Preparations are in top gear as the ancient city of Ibadan gets ready to host the next OSN congress which is the 39th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria.

The congress holds between the 26th and 29th of August, 2014 at the prestigious Premier Hotel, Mokola Hill, Ibadan.

The theme of the conference is Universal Eye Health.

Subspecialty meetings are billed to hold on Tuesday 26th of August while main congress would feature named lectures, scientific sessions, sponsored symposia as well breakfast sessions.

Other highlights of the congress would include the Dinner and Award Night and Induction ceremony for new members.

Participants would also get a special opportunity to observe the exhibition of products and services by various companies during the congress.

The Local Organizing committee chaired by Dr B.G.K. Ajayi cordially invites all ophthalmologists and ophthalmologists-in-training to participate in the congress.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity of continuing professional education and development.

Early Bird registration for the conference has commenced via an online platform and would end on 30th June 2014.

Submission of abstracts of papers for presentation during the congress is now open and deadline for submission is the 30th of June, 2014.
NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

* All newly qualified ophthalmologists who are essentially new members of OSN are to undergo an induction ceremony during the annual congress starting from 2014.

* The executive council has approved the theme of 2014 OSN congress as “Universal Eye Health”

* The national OSN annual dues and conference registration is compulsory for all members of OSN including those who do not attend the annual congress and those planning to attend only the subspecialty day activities.

* The society now has a new website. The address is www.osnig.org Members are encouraged to visit it.

OSN HOUSE, ABUJA

The OSN house in Abuja is located at Saraha III Estate, Lokogama, Abuja.

* The OSN SouthEast/ SouthSouth (SESS) zone in collaboration with the West African College of Surgeons is organizing the 10th Neuro-ophthalmology workshop holding between the 23rd and 29th of June at the Brigdewaters Hotel, Enugu. Fellows and residents are urged to support the SESS zone and attend the workshop.

ANNUAL FACULTY LECTURE HOLDS IN ABUJA

The 15th Annual Faculty Lecture of the Faculty of Ophthalmology of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria took place at the Trancorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on the 14th of June, 2014.

The lecture titled: “Micropulse diode laser trabecuoplasty in Nigerians” was delivered by Professor E.O. Babalola.

The Father of the day was Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau state who was ably represented by his deputy, Datong Longjain while the chairman was Chief Gboyega Awomolo (SAN).

Professor E.O. Babalola

The lecture was preceded on the previous day, 13th June by the Faculty board meeting and the annual Bopo Osuntokun quiz competition for resident doctors.

The faculty board meeting featured the election of faculty officers with Prof. Adenike Adeoye emerging as the Chairman of the faculty, Prof. C.O. Bekibele as secretary and Dr. H. Ajibode as the 3rd Senate member.

The quiz competition was won by Dr Patrick Idam of University College Hospital, Ibadan. The first runner up was Dr. Adebola Oyedele, Guinness Eye Centre, Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the third prize was won by Dr. Nnena Oraegbunam of University of Calabar Teaching Hospital.

They were presented with their awards during the faculty lecture.
RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM OPHTHALMOLOGY JOURNALS

**Thinner irides linked to better LPI outcomes in angle closure**
This prospective study assessed whether baseline measurements of iris thickness are predictive of anterior segment morphologic changes after prophylactic laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI) in a cohort of primary angle-closure suspects. They found that lower baseline iris thickness measurements were associated with a more profound flattening of iris convexity and widening of the anterior chamber angle after LPI. *Ophthalmology, June 2014*

**Azithromycin cures pediatric purulent conjunctivitis quicker**
This international, multicenter, randomized, investigator-masked study included 286 children, average age of 3 years, with purulent discharge and bulbar conjunctival injection. Patients received either azithromycin 1.5% eye drops (twice daily for three days) or tobramycin 0.3% eye drops (every two hours for two days, then four times daily for five days). Azithromycin provided a more rapid clinical cure than tobramycin, with a more convenient twice-a-day dosing regimen. *British Journal of Ophthalmology, June 2014*

**Cataract surgery improves vision in severe AMD**
Researchers evaluated data from patients who underwent cataract surgery during the AREDS2 study and found a statistically significant gain in vision following cataract surgery that affected all levels of AMD severity. Adjusting for age at time of surgery, gender, interval between pre- and postoperative visits, and type and severity of cataract, the mean changes in visual acuity were as follows: Eyes with mild AMD gained 11.2 letters, those with moderate AMD gained 11.1 letters, those with severe AMD gained 8.7 letters, those with noncentral geographic atrophy gained 8.9 letters, and those with advanced AMD gained 6.8 letters. *Ophthalmology, June 2014*

**Medical student exposure to ophthalmology continues to erode**
Researchers surveyed 135 AUPO member institutions, along with 30 United States osteopathic and non-AUPO allopathic medical schools to characterize the state of ophthalmology medical student education in the United States and Canada. They conclude that ophthalmology’s role in medical school curricula has continued to erode over the past four decades, ant that it is increasingly important to reestablish ophthalmology’s place in this setting, for the sake of our patients and our profession. They suggest focusing on advocacy, medical school administrative involvement, and curricular standardization. *Ophthalmology, June 2014*

**Physical activity protects against vision loss**
This analysis of data from the Beaver Dam Eye Study evaluates the relationship of lifestyle choices to changes in vision and incidence of visual impairment over a 20-year period. After adjusting for age, income, and AMD severity, compared with a sedentary lifestyle, a physically active lifestyle was associated with an approximately 60% reduction in the odds for visual impairment. Those who drank occasionally also had a reduced risk compared to those who didn’t drink. Current and past smokers were more likely to have a larger decrease in the number of letters correctly read compared with those who never smoked. *Ophthalmology, June 2014*

**Patterned CXL may treat astigmatism**
Using three-dimensional corneal geometries from patients with corneal astigmatism, researchers simulated treatment patterns in computational models. Pretreatment anterior corneal astigmatism ranged from 1.22 to 3.92 D, and included regular and irregular astigmatic patterns. They found that clinically significant reductions in astigmatism are possible with patterned collagen crosslinking (CXL). The treatment effect was dependent on patient-specific geometry, effective stiffening pattern, and treatment orientation. *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery, June 2014*

**Low level of glaucoma awareness in rural Nigeria**
Investigators used interviews and descriptive cross-sectional analysis designed to obtain baseline data and assess the level of awareness and attitudes towards glaucoma among rural communities of Osun State, Nigeria. Only 15.8% had heard of glaucoma. Almost half of the respondents did not know what causes glaucoma and about a quarter thought it was “a curse from God.” Attitude to surgical treatment was not encouraging, as 73.2% said they would not accept surgery. They conclude that health education at all levels of health and eye care services is required to prevent ocular morbidity and irreversible blindness from glaucoma. *Middle East Africa Journal of Ophthalmology, April-June 2014*