

COMMITMENT TO A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITATION.

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WHO I AM?

I am a consultant Physician/Neurologist, at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, Enugu State Nigeria. I work also as an honorary consultant neurologist and lecturer at the Enugu State university of Science and technology teaching Hospital and the Memfys Hospital for Neurosurgery all in Enugu. In the past I also worked as a part-time consultant in neurology at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Enugu. I graduated from the famous Odessa Medical University in Ukraine in 1995 and obtained the membership of the Nigerian postgraduate medical school and West African College of physicians in 2004. In 2008 I received the fellowship of the West African College of Physicians in Neurology.

I have been involved in the fight against epilepsy since 2004. I am one of the founding members of the Nigeria League against Epilepsy (NLaE) which was founded in 2007. At inception I was elected the secretary general a post which I still occupy. I founded the Enugu Epilepsy project; a programme aimed at creating awareness about epilepsy. This programme has carried out several sensitization works in different schools and in the communities.

As a member of NLaE, I was central to the organization of all our congresses which were mostly funded by me. Currently since 2008, we have had meetings in different states of the federation of Nigeria. As part of the effort to improve neurology care especially epilepsy, headache and stroke, in 2010 I formed the Orient Neuroscience Society of which I am the current president.

I founded the Care epilepsy foundation, a non-governmental organisation in 2013 primarily for the dissemination of knowledge about epilepsy, improving access to care by providing free consultations and subsidised EEG costs for all patients. Together with several drug companies we provide original branded drugs at distributor's price which is usually far cheaper than retail prices.

In 2010 I was appointed an executive of the African Commission as the communication officer. Since my appointment, I worked hard to publish 5 editions (with the 6th on the pipeline) of Epilepsynews Africa; the bulletin of the commission.

I have travelled since 2008 to many important epilepsy conferences and have gained some experiences on what the fight against epilepsy should be in the continent - *a global open vision and approach for neurology care in general and epilepsy in particular*-a vision shared with one of my mentors in neurology care, Pr. Diop G.I believe in greatness that emanates from hard work and commitment. This I have always tried to demonstrate in my life and all

endeavours. I love teaching and research. I am convinced that education(targeted impartation of knowledge to achieve a desired positive change) and retraining are the keys to ensuring a life without limitations for people living with epilepsy. I believe in leading by example and complimenting the efforts of others. It is obvious that for us the win the war against epilepsy team work is the key; and I am a team player.

MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE

In my career and work since 2008, I have not only worked as the CAA communication officer but was appointed in 2013 to review the "***Epilepsy in the WHO African Region***". This work was completed within 6 weeks and is presently with the WHO office in Brazzaville. We train doctors and paramedics under the aegis of NLaE to better diagnose seizures and treat them.

WHAT WOULD BE MY NEXT IF ELECTED INTO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE COMMISSION?

As the first communication officer of the Commission on African Affairs since November 2010, I have demonstrated my ability to initiate projects and bring them to pass. The number of Chapters and people in our mailing list is increasing in Africa. Together with other members of the commission, we have increased regional annual teaching courses in the African continent. If elected, I will do my best to bring more and more people especially students into our mailing list and give them access to our news letter. My vision for epilepsy care in the continent is "a life without limitations". This is especially true in our continent where most cases of epilepsy are preventable, avoidable and treatable.

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