

## BRIEF UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE NIGERIAN FEDERATION FOR NEURO-REHABILITATION (NFNR) (2)

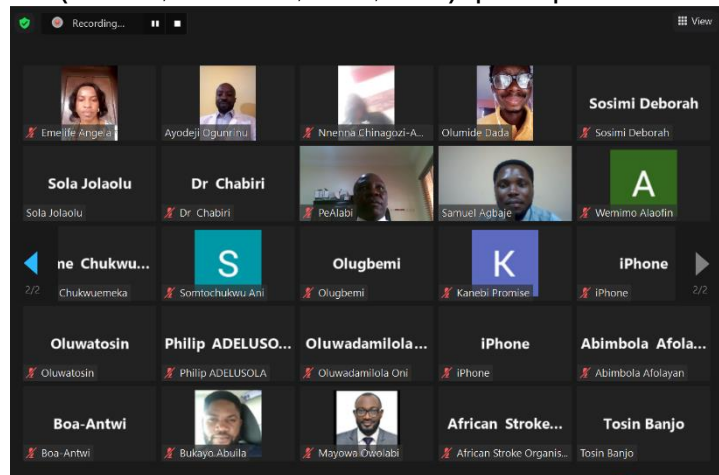
**CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:** The second in series of The Nigerian Federation of NeuroRehabilitation (NFNR), an affiliate of WFNR, in its fifth year organized a two-day webinar in collaboration with the second African Stroke Organization (Virtual) Conference (ASOC) in November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Opening remarks and welcome for the first day was delivered by Dr Leye Adeniji (Executive Secretary, NFNR) on behalf of the Current President of NFNR, Prof T.K. Hamzat. Further, a keynote address titled **'Neurology and Neurorehabilitation Manpower Challenges in Africa'**, was delivered by the immediate past president of the NFNR (Prof Adesola Ogunniyi, FAS). During his presentation, he opined that SSA represents 24% of the worlds health burden but has only 3% of global health workers; has the lowest density of health workers globally with less than one ancillary health workers per 1000 population across its rural areas. Factors such as brain-drain, push-pull effects including insecurity/economic reasons, hostile environment and poor training facilities were contributory to the situation. In his recommendation, task shifting/task sharing, family medicine curriculum development to involve uncomplicated cases, emphasis on disease prevention as well as improved conditions of service were recommended strategies to address the situation. To cover the gap in number of neurologists in Africa, he stressed the importance of establishing centres of excellence in Neurology across African countries via good south-south collaboration with support from government and non-governmental institutions.

A guest lecture was delivered by Prof Wayne Feng (MD), a member of the WFNR Presidium on the second day (Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>) of the meeting. In his presentation titled **'Designing Large Multi center Neuromodulation Stroke Recovery Trial'**, he expounded the various components required in implementing brain-related studies/research using the TRANScranial direct current stimulation for P<sub>ost</sub> stroke motor Recovery phase II (TRANSPORT2) study funded by the

NIH, USA and domiciled at the Department of Neurology, Duke University School of Medicine, USA.

**Goodwill messages:** There were comments and goodwill messages from executive members of the WFNR including the current secretary of WFNR Presidium, Prof Caterina Pistarini who congratulated the NFNR for putting together this conference.

**Attendance and Participants:** Over one hundred (100) registered participants in Nigeria; WFNR Africa members across the field of neurology, neuro-physiotherapy, speech therapy and neuro-clinical psychology, academics, trainees (Fellows, Post-doc, PhD, MSc) participated in this webinar. Two additional distinguished members of the WFNR were in attendance: the current General Secretary of WFNR, Prof Caterina Pistarini (MD) and the executive secretary, Mrs Tracey Mole. Spurred by the renewed enthusiasm of the participants, plans are underway to host an annual general meeting (AGM) early fall in 2023.



*A Cross-section of Virtual Participants during the NFNR-WFNR-ASOC Meeting held Nov. 2-3, 2023 in Nigeria.*