

# Acknowledgements

The 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Medical Women's International Association, Near East and Africa Region (MWIA NEAR) was hosted by the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) and held 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. It was a hybrid event with physical and virtual components and participants.

Its success was driven by the contributions of several individuals and organisations to whom we are most grateful. The Federal Government of Nigeria was represented by the Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire who chaired the Opening Ceremony, the Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Health, who gave goodwill messages. They ensured that the resolutions from the Congress would be incorporated into the government's strategic plans for health development.

We warmly acknowledge the President of MWIA, Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi, the first Nigerian to occupy that position, who graced the event and participated fully in the plenary sessions and symposia. We also acknowledge the Regional Vice-President Dr Christine Sadia and members of MWIA from the NEAR who participated in the Congress, especially members from Ghana and Tanzania who were physically present.

We particularly acknowledge the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) who solely sponsored the Pre-Congress Webinar, 'Gender and COVID-19' in September 2020, and then provided technical support for the virtual component of the Congress in March 2021. The Africa Centers for Disease Control participated actively by hosting a Pre-Congress Webinar on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 titled 'COVID-19 in the African Region'.

The Congress funds were raised from registration of delegates, donations from medical women especially the MWAN Senior Members Forum, the Deputy Governor

of Kaduna State Hadiza Balarabe, partners including the National Health Insurance Scheme, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the Nigerian Medical Association and the Family Planning Development Research, to whom we are grateful.

Pharmaceutical companies and medical equipment suppliers had educative exhibitions of varied products which brightened the event. These include Emzor Pharma, SWIPHA, WELLCOME, Medheights, Cedarcrest, Megalife, and Darlez companies.

The carefully chosen panellists for the different plenary sessions, drawn from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank, UNFPA, NPHCDA, MWIA, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and Nigerian Universities, shared their wealth of experience at those sessions to enrich the Congress. We appreciate the sacrifice of their time. Sponsored panels by the Rivers State World Diabetes Foundation Gestational Diabetes Study Group and the NPHCDA added to the body of knowledge provided.

Publicity for the congress was revolutionised using Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and live streaming on YouTube. We recognise the support of African Independent Television, Nigerian Television Authority, Channels television, *etc.*

I specially appreciate the entire membership of MWAN, particularly those who served diligently in the Congress Planning Committee, and the 451 registered participants/medical women from 13 countries including 9 from member countries within the region.

Thank you to all persons who contributed to the success of the 9<sup>th</sup> MWIA NEAR Congress.

**Dr. Claribel Abam**  
Chairman, Congress Planning Committee,  
MWIA NEAR.