



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MWAN) RIVERS STATE WEEK 2016, HELD IN PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE, FROM OCTOBER 9TH TO 15TH, 2016.

Background

Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN), an affiliate of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) and Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) is a nonprofit professional organization of female medical doctors and dentists dedicated to promoting the health of the populace with a focus on women and children.

Health indices in Nigeria have remained poor, with unacceptably high Under-five mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, lending credence to the fact that the Nigerian health care system is weak.

The Association dedicates a week annually to carry out activities that raise awareness on prevailing preventable health issues, continuing medical education for doctors/healthcare providers, organize symposia/seminars, advocacy on health related policies and give free health services to the populace.

The 2016 Week had as its theme, Health Care Financing in a poor resource setting; A tool for Universal Health Coverage. Sub themes included Non Communicable Diseases, Oral health and cancers.

Day 1 – Thanksgiving Service

The program kicked off on Sunday, 9th October, 2016 with a thanksgiving service at the Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM), Ohiamini Road, Elekahia where members thanked God for another opportunity to be of service to humanity. We also received prayers and assurances of a successful week. Thirty five medical women all decked in their gold head gears were in attendance.



Figure 1 MWAN Week 2016 Thanksgiving Service

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Day 2 – Media Engagements

Monday 10th of October was dedicated to media activities. The Rivers State populace was the target of awareness on various non communicable diseases through live call-in programs in 6 radio stations. Radio programs actually commenced the previous week and through the entire week's activities to raise awareness on non communicable health conditions as well as how to change lifestyle and modifiable risks. The schedule held as follows;

5th October – wazobia 94.1 FM – Lymphomas & Leukamias @ 11am

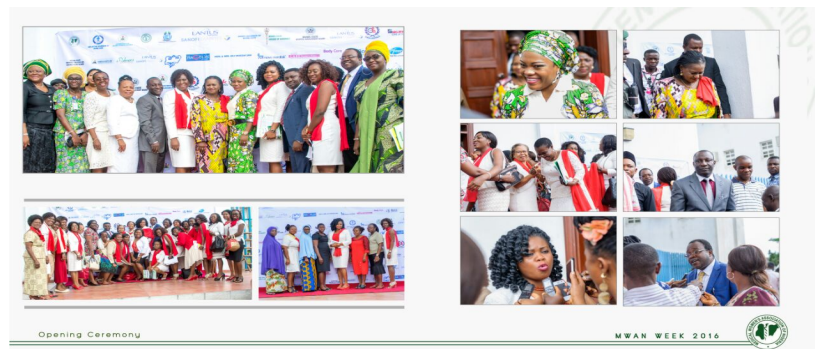
6th October – Nig Info 92.3 Fm – Screening for NCDs @ 2.30pm

10th Oct. – Rhythm 93.7 FM – Oral / Prostate/ Cervical CANCERS@ 9am

- Wave 97.1 FM – Diabetes Mellitus @ 10.30am

11th Oct. – Cool Fm – Bronchial Asthma @ 8am

12th Oct - Wazobia – Hypertensive Heart Diseases -



Day 3 – Opening Ceremony & Scientific sessions

The opening Ceremony which held on Tuesday, 11th October at the Auditorium of the Rivers State House of Assembly, had in attendance 415 stakeholders and dignitaries. Chaired by the Rivers State Commissioner for Budget & Economic Planning, (Barr) Isaac Kamalu, the Week was declared open by the Wife of the Rivers State Governor, Hon. Justice Suzzette Nyesom Wike who encouraged all present to support the efforts of MWAN. Also present at the opening ceremony were the Rivers State Deputy Governor, Dame Dr Ipalibo Harry-Banigo, the Rivers State Commissioner for Health, Dr Theophilus Odagme, the Rivers State Commissioner of Social Welfare & Rehabilitation, Hon. Damiete, Vice Chairman, Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Rivers State Branch, Dr Obelebra Adebisi who represented the Chairman. The audience was drawn from a wide range of stakeholders, including Doctors from both public and private sectors, Chief Medical Directors, Directors from the various State Ministries, delegates from Shell Petroleum Development Company, leaders in the pharmaceutical industry, wives of legislators, women associations and school students from the College of Health Technology and various Secondary schools across the state.

The theme lecture was given by the Regional Community Health Manager Shell, Sub-Saharan Africa, Dr Akinwunmi Fajola, who advocated for the implementation of Community Health Insurance, a low-cost-high-impact model of health care financing that is feasible in a resource limited setting. He emphasized that “the problem of the health sector is not about resources but about resourcefulness” and cited the Community Health Insurance model run in Obio Cottage Hospital which is based on Public-Private, People Partnership (PPPP).

The Commissioner of Health in his remarks thanked Medical Women for the timely event and promised to work and establish “affordable Community health Insurance Scheme for Rivers State”.

The Deputy Governor reiterated the Rivers State Government Stand “to ensure effective healthcare service delivery, the passage of a speedy health insurance scheme bill to the State House of Assembly” and pledged that “1000 vaccines against cervical cancer will be provided to MWAN before the end of 2016”.

The second part of the program held as scientific session with presentations on Non communicable diseases- You are what you eat, Bronchial Asthma and the role of the doctor in oral Health and cancers. It was a very enlightening session especially for the non medical audience who asked several questions for clarification especially on asthma.

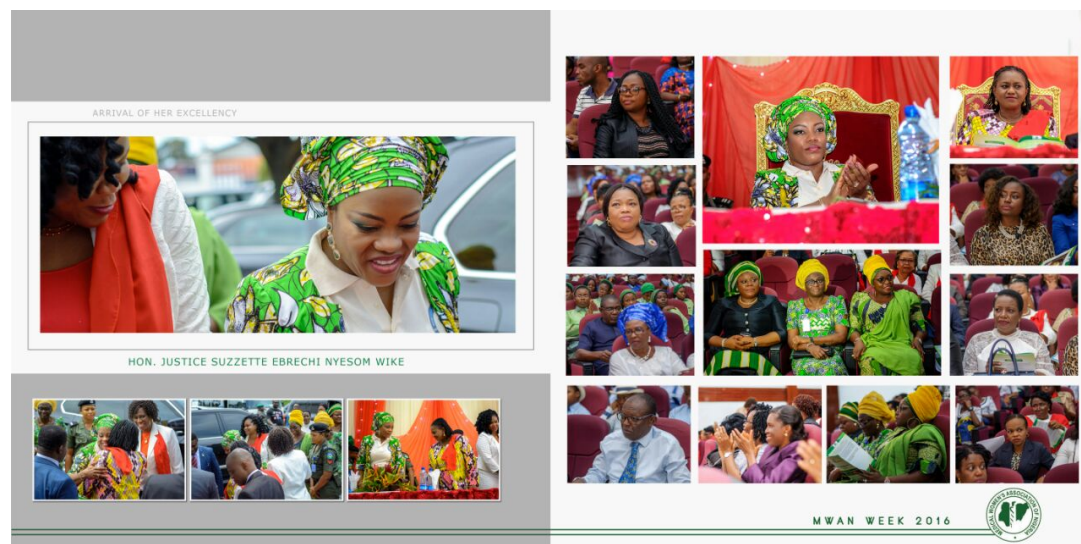


Figure 2 Engaging Stakeholders Wife of the Governor



Figure 3 MWAN President on the Red Carpet

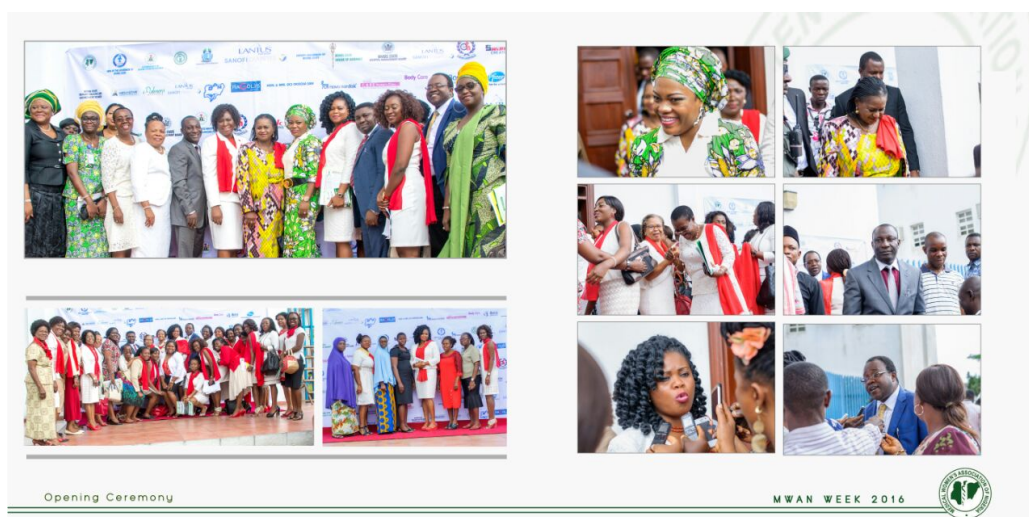


Figure 4 Engaging Stakeholders Dep Gov & Press



Figure 5 Opening Ceremony Audience & High Table



Figure 6 MWAN Engaging the Young



Figure 7 HIP GDM CME Resource Persons Novo Nordisk, Diabetes Association of Nigeria, MWAN, UPTH, Ministry of Health, Sanofi.

Day 4 – Continuing Medical Education / Training of Health Care Providers

The Continuing Medical Education sponsored by our partnering pharmaceutical companies, was attended by over 198 doctors. It focused on training of Health Care Providers on pre-referral care for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. Pre and post tests were carried out to evaluate knowledge and practices. Presentations were done by experienced physicians and obstetricians from the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and pharmaceutical companies. Topics discussed included;

1. The role of Health Care Providers in the Management of NCDs
2. Diabetes In Pregnancy and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; Clinical Importance / New WHO Diagnostic criteria for GDM
3. Hyperglycaemia in Pregnancy: When to Diagnose; How to follow up; & Pre referral Care
4. Hyperglycaemia in Pregnancy: Obstetric Management during Delivery

5. The role of Basal Insulin in the Management of Gestational DM
6. Therapeutic Landscape in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: Does treatment choice influence outcomes?
7. Diabetes & Pregnancy in Nigeria..... Challenges, Solutions & Postnatal care

Most speakers at the scientific session and health workers training reiterated that a large portion of non-communicable diseases, an important cause of morbidity and mortality globally, are preventable with the adoption of healthy lifestyle.

“Outcome of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus for both mother and child is better when hyperglycaemia is detected early and treated adequately” Dr Rosemary Ogu

Day 5 - Health Awareness / Cancer Walk

Health awareness walk started at 8am from the UST Roundabout to Mile One Market with stops at the Mile 3 and Mile One Markets to sensitize people on cancers of the breast, cervix and prostate. Information, Education and Communication materials were also handed out to passersby, sellers and buyers. Attendance at the walk was drawn from MWAN, women groups and University of Port Harcourt students. See pictures below.

Day 6 – Free Medical Outreach

With support from the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), we carried out a medical outreach at the Marine Base Community. The outreach, which held at the Blackman Estate Town Hall, started with health awareness talks on prevention and early detection of non communicable diseases, Breast/ Cervical/Prostate cancer as well as oral health. Screening for Hypertension and Diabetes, breast self examination, cervical cancer screening was emphasized.

Also carried out were consultations, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, oral examinations and distribution of insecticide treated nets to pregnant women and children under five years as well as dispensing of free drugs to 150 adults and 50 children.






Day 7 – Closing Luncheon and General Meeting

Closing Luncheon and October general meeting held at the Eastern Garden Chinese Restaurant at 1pm. The meeting had forty members in attendance and featured appreciation of the local organizing committee, discussions on what went well and what could have gone better was also done. It was agreed that the communiqué be disseminated to stakeholders as an advocacy tool. Members were treated to a sumptuous three course Chinese meal and lots of wine.

The 2016 MWAN week was a huge success! Kudos to the planning committee and the Dr Rosemary Ogu led executives.

Our special appreciation goes to our partners for the support given towards the success of the MWAN Week 2016.



MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MWAN)

RIVERS STATE BRANCH

MWAN WEEK 2016

THEME:

Health Care Financing: A Tool for Universal Health Coverage

SUB-THEMES:

- NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT
- ORAL HEALTH / ORAL CANCERS

Date: 9th - 15th October, 2016 | Time: 10am prompt | Venue: Rivers State House of Assembly Complex

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

<p>SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER, 2016 Thanksgiving Service</p> <p>MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2016 Media Outreach</p>	<p>TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2016 Opening Ceremony & CME on Oral Health & NCDs; You are what you eat (Hypertension, Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome)</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 2016 CME on Gestational Diabetes and NCDs</p>	<p>THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER, 2016 Health Awareness Walk</p> <p>FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 2016 Community Outreach</p> <p>SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2016 Closing Luncheon</p>
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Dr. Rosemary Ogu
President MWAN, R/S

Dr. Tomina George
LOC Chairman


Dr. Roseline Appah-Dulu
LOC Secretary


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Signed October 24th 2016.

Dr Rosemary Ogu

President

Dr Vetty Agala

Secretary/ State Coordinator

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Healing with the love of a mother