

Africa, with a huge population of over 1.3 billion, suffers a huge burden of neurological diseases. It is the most underserved continent in neurorehabilitation research and services due to lack of awareness, low demand, and scarcity of personnel and resources. The Regional Vice-president of the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation, Professor Mayowa Owolabi (*MBBS, MSc, DM, FAAN, FANA, FAS, FAMedS, FAAS, FRCP*) has continued to promote the ideals of the WFNR in the African region which he oversees. The following activities lends credence to the pursuit of this mandate few months back:

1. CREATION OF PLATFORMS FOR EMANCIPATION OF MORE AFRICAN REHABILITATION TEAMS:

In the last few months, neurorehabilitation activities have grown on the continent. Consequently, its membership has increased with over 700 members across the different African countries. It has also continued to spearhead these activities along with the emergence of several national societies including Republic of Benin - Benin Association of Physical Therapists (ABEKIR), Egyptian Society of Neurorehabilitation, Mauritius Society of Neurorehabilitation, Scientific congress of Societe D’Afrique Francophone De Neurorehabilitation Africa (SAFNER) and the Cameroun (NEREMODIS and Neurorehab Training Association)—New Umbrella National Society. Discussions are ongoing towards developing programs and activities for these societies in the coming year 2023 in a bid to sustain the expectations and enthusiasm of its members.

2. PRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST SCIENTIFIQUE CONGRES OF THE SOCIETE D’AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE DE NEUROREHABILITATION AFRICA (SAFNER)

The RVP WFNR SSA, Prof Mayowa Owolabi participated in the two-day Scientific congress of Societe D’Afrique Francophone De Neurorehabilitation Africa (SAFNER) tagged *‘NeuroRehabilitation: Quelle place en milieu hospitalier dans les pays francophones d’Afrique’?* This meeting which took place on the 22nd & 23rd July 2022 at Azalai Hôtel - Cotonou in Benin Republic, in an hybrid format, had erudite members (from speech, physical, neurology and allied professional departments) of the WFNR in attendance including the RVP SSA, Prof Mayowa Owolabi. In his virtual presentation titled, *‘Neurorehabilitation in Africa’*, expanded on the approaches to promoting neurorehabilitation in Africa using the treat framework. In his recommendation, he emphasized on the importance of capacity building and inclusion of other fields (Neurorehabilitation engineering Robotics, Brain Computer Interphases, Telerehabilitation; medical engineering, pharmacy, social work, nutrition & dietetics) in rehabilitation of neurological conditions.



3. PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION FOSTERING TOWARDS CREATION OF ADDITIONAL REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES:

With the advent of the

neurologic revolution, the WFNR SSA has continued to expand its synergy with other continental and global activities to include the brain health initiative; sister associations (e.g. African Stroke Organization, Africa Dementia Consortium, Africa Academy of Neurology, etc.). Currently, the WFNR Africa, under the leadership of Prof Mayowa Owolabi, is developing a paper on the situational analysis of epilepsy and other neurological disorders in Africa region under his latest regional initiative – Domestication of the World Health Organization Intersectoral Global Action Plan against (WHO IGAP) Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders in WHO African region

4. **ADDITIONAL GLOBAL NEURO-RELATED INITIATIVES:** Prof Owolabi, alongside with other experts, collaborators and trainees within the region are currently involved in some notable, global initiatives some of which includes WHO Rehabilitation 2030 ... package of interventions for Parkinson's Disease and Dementia, and One Neurology.

5. **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 2nd – 3rd, 2022. As one of the Immediate past Vice-Chairs of NFNR, Prof Mayowa Owolabi in his welcome presentation appreciated everyone for joining while lauding the efforts of the WFNR in facilitating the occurrence of the second in series of virtual conferences of NFNR. 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). A guest lecture titled '**Designing Large Multi center Neuromodulation Stroke Recovery Trial**' was delivered by Prof Wayne Feng (MD), a member of the WFNR Presidium. 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.

Nigerian Federation for NeuroRehabilitation (NFNR)
In collaboration with
WFNR
World Federation for Neurorehabilitation
ASO
AFRICAN STROKE ORGANIZATION
(VIRTUAL) CONFERENCE
PRESENTS
A Two-Day Scientific Conference
Date: November 2 and 3, 2022
Mode: Virtual
Time: 10:00 - 12:00noon (Nigerian Time) daily

Keynote Address
Prof Adesola Ogunniyi, FAS
Professor of Medicine and Consultant Neurologist,
University College Hospital, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria,
Immediate Past President - Nigerian Federation for
Neurorehabilitation
TOPIC: Neurology and Neurorehabilitation
Manpower Challenges in Africa

Keynote Speaker
Prof Wayne Feng, MD, MS
Professor of Neurology, Chief, Division of Stroke and
Vascular Neurology, Director, Neuromodulation and Stroke
Recovery Lab, Department of Neurology, Duke University
School of Medicine, USA
TOPIC: Current evidence base and design of
neuromodulation studies to improve recovery after stroke

Abstract Presentation
Call for Abstracts
Monday, 3rd October 2022: Abstract Submission deadline
Friday, 15th October 2022: Abstract acceptance and notification
Please submit your structured abstract (250 maximum word count) to
nigerianneurorehabilitation@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FEE:
Professionals: N1,000.00 only
Students (with ID cards): N2,500.00 only
Account Name: Nigerian Federation for Neurorehabilitation
Account Number: 077780451 Bank: Access Bank Plc
Send proof of payment to nigerianneurorehabilitation@gmail.com with full names as email subject
RSVP: nigerianneurorehabilitation@gmail.com

6. **PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST EMIRATES SOCIETY OF REHABILITATION AND SPORTS MEDICINE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2ND REGIONAL WFNR AND 3RD MENASCI ANNUAL CONGRESS**

Away from Africa, Prof Owolabi participated in the Emirates Society of Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine (ESRM) Annual Conference, 2nd Regional WFNR and 3rd Middle East and North Africa Spinal Cord Injury Network (MENASCI) Annual Congress which took place in September 23rd – 25th 2022 in Dubai and virtually. In his virtual presentation titled '**Incidence and Prevalence of TBI in MENA region**', Prof Owolabi highlighted on the

prevalence, incidence, DALY's and mortality of the various types of TBI, injuries in North Africa and Middle East across various age categories while called for holistic efforts towards rehabilitation of these within the region.

7. **NEUROREHAB SERVICE PROVISION:** Blossom centre, the WFNR Africa hub has remained resolute in its vision of providing holistic and integrative rehabilitative healthcare services for all neurological cases referred from and across Nigeria and other sub-Saharan African countries. The centre continues to deliver excellent patient-centred neurorehabilitation services with at least 80% success rate. This has translated to a better quality of life for its clientele base of over 1049 and counting. As part of its training and advocacy mission, the centre played host to a working visit by a team of neuroprofessionals across some parts of Africa in July 2022. Visitors were exposed to the various services, models as well as philosophies that guide management of neurological cases in the first centre for neurorehabilitation in SSA.

