Association also got awards. The International League of Dermatology Society (ILDS) awarded a grant of 5000USD (five thousand US dollars), for the IDP Dermatological Intervention in the North East of Nigeria. It was indeed a successful outing, led the by NAD 1st Vice President, Prof. T.T. Mohammed. The ILDS is also sponsoring one of our members, Dr. A. O. Akinboro, under the Young Researcher Scheme, for research. A bursary award of 1000USD (one thousand US dollars), was also given to NAD President to attend the ILDS Skin Summit for heads of dermatological societies, in Vietnam.

I appreciate all the Regional NAD groups that have celebrated the World Health Skin Day.

We are also grateful to Pharmaceutical firms that have partnered with NAD in the past one year, notably Healtline LTD and GSK.

I thank the LOC members under the chair of Prof. O. A. Olasode. They have done well!

Thank you all for coming and please avail yourselves of the social events put in place by our host.

Long Live NAD!

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Thank you.

*Signed...*

Dr. Grace Chita Okudo,  
President, NAD