



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIANS
ACROSS GREAT BRITAIN
www.mansag.org

Annual Report of the Executive Committee of MANSAG
by
Dr Chris Agbo, MANSAG President
22 October 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to deliver my first Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Committee of MANSAG as MANSAG President. This is our second face-to-face meeting in nearly three years because of the limitations imposed by the covid-19 pandemic. Firstly, I want to thank everyone who made it to the AGC\AGM despite the challenging period we have found ourselves in. MANSAG has continued to progress during the pandemic, and we look forward to a new MANSAG in a post-pandemic world.

MANSAG will focus on expanding our membership and advocacy at various levels of government and colleges both here in the UK and in Nigeria.

2. PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES:

2.1 Educational Symposium

12th Annual Educational Symposium and Spring Charity Ball Saturday, 14th May 2022

This meeting was held in Cambridge and was well attended as our first face-to-face post-pandemic meeting. The fund-raising was organised for two charities, one in Nigeria (CWEENS) and one in the UK (Cambridge Women's Aid); the financial secretary will present the amount given to each charity. The feedback from this event was positive, and members are looking forward to the annual conference.

2.2 Annual General and Scientific Conference (AGM).

This is our first annual conference since the pandemic, and the theme for this conference is rebuilding the bridges post-pandemic. The pandemic indeed was disruptive in some of our activities; however, we were not deterred as the association had an increased virtual engagement with the partners association in battling the pandemic. We expect that the collaborations among the various diasporan association will continue to grow stronger as we meet during this conference to brainstorm on how best to address the healthcare challenges in our home country.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

3.1 Profile: MANSAG's profile continues an upward trajectory, as evidenced by our collaborative work with diaspora medical and healthcare organisations in the UK and abroad. These include the Nigerian Regulatory bodies and participation in deliberations on matters affecting Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups in health and social care services. In addition, we maintain our influence in the GMC through our active participation in the activities of its BME Doctors Forum and should continue to do so.

MANSAG is now well known in the UK and Nigeria and highly esteemed. MANSAG has engaged with the GMC, and it is part of the GMC **Strategic Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Forum (ED&I)**. There have been two meetings, one held virtually in March and the last in October 2022. Present at the hybrid meeting was various minority association leaders. I had the opportunity of discussing with GMC Chief Executive Charlie Massey issues we addressed was the increasing influx of Nigerian doctors and other healthcare professionals; how MANSAG and GMC can work together to support this group of healthcare professionals. He assures us that GMC is willing to work closely with MANSAG in any way we deem needful to support the healthcare professionals as they settle in the UK.

Our seat on the NMA's National Executive Council allows us to influence healthcare policies in Nigeria. For example, we have a member of MANSAG sitting in the MANSAG supporting the National Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Awards, a nascent awards scheme recognising the achievements of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Group Staff improving healthcare services in the United Kingdom.

Our working together philosophy is demonstrated in these activities in the UK:

- A. UK-Nigeria Health Alliance – an initiative organised by all the Nigerian healthcare professionals in the United Kingdom. We held the first round-table discussion in December 2022.
- B. NIRAD national conference was held in Manchester, and we discussed on how best to collaborate with various associations.
- C. British International Doctors Association (BIDA) National Conference 2022 with the theme stronger together.
- D. Working with BMA, BAPIO, APPNE, and BIDA on a joint letter to Home Secretary about GP visa application 2022

E. MANSAG and BAPIO have continued to work closely together, and this has progressed to MOU, awaiting approval from the house before signing at the BAPIO annual conference in Cardiff. MOU to be displayed for members to review before acceptance.

F. Working with the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) moving forward with LED charter during the LED 1st National Conference in Sept 2022.

G. Working with BAPIO, BMA and other associations on a fundamental change in the disciplinary process for doctors working in the NHS.

H. MANSAG active engagement with other Nigerian healthcare professionals' associations such as NDUK, NGPUK, NIRAD, ACDA, and Alumni associations to foster a stronger collaboration. The partnership level is still under discussion with various groups, and the conference's theme is a testament to this cause.

Our activities and engagement outside the UK:

1. Engagement with the various diaspora associations and the Federal Ministry of Health in the Diaspora Healthcare Professionals Initiative (DPHI). This is championed by the health minister and leaders of the diasporan associations in the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, and South Africa. The objectives of this initiative are knowledge and skills transfer, capacity building and medical mission.
The health minister officially launched the DPHI, and the diasporan association carried out several virtual training sessions across three pilot hospital sites (UNTH, UBTH, and National Hospital Abuja).
2. ANPA national conference in June 2022, themed healthcare delivery during times of crisis and conflict.
3. NMA national annual convention and election held in May with the engagement of MANSAG as a member of the executive council. There is the expectation of greater engagement of NMA, the Diasporan association, and the Federal ministry of health.
4. MANSAG partnership with the American University of Antigua to support Nigeria Students that may want to study medicine in AUA. We organised a webinar for Ukraine medical students and their parents during the crisis and are pleased to announce that around five students gained admission to continue their medical studies in AUA. An agreement of £10,000 scholarship is awarded to any student that gains admission to AUA via the MANSAG-AUA scheme.

The actions above are consistent with our charter that MANSAG will use its collective strength to work in partnership with other relevant professional bodies, associations, and unions to promote the needs and effective delivery of such demands of its members.

3.2.1 Membership

MANSAG as an association is as strong as our membership; there has been an ongoing issue with membership. It is interesting to note that many of our members do not pay their subscriptions. We are looking at a more efficient way of increasing our membership subscription and retaining those financially active members. We are looking for ways of ensuring that membership benefits are well spelt out to encourage members to pay their subscription and offer some discount from time to time. We encourage anyone that has not set up direct debit or standing order to do so before the end of this AGM kindly.

3 Medical Activities (Missions/Training)

3.1 Leadership Academy – we started our first Leadership Academy in March 2022 with a plan for yearly. The first event was very successful, and the feedback from members was encouraging. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to equip members with leadership skills early in their careers. Prof Rotimi Jaiyesimi is coordinating this.

3.2 Medical Students Network

MANSAG now has an active medical student forum, which involves various medical schools; the pioneer leader is Dr Victor Adeyara, now an FYI in Midland. There was a networking event organised for Medical Students in London (Sept 2022); doctors and other healthcare professionals were in attendance. Coordinator – Dr Ib Adedugbe.

3.3 Mentoring Program

The mentoring program is now better structured. We are looking for mentors in different regions and specialities as we have an increasing number of IMG that will need mentoring. Please do let us know if you would like to mentor healthcare professionals. Every year the mentor and mentee activities are reviewed as per the guideline. The coordinator is Dr Ib Adedugbe.

3.4 Training: In the first year of our tenure, we carried on with the existing strategy for the medical mission from previous leadership following the report referred to as the 'Dilly Report' which was delivered to the Executive in August 2019. We continue to focus on the three categories highlighted:

MANSAG Medical MISSION (Triple M)

MANSAG Recognized MISSION

MANSAG Accredited MISSION (Diaspora Professional Healthcare Initiative [DPHI])

1. MANSAG – Evercare Hospital MOU March 2022. This is a collaboration with a private healthcare setting in Nigeria. We have delivered two sessions of virtual training with

excellent feedback. The purpose of the partnership is training, skills transfer, capacity building and service as stipulated in the MOU.

2. DPHI - As stated previously, we have engaged with the DPHI, which led to the successful execution of virtual training for multidisciplinary in three hospitals in Nigeria.

3.3 Junior Doctor Rep (formerly trainee rep) – the elected trainee rep, Dr Nike Odeleye, could not carry on the role due to personal reasons. Therefore, we have appointed Dr Olamide Oyende, the runner-up for the post, as the current Junior doctor's rep. She will commence her role after this year's AGM.

3.4 Trainee issues: Dr C J Kenechukwu won the 2022 Trainee Travel Fellowship Award for carrying out an initiative aligned with our vision and mission. He would be expected to present his work at the conference this year.

ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Permanent Office

We have adopted the use of a virtual office. A virtual office works remotely but uses many features of a traditional office via the internet. It is also a way of having a presence in a high-profile business area, such as the City of London, but you could work from anywhere around the country. Our office address remains.

Kemp House
152-160 City Road
London EC1V 2NX

4.2 Admin Staff – we interviewed for the post of admin staff with a 16-hour contract per week of 10 pounds\hour. We are pleased to announce the appointment of an admin staff following a vigorous interview. Hopefully, this will make some improvement in membership management.

4.3 Executive Meetings

The executive committee now hold a monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday of every month, meeting 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm via Zoom. In addition, every three months, we have an Executive Council meeting involving the sub-committee chairs and regional chapters. The monthly has helped the Executive to be in top activities within the calendar.

4.4 Office of the Patrons – as an association, we will be appointing three people that will be patrons (two in the UK and one in Nigeria)

4.5 MANSAG newsletter - MANSAG is back with our newsletter after a few years of inactivity; the first eNewsletter was published in recently, and the Editor in Chief is Dr Ijabla Raymond.

4.6 Calendar

We now have a calendar of events which covers all the national and regional events released before the end of last year. The calendar is active on our website, and the website is very dynamic now. Daily update of the time to the next forthcoming event. The electronic copy was sent to members at the beginning of the year.

4.6 Advertisement

We have carried out ad-hoc paid adverts on Facebook for the two conferences in May 2022 and October 2022. It is a week duration at the cost of £30 for the week, and this produced high traffic to the website to the tune of hundreds of thousands within the advert period.

All advertisements have been done in-house using our websites and social media outlets: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, telegram etc.

4.7 Website Development

MANSAG has been upgraded to a more user-friendly, modern website that is dynamic and displaces the latest activities. The publicity secretary, communication officer and webmaster hold regular meetings to monitor content and provide feedback. As a result, the website looks more user-friendly, modern, and up-to-date with events.

4.8 Money Matters

4.8.1 Financial statements and accounts

Our Finances are stable though there is room for expected income generation if membership subscription increases.

Dr Deji Jaiyesimi, Financial Secretary and Dr Dorothy Apakama, Treasurer, will produce the final financial statement in their report.

We are current with our submissions to Companies House, HMRC and the Charity Commission.

We have had to close the MANSAG Limited Liability Company account. Since its formation, we have not traded, and we have had to prepare an account every year, and any lateness in the submission was penalised with a fine. However, it appears that there was an objection to closing the company account. Details of the person who objected to TBC.

4.8.2. Bank issues: The NatWest and Barclays bank account signatories took some time to process. We are still in the final stage of completing the Natwest signatories. Details in Treasurer's report.

5. SUBCOMMITTEES

5.1 1. Professional and career development, clinical attachment, and mentoring (PCM): The chair of the subcommittee, Mr Andrew Alalade and his colleagues have maintained the tradition of the PCM as an active subcommittee and has successfully organised a highly successful Educational Symposium and Charity Ball in Cambridge in May 2022 and carried out the selection of the recipient of Travel Fellowship grant in 2022.

5.2 2. Private-Public Partnership, Medical Mission, and Skills Transfer (Overseas Development): This is headed by Alex Obor and his team; they have commenced activities post-pandemic. First of which is the MOU signed between MANSAG and Evercare Hospital Lagos. Successfully carried out two training sessions in the Anaesthetics Department of the Hospital; a few other specialities will also be involved.

MANSAG is looking at increasing engagement with both Private and Public Health sectors in Nigeria with sustainable activities and capacity building.

5.33. Professional and Judicial Advisory (PJA): There are team members, but we are still waiting for confirmation from the chair. The team have been involved in a few cases that involve GMC investigation and other cases with good input.

5.4 4. Publicity, Membership, Recruitment and Fund-raising (PMF) Please see the report. The leader of this committee is Dr Onyeka Ekowo. They are passionate about increasing the

5.5 Academic Subcommittee – this is a 10-member committee with the mandate to carry out research related to black and ethnic minority. The idea of us as a people writing our own story with evidence. Currently, a few studies are on the way, and the team presented their work during the Educational Symposium. The chair of the Committee is Dr Kelechukwu

5 6. Communications (Websites, Emails and Social Media Platforms): Dr Chris Osuafor is our communication officer. His team has been very busy supporting the organisation's social media presence. We hope the communication and Publicity teams working together will increase our social media presence.

6.0

Regional Chapters

MANSAG is in the business of expansion, and the regional chapters are the bedrock of this strategy. With the increasing number of Nigerian healthcare professionals across the nation, MANSAG is looking at having Hospital representatives within the region; this will increase networking.

Manchester Chapter -Dr Ugo Umeadi

Midland Chapter – Chair Dr Raymond Ladele

East of England - Chair Dr Amaka Achara

London Chapter Chair TBC

South West Chapter Chair Dr Femi Akerele

Yorkshire Chapter Chair Dr Tonye Wokoma

7.0 Welfare Matters

To fulfil our charter, we have tried to reach out to a few of our colleagues who have been unwell by telephone calls and written communication. In addition, MANSAG representatives made calls to the families and sent letters of condolences.

MANSAG organised a fund-raising for the Nigerian students affected by the Ukraine Crisis, and the welfare team were in touch with the students during those difficult times. See the full report by Welfare and Social Secretary - Dr Oge Ilozue.

8.0 MANSAG

The Future MANSAG

An inclusive association catering to healthcare professionals to bring all the healthcare professionals of Nigeria together for a stronger impact in the UK and Nigeria. We will be extending our support to every private and NHS Nigerian doctor/healthcare professional, with the intent of providing a great opportunity for career progression.

Watch out for the new MANSAG that will embrace everyone and provide a thriving environment for growth. Let us build the MANSAG we so much desire; all hands must be on deck for this to happen.

9.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank members of MANSAG for their support and the opportunity to serve. I am particularly grateful to those who have volunteered to work in new areas and always coming up with ideas on how to move MANSAG forward.

Special thanks to my executive committee members for their selfless service, tremendous energy, and cooperation.

Yours in MANSAG

Chris Agbo



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Consultant Renal & Acute Medicine
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"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." Herman Melville.

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