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MANSAG NEWSLETTER

<u>Title:</u> What can MANSAG do for me?

Welcome to this edition of the MANSAG Newsletter.

One of the questions I get asked all the time when I speak to another Nigerian medical or other healthcare professional about joining MANSAG is: "What has MANSAG done for me?" Over the years, I have thought about this question and I would like to share my reflections.

Our Nigerian community is incredibly diverse and resourceful. We have Nigerians in various leadership roles in the NHS, leading researchers, entrepreneurs, actors, authors, lifestyle coaches, mentors, and so on. We are the 5th largest immigrant group in the UK, and I feel certain that we can do much better to create an organisation that matches the full scale of our human, social and intellectual capitals.

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But we need not re-invent the wheel. The next generation ought to ride upon the wisdom garnered by the generation before it. The main obstacles to this are individualism and disunity. We have Nigerians organising in pockets and small groups, and replicating one another's efforts. If we pooled our vast resources and worked together, we could achieve exponential results because our efforts are concentrated and our loyalty is undivided.

To bring about these benefits would require that we make some sacrifice. As the famous saying goes: There is no success without sacrifice. MANSAG will be as strong and powerful as our investment in, and commitment to it. Therefore, the question should be "What can I do for MANSAG", and not "What has MANSAG done for me?"

The new leadership is committed to making sure that MANSAG is responsive to the needs of the Nigerian medical community in the UK. It has reached out to various Nigerian medical and other professional groups within the UK and is collaborating with partners both within and outside the UK to advance the values and interests I have outlined above. MANSAG has hosted a number of exciting events and programmes this year, and its annual conference takes place on October 21st and 22nd in Daventry, West Midlands (please see attached flier). I would encourage you to have a look at the MANSAG website (www.mansag.org) for details about upcoming events.

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I am inviting ideas about how MANSAG can better reflect our values, represent our interests or foster a stronger sense of Nigerian community. Whether these ideas are about contents for this newsletter, education and training opportunities, travel opportunities, new developments within your specialties, or perhaps you would like to nominate colleagues who have done well and you would like to see them celebrated or anything else that you feel would benefit our members – we would love to hear from you. We want to know what MANSAG is doing well and what we are not doing so well in or what we can do better. Ideas run the world – we value yours!

Dr. Ijabla Raymond
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"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." Herman Melville.

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