

REPORT OF THE ‘1ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ULTRASOUND AND PERINATAL MEDICINE IN AFRICA’:

Preparations to hold the Congress started early 2014 when there was a plan to hold the first ever Congress of ‘Ian Donald School of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in October that year. The EBOLA epidemic came as we were finalizing our plans. It was then decided to suspend holding the Congress till the EBOLA outbreak is brought under control.

At the 12th Congress of World Association of Perinatal Medicine in Madrid Spain the issue of organizing the Congress was brought up and it was agreed that the scope of the Congress should be widened to include Perinatal Medicine. The 4th and the 5th of November were chosen as the days for the Congress.

The local organizing committee was formed and chaired by Dr Aliyu Labaran Dayyabu [Director Ian Donald School in Nigeria]. Dr Attah Raphael was appointed the Secretary of the LOC and Prof Jamilu Tukur was appointed the chair of the scientific committee. Ten other people were appointed as members.

At its inaugural meeting the following decisions were taken:

1. The title of the Congress should be the ‘‘1st International Congress of Ultrasound and Perinatal Medicine in Africa’’. The Venue of the Congress chosen was Tahir Guest Palace Kano.
2. The Congress should be organized in collaboration with the following institutions and organizations;
 - a. The International Academy of Perinatal Medicine
 - b. The World Association of Perinatal Medicine
 - c. The International Society of the Fetus as a Patient
 - d. The Ian Donald School of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - e. The Bayero University Kano [BUK]
 - f. The Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano [AKTH]
 - g. The Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Nigeria Kano Chapter [SOGON Kano]
 - h. The Nigerian Medical Association Kano Branch [NMA Kano]
3. The LOC met the Vice Chancellor BUK and the Chief Medical Director AKTH who agreed to the collaboration and promised us financial and logistic assistance
4. A meeting was held with the leadership of the NMA and SOGON who also agreed to collaborate
5. At the second meeting of the LOC a program was drawn for the Congress and invitations were sent to invited speakers.
8 international speakers agreed to participate and make presentations at the Congress and also 8 national speakers agreed to participate and make presentations.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Prof Asim Kurjak [Croatia]

Prof Frank A Chervenak [USA]

Prof Milan Stanojevic [Croatia]

Prof Giovanni Monni [Italy]

Prof Eberhard Merz [Germany]

Prof Marina Degtyareva [Russia]

Dr Uchenna Achalonu [USA]

Prof Cihat Sen [Turkey] could not come because of some reason

NATIONAL SPEAKERS:

Dr ALIYU Labaran Dayyabu

Prof Jamilu Tukur

Prof Hadiza Galadanci

Dr Attah Raphael Avidime

Dr Hauwa Abdullahi

Dr Fatima Usman

Dr Shehi Ali Abubakar

Dr Janet Akinmolodun

The Congress proper

On 2nd guests started arriving

On the 3rd there was a visit to the Palace of his Royal Highness the Emir of Kano Dr Sanusi II.

We were received by the Galadiman of Kano [Alhaji Abbas Sanusi]

On the 3rd the rest of our invited speakers arrived.

The 4th was first day of the Congress and there was a colourful opening ceremony attended by the Representative of the Emir Hakimin Ajingi Sarkin Yakin Kano

Representative of Kano State Commissioner of Health

Representative of the Vice Chancellor BUK

Representative of the Chief Medical Director AKTH.

Participants were enthusiastic and made contributions during the discussion session

The second day was also very interesting and well attending with even greater interest and enthusiasm by the participants.

For the 2 days the lecture hall was filled to capacity

ATTENDENCE:

There were **325** participants [Consultants, Medical officers and Medical students]

Participants came from 23 of the 36 states of Nigeria.

After the closing ceremony on 5th we paid a visit to the Vice Chancellor where we were warmly received by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics and other executives of the University.

The DVC presented a plaque of the University and the Magazine of the University to Prof Asim Kurjak.

Books contributed by the Ian Donald School were presented to the DVC as contribution to the University Library [Presented by Prof Asim Kurjak]. Prof Asim pledge that from now on the University will be receiving all issues of the 'Yellow

Journal' and also promised that they will help the University to start a Masters Degree in Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Prof Said [DVC Academics], Prof Asim, Prof Frank and Dr Aliyu made speeches at the meeting. There was a group photograph with DVC.

CONGRESS DINNER:

Later at 7.00pm on the 5th there was a Congress dinner which was well attended.

There was much eating and drinking punctuated by traditional dances by KOROSO cultural troupe a very popular group in Kano. Almost all those in attendance took part in the dances.

Dr ALIYU Labaran and family presented gifts to our foreign invited speakers in appreciation of their contribution and participation at the Congress.

Prof Asim presented the 2 volumes of the book of Perinatal Medicine as gift to Dr Aliyu

VISITS TO HISTORICAL SITES:

In the morning of the 6th we visited the Kano museum a great historical site with a lot exhibits depicting the rich culture and history of Kano.

In the evening of the same day we visited the oldest market in West Africa [KURMI MARKET] in existence since the trans-Sharan trade. Our guests bought some traditional clothes and articles of arts.

The Congress has been a huge success that all our guests, the host and the participants enjoyed very much and memories of the Congress will remain in our hearts for a very long time to come.

We thank our esteemed guests for having time to participate in the historic Congress. We also thank all those that contributed in making it a success.

Thanks,

Dr ALIYU Labaran Dayyabu.