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## **Annual Report of the Executive Committee of MANSAG Presented by Mr Babatunde A. Gbolade, MANSAG President 27 October 2018**

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### **1 Introduction:**

Dear Members of MANSAG, it is that time of year when we acquaint you of our stewardship since the last AGM, and I am thrilled to present to you the 2017/2018 Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Committee of MANSAG. The Lincolnshire 2017 AGM was attended by 32 fully paid-up members, a significant improvement in attendance figures. The Lincolnshire AGM was analogous to a revitalisation of the mandate you gave us at the beginning of this administration regarding the agenda items discussed and endorsement of the proposed amendments to the MANSAG constitution. This gave us the impetus to charge ahead in the last year of our term of office, which has been eventful by any standards, as detailed below.

### **2 Programmed activities:**

#### **2.1 The 9<sup>th</sup> MANSAG Educational Symposium, Cambridge (19 May 2018):** Mr Ibrahim Bolaji,

Mike Imana, and the members of the Education Subcommittee organised an exciting programme, with the theme “Portfolio, Reflections and Alternative Careers outside Medicine.” The first part of the symposium focused on the Bawa-Garba case, with Ibrahim Bolaji speaking on “Portfolio and Reflections”, Sarah Dodds of the GMC on “the Legal Impact” and Tista Chakravarty-Gannon on “the patient safety aspect from the GMC’s perspective.” The second part of the symposium concentrated on alternative careers outside medicine, with Lola Brown speaking on ‘sabbatical to explore cooking venture outside medicine,’ Roseline Sanni-Ajose on “how to begin a career in acting and auditions” and Ogechi Nwodim on “socio-economic and political reasons for medical migration to the UK. Motivational presentations formed the last part of the event, with James Gardom speaking on “application to Cambridge University by black & ethnic minority (BME) – changing the trend,” and Geoffrey Ijomah on “trauma counselling training for internally displaced individuals in Jos. The Bawa-Garba case generated the most heated discussion afterwards.

- 2.2 MANSAG Cambridge 2018 May Ball:** Dr Chris Agbo and members of the Cambridge LOC organised a wonderful MANSAG May Charity Ball in support of Teenage Cancer Trust at the DoubleTree by Hilton Cambridge, 19 May 2018. The event was well-attended, with Councillor George Pippas, Mayor of Cambridge as our Guest of honour. A representative of Teenage Cancer Trust also attended, and we raised the sum of approximately £436 which we agreed to top up to £500 and pay to the nominated charity Teenage Cancer Trust.

2.3 **MANSAG MANCHESTER AGC 2018:** MANSAG, after seven years, returns to Manchester of which we have fond memories, for its 29<sup>th</sup> Scientific meeting and AGM on 26 - 28 October 2018. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has for the very first time, a female Chair, Dr Ngozi Edi-Osagie, and that gives us a pointer as to what to expect. We are expecting, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ambassador George Oguntade; the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, Mr Abdulazeez M. Abdullahi will represent the Honourable Minister of Health. Also attending are the Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), the Registrar of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and the leadership of our sister Diaspora Nigerian Medical Associations in the USA, Canada, Germany, South Africa, UK-based Diaspora African Medical and healthcare organisations and the President of the Nigerian Medical Association. They will take part in discussions about moving forward, the Diaspora Professionals Healthcare Initiative (DPHI).

### 3 State of the Association:

- 3.1 **PROFILE:** MANSAG's profile continues an upward trajectory as evidenced by our collaborative work with sister diaspora medical and healthcare organisations, the UK and Nigerian Regulatory bodies, and participation in deliberations about matters affecting Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups in health and social care services. MANSAG is now well known in the UK and Nigeria and held in high esteem. We are recognised as the voice of Nigerian doctors in the UK, which as of this morning, stands at 5,712 doctors with Nigerian Primary Qualifications registered with the GMC. African Diaspora medical organisations look up to us while non-African organisations always value our collaboration and participation in their events. 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. Our seat on the NMA's National Executive Council gives us the opportunity to influence health care policies in Nigeria. MANSAG supports the National Black and Minority Ethnic (B.A.M.E) Awards, a nascent awards scheme, recognising the achievements of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Group Staff for improving healthcare services in the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 **Membership:** A healthy membership base is crucial to the long-term prospects of any voluntary organisation and more so the infusion of new blood. I am happy to say that this executive committee has exceeded its main objective of increasing MANSAG's paid-up membership by at least a third above what it was when we took office in October 2015. Between 21 October 2016 and 27 October 2018, we registered **52** new paid-up members; 29 trainees and juniors, 19 non-trainees and 4 AHPs. The successful recruitment of new paid-up members is due to the zeal of the younger members of our Executive Committee. They organised two highly successful "Generation X " events in December 2016 and January 2018. My heartfelt thanks to them.
- 3.3 **Training:** Due to financial constraints, we decided to not embark on training missions that would involve a large number of consultants. Instead, we chose to be involved in training that required a small group of consultants where there was an identified training need and at the invitation of the host groups. To this end, we sent a group of four psychiatrists on the psychiatric trauma counselling training for healthcare workers in Jos, Nigeria in November 2017 at what can be considered minimal cost. This training was so well-received that we were recently approached to run a similar training course in Nassarawa or Jos Nigeria. In a similar vein, a four-person MANSAG team in conjunction with the NMA CME Committee delivered the well-received CME/CPD part of the Scientific programme at the 58th NMA AGC/ADM in May 2018 in Abuja. The most popular part of this CPD/CME programme was the basic surgical skills session run by Mr Tunde Campbell. I am extremely grateful to all the participants in the training mission and CPD programme for giving generously of their time, skills and knowledge.

- 3.4 **Trainees:** Tosan Okoro won the 2018 Trainee Travel Fellowship Award to visit the Schulthess Klinik in Zurich, Switzerland and work under the supervision of Dr Hans Rudiger, a senior hip surgeon. He will present his report and receive his award in due course.

The trainees ran a successful membership recruitment drive called “Generation X “ event in January 2018 which I was privileged to attend. It was well worth the time, energy and money invested.

## 4 ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1 Regular Executive committee held regular meetings, mostly via Skype conference. We held meetings on:

12 November 2017, 22 October 2017, 14 January 2018, 8 April 2018, 22 April 2018 (Emergency meeting), 24 June 2018, 29 July 2018 (Ad Hoc meeting), 9 September 2018, 7 October 2018 and 18th October 2018

The minutes of the meetings of 8 April 2018, 22, April 2018 (Emergency meeting), 24 June 2018, and 9 September 2018 were never formally approved due to, in some cases, disagreements about some of the contents. These minutes, therefore, are not the official minutes of the meetings.

The meeting of 9 September and the minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2018 led to a data subject access request which was complied with within the stipulated time-frame.

The minutes of 07 October were not considered because they were not available at the time of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 will be considered before the end of this AGM to enable the smooth change of bank account signatories.

## 5 Money matters:

- 5.1 **Financial statements and accounts:** Our finances remain in the black despite running some of our programmed activities at a loss. We need to reassess how we run these activities and generate enough external funding to avoid running them at a deficit. Drs Chris Agbo, Financial Secretary and Dr Nwakuru Nwaogwugwu, Treasurer have produced a provisional financial statement, and they will produce the final financial statement after the conference. We have worked hard to submit our accounts on time, and we are virtually up-to-date with our submissions to Companies House, HMRC and the Charity Commission. We are preparing our accounts for the Financial Year ended October 2017.
- 5.2 **Bank issues:** The signatories to the Natwest and Barclays bank accounts need to be changed as soon as possible after the new EXCO takes over. Barclays Bank has been

unnecessarily difficult over the years in effecting the transfer of funds to the Natwest account and effecting a change of signatories. On this occasion, we will try and facilitate the change of signatories for both accounts by approving the minutes of the EXCO meeting of 18 October 2018 before we hand over.

## **6 Subcommittees:**

- 6.1 PCM: Ibrahim Bolaji and Mike Imana have maintained the tradition of the PCM as an active subcommittee and organised a highly successful 9th Educational Symposium.
- 6.2 PMS: Please see the report
- 6.3 PJA: Please see the report.
- 6.4 PMF: The PMF subcommittee, headed by Tokunbo Sangowawa has been very active in producing regularly, the revamped MANSAG Newsletter edited by Linda Onyeocha, which has won wide acclaim for its sparkle and effervescence. The MANSAG Newsletter serves as a chronicle of our activities in-between our major annual activities. I wish to thank the editorial team for their professionalism and diligence in producing this high-quality publication. At this point, I wish to acknowledge the immense contribution of Mrs Chikanorah Udezue to the production of the Newsletter in its nascent years. She single-handedly nurtured and produced it without any remuneration to a point where it became an eagerly anticipated publication following any MANSAG event. I am sure you would all join me in expressing our appreciation of her work and wish her well in her future endeavours.  
The subcommittee has also been working hard to ensure that MANSAG's privacy policy is GDPR-compliant

## **7. Representations at meetings and events**

- 7.1 09 December 2017: ICAN UK & District Society's event, London
- 01 March 2018: Extraordinary meeting of the GMC's BME Doctors Forum
- 21 April 2018: Patient Safety VS Criminalising Doctors: Learnings from Bawa-Garba case
- 04 - 05 May 2018: NMA NEC Meeting, Abuja, Nigeria
- 27 June – 02 July: 24th ANPA Annual Scientific Convention, Dallas, Texas USA.
- 11 July 2018: BMA's "Creating a turning point on race equality in medicine" event
- 14 July 2018: Cameroon Doctors UK fundraising Event
- 02 – 05 August: 17th Annual CANPAD CME and Family Event, Calgary, Canada.
- 10 October 2018: Nigeria High Commission Independence event
- 13 October 2018: British International Doctors' Association ARM event

## **8. Website Matters**

- 8.1 It is said that it takes less than two-tenths of a second for an online visitor to form a first opinion of an organisation's website once they have checked the site. With that in mind, we have worked with the webmaster to determine which elements of the MANSAG

website are most important to those viewing the pages and this led to a complete overhaul of the website such it now presents a pleasing interface leading to increased traffic to the site. Virtually all new membership and event registrations now take place through the site. There is a members area that is only accessible to paid-up members, and both old and new members have been issued with login details. Please check the members area as new material is being placed there at intervals.

## **9. Welfare matters**

- 8.1 We were sad to announce the demise of Dr Clifford Ojukwu, a Birmingham General Practitioner and erstwhile treasurer of the West Midlands chapter of MANSAG. He was a well-liked colleague. MANSAG representatives called on his family, and a letter of condolence was also sent. MANSAG was also represented at the UK end of his funeral ceremony. On learning of a bereavement involving a medical colleague whether a MANSAG member or not, the welfare secretary makes a telephone call to or visits the family and the president sends a letter of condolence. These calls and letters have been well appreciated.

## **10. Donations to Worthy Causes:**

- 10.1 We donated the sum of £500.00 each to the Sickle Cell Society and the Teenage Cancer Trust UK.

## **11. Forthcoming Events:**

- 11.1 2019 Annual Symposium & May Ball: Sheffield, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019.  
Chair of LOC – Mr Bolarinde Ola
- 11.2 2019 Annual Scientific Conference & AGM: London, 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> October 2019.  
Chair of LOC – Dr Mike Ehima

## **12. Acknowledgements:**

As this is my last report, I want to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee – Rotimi Jaiyesimi, Chris Agbo, Nwakuru Nwaogwugwu, Andrew Alalade, Yinka Gbolahan, Olivia Rufai and Dorothy Apakama for their hard work and support in the last three years. Despite several challenges during our term of office and competing demands on our time and resources, we have managed to work together to get MANSAG to this point. I also want to thank all members of MANSAG for your support and the opportunity to serve you.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the constant support and encouragement of my family. I especially, want to thank my wife, Linda for her unflinching support, wise counsel and providing a ready listening ear, without which I could not have survived the last three years as MANSAG President. Linda, thank you so much.

*Tunde Gbolade*

**Babatunde A. Gbolade**  
**MANSAG PRESIDENT**