

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

(CANPAD)

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PRESIDENT'S PEN # 3

November, 8th, 2006

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Felix Odaibo FRCSC
Grande Prairie, AB

Dear Colleagues,

It is now about three months that we had that awesome meeting/conference in Calgary, AB. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our hosts/hostesses. On behalf of every member of CANPAD, I wish to express our appreciation to the local organizing committee under the leadership of our able secretary, Leke Oluwadairo. Words cannot describe the fun that every attendee of all ages had. You really catered to the objectives of our association and the conference presidential theme. The event was splendid as it built on the high standards set by previous hosts/hostesses and sets the stage for future years' expectations. Thank you. Our special thanks also goes to Professor Jegede, the key note speaker for an excellent job of educating us on how to cope with the challenges of life in our adopted country, Canada.

2006 is coming to an end and ushers in the celebrations and festivities. I seize this opportunity to wish you a prosperous New Year with many Blessings from the Almighty God.

For our brothers and sisters who were unable to attend the Calgary meeting for one reason or the other, we want you to know that we missed your presence but we understand that Man proposes; God disposes. We know that you will join us in Toronto, the long weekend of August 2nd to the 6th, 2007.

Here are some updates on a number of new developments in our Association. At Calgary, a three-person committee, chaired by Dr. Olu. Agboola, the Past President, was struck to continue the review and updates to the Association's Constitution. Other committee members are Drs, Aganaba and Oyelese. To be useful and current, a constitution must be dynamic. We therefore encourage everyone with suggestions on the constitution to contact any of the committee members at oagboola@sympatico.ca; tari26@hotmail.com. If you need a copy of the constitution, an electronic copy can be sent to you by Dr. Onayemi. Please contact him at bisbuzz@rogers.com.

I also wish to extend my appreciation to Professor Abdurahman, for his excellent tenure as the interim CME Director over the past years. Dr. Odaibo will now take over this portfolio. Dr. Femi Ayeni Jr did a fabulous job as the Youth Representative. Thank you. This portfolio was redefined as The Youth

Coordinator, at the Calgary meeting to reflect the actual role expectation. Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass accepted this position.

The suggestion of a Newsletter for the Association was also discussed at the AGM. We are hoping for a paperless communication to reflect our concern for the environment and to exploit modern technologies. Dr Busola Onayemi has been working on a chatting internet web space. We hope to make this available soon. Suggestions and offer of help and expertise to lighten the burden for Busola will be appreciated.

Several of our members brought up brilliant ideas and suggestions which were discussed in Calgary. Dr. Adegbite will email everyone about his ideas for a place for the American Blacks in Africa. Dr Aganaba will also disseminate his ideas about CANPAD's possible medico-surgical service to Nigeria by our members.

We need to grow our membership. This is a task that must be done by all of us through words of mouth, net -working and any other ingenious ways you may think of. Please send this communication to any qualified Nigerian that you can recruit to join us. Ours is a noble cause for future generation of Nigerian – Canadians. Our children are our future. Let us give them a sense of patriotism to their Fatherland. Remember that **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore; United we stand, divided we fall. We deserve the best.

I remain,

L . Kola. Oyewumi, President – **CANPAD.**