SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: GLOBAL ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED

Global health organizations commit to new ways of working together for greater impact.

Eleven heads of the world’s leading health and development organizations have signed a landmark commitment to find new ways of working together to accelerate progress towards achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the initiative unites the work of 11 organizations, with others set to join in the next phase.

The group has agreed to develop new ways of working together to maximize resources and measure progress in a more transparent and engaging way. The first phase of the plan’s development is organized under three strategic approaches: “align”, “accelerate” and “account”.

The Global Action Plan will also enhance collective action and leverage funds to address gender inequalities that act as barriers to accessing health, and to improve comprehensive quality health care for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services.

The organizations that have already signed up to the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All are: Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Financing Facility, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Unitaid, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Bank and WHO. The World Food Programme has committed to join the plan in the coming months.

The final plan will be delivered in September 2019 at the United Nations General Assembly. More information is available at the following webpage: www.who.int/sdg/global-action-plan

- Culled from World health Organization website.
The annual World Sight Day (WSD) conventionally holds on the 2nd Saturday of October and the 2018 day fell on Thursday 11th of October.

As has become customary over successive years the day is celebrated Nationwide by eye care professionals and workers with Ophthalmologists under the banner of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) taking the lead in carrying out various activities. These activities include public lectures, public enlightenment campaigns (live and in the print and electronic media) on eye health/care and eye camps/medical missions amongst others. From Maiduguri to Lagos and Calabar to Sokoto a flurry of these activities took place on or around the 2018 WSD.

The President of the OSN, Dr. Ayobade Ogundipe on behalf the Executive Council expressed his joy and gratitude for the initiative members took individually and State and Regional chapters made during this year’s WSD which made it colorful, impactful and memorable. He also praised the dedication and sacrifice of members participating in the ongoing President Muhammadu Buhari Restores Vision Project which has been largely successful nationwide.

As the year draws to a close the President and Council wish you a joyous, peaceful Yuletide and successful 2019.

-Dr. Abdulkadir L. Rafindadi

Public Relations Officer, Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

World Sight Day Banner - OSN Kwara state chapter

Dr. Ayinla speaking during the WSD activities by Kwara State Chapter of OSN
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

Public lecture by Kwara State Chapter of OSN

Dr. Dupe Popoola examining a patient during the WSD screening
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

Dr. Yinka Ologunsua, OSN Secretary General on public enlightenment campaign air on WSD 2018

World Sight Day Banner - OSN Delta state chapter
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

Delta State OSN in Isoko North LGA on WSD 2018 activities

L-R: Dr. Helen Alen, Dr. Aghogho Akpe, Dr. Gloria Patrick-Ferife, OSN Treasurer during WSD activities by the Delta State Chapter of OSN
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

ABUTH, Zaria eye care team group photo during WSD 2018 screening exercise

World Sight Day Banner - OSN Ogun state chapter
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

OSN Ogun State chapter group photo during WSD 2018 screening exercise

L-R: Dr. Atama, Dr. Fiebai and Dr. Awoyesuku of the Rivers/Bayelsa State Chapter of the OSN on public enlightenment campaign on air during the 2018 WSD
Dr. Abdulkadir L. Rafindadi (Public Relations Officer OSN) on one of many Radio and TV enlightenment campaigns and live phone in programs during WSD 2018

World Sight Day Banner - OSN Edo state chapter
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

Edo State Chapter of OSN and Eye Care Team marking WSD 2018 activities

Edo State OSN Chapter public lecture
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH) Lafia, Nasarawa State eye care team marking WSD 2018

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Members of the OSN Oyo State chapter examining patients during WSD screening program in Ibadan
SIGHTS FROM WSD 2018

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NEWS FROM OSN ZONES AND CHAPTERS

NORTHWEST ZONAL REPORT

The world site day (WSD) 2018 was observed on 11th October with a number of activities which included free eye screening, public lectures, public enlightenment campaigns in the print and electronic media and surgical camps right across the zone.

Ophthalmologists and other members of the eye care team from the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria carried out a week long free eye screening for members of the public and distributed free drugs donated by Micronova, Drugfield and El-Marine Pharmaceuticals.

The National Eye Centre (NEC), Kaduna also carried out free eye screening and held a public lecture on Retinoblastoma.

ABUTH, Zaria— World Sight Day Banner
Dr. Abdulkadir L. Rafindadi (OSN Northwest Zonal Coordinator) on ABU FM Radio on public enlightenment campaigns

Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria receiving donated eye medications from some pharmaceutical companies

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Dr. Amina Hassan-Wali delivering a public lecture on WSD at NEC, Kaduna

Dr. Mahmoud B. Alhassan, CMD NEC, Kaduna and other dignitaries at the WSD public lecture
UPDATES ON THE PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI (PMB) RESTORES VISION PROJECT
SOKOTO STATE
Between October and November 2018, 279 cataract surgeries were conducted in the 3 senatorial Districts,
Sokoto Central (Specialist Hospital Sokoto), Sokoto East (General Hospital Illela) and Sokoto South, (General
Hospital Dogon Daji).
(continued from page 17)

KEBBI STATE
Screening commenced on 30th November 2018 and 90 cataract surgeries have been performed at the General Hospital Bagudo in the Kebbi North Senatorial District and will be extended to the other two districts in the ensuing weeks.

Patients waiting to be screened for cataract surgery at Bagudo, Kebbi State
(continued from page 18)

KATSINA STATE

Screening and 70 cataract surgeries were carried out at the General Hospital, Daura in the Eastern Senatorial District and 200 General Hospital, Katsina in the Central Senatorial District.
Patients anaesthetized and awaiting cataract surgery in Katsina State

Patients lying in the ward post-op in Katsina State

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NEWS FROM OSN ZONES AND CHAPTERS

(continued from page 20)

KANO STATE

One hundred cataract surgeries were carried out at Danbatta in the Kano East Senatorial District. The project will be extended to the other 2 districts in the ensuing weeks.

KADUNA STATE

Screening and cataract surgeries commenced in September at Gambo Sawaba General Hospital, Zaria with 112 patients benefitting. 110 surgeries were done at Kaduna, Central Senatorial District and 90 at Kafanchan in the Southern Senatorial District.

JIGAWA STATE

270 patients (10 each from 27LGA’s of the State) had cataract surgery in Dutse. The patients were transported to the venue and back to their bases.

OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Apart from the PMB project, Trachoma impact and surveillance surveys are on-going in Local Government Areas (LGA’s) of Kebbi, Sokoto and Katsina States as part of efforts by stakeholders to reach trachoma elimination.

RAAB+DR (Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness + Diabetic Retinopathy) survey is also on-going in Katsina state as part of Katsina state eye health programme. This may probably the first RAAB+DR survey in Nigeria. The survey is being sponsored by the Noor Dubai Foundation.

Dr. Abdulkadir L. Rafindadi,
Zonal Coordinator.

NEWS FROM SUBSPECIALTY GROUPS

OCULOPLASTY SUBSPECIALTY

The Oculoplasty subspecialty has made strides in improvement of manpower development during the year.

The First International Oculoplasty workshop held in Abakaliki, between 21st - 23rd May 2018, brought together specialists in Oculoplasty, Neurology, Maxillofacial Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Otorhinolaryngology and other related specialties from across the country sitting under the tutelage of a renowned Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Milind Naik, from LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India.

The subspecialty day held with special presentations by members of the group which offered great learning opportunities and sharing of management ideas in different areas of the specialty.

At the last OSN Conference held in Abuja in August 2018, the Oculoplasty subspecialty group held her elections with new leaders emerging as follows: Chairman:Dr Oluyemi Fasina (UCH Ibadan); Vice Chairman: Dr Ubong Akang (NEC Kaduna); Secretary: Dr Edak Ezeanosike (FETHA Abakaliki); Treasurer: Dr Alice Ramiyl (JUTH Jos); PRO: Dr Helen Alen (NEC Kaduna).

This team is saddled with the responsibility of piloting the affairs of the group for the next 2 years.
Antiseptic–steroid combination drops show promise for treating acute adenoviral conjunctivitis

Results from this phase 2 trial suggest an ophthalmic suspension of povidone-iodine (PVP-I) and dexamethasone is safe and effective for acute adenoviral conjunctivitis. Conducted in India, the study enrolled 144 patients randomized to receive PVP-I/dexamethasone, PVP-I only or vehicle 4 times daily for 5 days. On day 6, 31% of the PVP-I/dexamethasone arm showed adenoviral eradication and resolution of symptoms compared with 18% of the PVP-I arm and 7% of the vehicle arm. The drops were well tolerated and phase 3 trials are currently underway. American Journal of Ophthalmology, October 2018

Study supports safety of bilateral same-day anti-VEGF injections

To examine the safety of bilateral same-day intravitreal anti-VEGF injections, researchers reviewed records from 5,890 patients who were treated for neovascular AMD, diabetic macular edema or retinal vein occlusion. Of the 101,932 bilateral injections administered, only 28 cases (0.027%) developed unilateral endophthalmitis—indepedent of anti-VEGF agent or diagnosis. There were no cases of bilateral infection, and no patient developed endophthalmitis more than once. The authors conclude that the overall rate of endophthalmitis in this study was low and comparable to prior studies of unilateral injections. American Journal of Ophthalmology, October 2018

Low systolic ocular perfusion and blood pressure linked to primary open-angle glaucoma

This population-based analysis parses the relationships between systolic ocular perfusion pressure (OPP), systolic blood pressure (SBP), IOP and primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG). Researchers examined 9,877 Asian participants, including 213 with POAG. Their analysis revealed that eyes with the lowest systolic OPP were 1.85 times more likely to have POAG than those with midrange systolic OPP levels, after adjusting for IOP and other variables. Similarly, eyes with the lowest SBP were 1.69 times more likely than those with midrange SBP levels to have POAG. In contrast with previous studies, mean and diastolic OPP were not associated with POAG. The results may help clarify the roles of OPP surrogates and BP profiles in POAG. British Journal of Ophthalmology, Oct 2018

Glaucoma drainage implant surgery may induce changes in the lacrimal gland

This study evaluates changes in lacrimal gland tissue among 13 patients who underwent unilateral glaucoma drainage implant (GDI) implantation in the superotemporal region. Compared with the unoperated fellow eye, investigators found appreciable radiographic changes in 9 patients—including 7 with posterior displacement and flattening of the gland—at a mean of 42-months postop. Lacrimal gland volume loss was also a common finding. Radiographic changes did not correlate with clinical symptoms, however, suggesting further studies are needed to elucidate the significance of these findings. Journal of Ophthalmic & Vision Research, July–September 2018

Oral steroids offer limited benefits for acute NAION

This is the first randomized double-masked study to examine the efficacy of prednisone for acute nonarteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION). Researchers randomized 38 nondiabetic patients to placebo or 80-mg oral prednisone for 2 weeks followed by a slow taper. At 6 months, both groups showed significant and comparable improvements in BCVA. Prednisone led to a larger improvement in visual evoked response latency and a faster resolution of optic disc edema, but final OCT measurements were similar between groups. The benefits of steroid use are subtle and have unclear clinical implications, the authors conclude. Ophthalmology, October 2018

Wind instrument players may carry a higher risk for visual field defects

Researchers assessed the prevalence of glaucoma among professional wind instrument players in the Philadelphia Orchestra. Of the 51 musicians enrolled in the study, there was no significant difference in the number of glaucoma suspects between wind and nonwind instrument players (43% vs. 27%). Wind instrument players, however, exhibited a higher visual field mean defect score, which correlated with the cumulative hours of playing their instruments (P=0.001). Journal of Ophthalmic & Vision Research, July—Sept 2018

Glaucoma interventions are unaffordable for many patients worldwide

In this study, researchers analyzed the affordability of topical glaucoma medications, laser trabeculoplasty and trabeculectomy. They collected price data from 38 nations, including 17 developed and 21 developing countries, representing approximately two-thirds of the world’s population. Interventions that cost less than 2.5% of the median annual household income were considered affordable. The analysis revealed that the annual cost of latanoprost, laser trabeculoplasty and trabeculectomy were unaffordable in 41%, 44% and 78% of the countries studied, respectively. Making glaucoma interventions more inexpensive could substantially reduce related vision loss, the authors conclude. JAMA Ophthalmology, November 2018

Hand-held OCT identifies new signs of small retinoblastoma

Researchers describe hand-held OCT characteristics of small retinoblastoma in this paper. Images from 15 patients revealed that sub-millimeter tumors appear to originate from the inner nuclear layer. Hand-held OCT scans showed discontinuation or disruption of the inner or outer nuclear, the outer plexiform or external limiting membrane layers. The method was also able to distinguish 2 new signs: the inner nuclear layer “fish tail” and outer nuclear layer “shark fin.” Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology, Sept/Oct 2018
Laser peripheral iridotomy increases angle parameters
This study evaluated changes in anterior chamber angle anatomy and diurnal IOP after laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI). Researchers studied 39 patients with newly diagnosed primary angle closure who underwent unilateral LPI; untreated fellow eyes served as controls. After LPI, all angle sections widened. Maximum widening occurred opposite the iridotomy site in the inferior/inferotemporal sections. These changes were maintained up to 6 months after LPI treatment without changes in IOP fluctuation. Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology, November 2018

The Van Herick technique may misclassify narrow angles
Researchers retrospectively identified factors that led to misdiagnosis of narrow angles using Van Herick technique. The study included 1,314 eyes with narrow angles on indirect gonioscopy. The Van Herick method incorrectly classified 14% of these eyes as deep. Patients with primary angle-closure (PAC) or PAC glaucoma were significantly more likely to be misdiagnosed than PAC suspects. Risk factors for misdiagnosis included male gender, myopia and black or Asian race. Authors recommend using gonioscopy instead of the Van Herick method to examine patients with any of these risk factors. Ophthalmology Glaucoma, Sept - Oct 2018

Practice makes perfect for residents learning MSICS
This paper documents the resident learning curve for manual small-incision cataract surgery (MSICS). The authors examined outcomes from 13,159 MSICS procedures performed by 38 residents during their training at Aravind Eye Hospital. The risk of complications decreased significantly with surgical experience: with each additional 100 surgeries performed, the likelihood of intraoperative complications, postoperative complications and reoperations declined by 17%, 12% and 7%, respectively. The authors propose that ophthalmology residency programs in developing nations ensure residents perform at least 300 MSICS procedures to minimize complication rates. Ophthalmology November 2018

Study uncovers factors linked to poor vision and diabetic macular edema in PDR
Researchers identified baseline factors relating to 2 outcomes in patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR): vision changes and vision-imparing central-involved diabetic macular edema (DME). The findings stem from a post-hoc analysis of 328 eyes enrolled in DRCR.net Protocol S. The eyes received panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) or ranibizumab and completed 2 years of follow-up. In the PRP group, higher hemoglobin A1c levels and more severe PDR were associated with reduced vision improvement and a higher risk of DME. No baseline characteristics influenced outcomes in the ranibizumab group, however. The findings hint at potential factors modulating the success each treatment method. Ophthalmology, November 2018

Effects of topical IOP-lowering medications on the ocular surface
In this review, the authors describe how various topical IOP-lowering medications impact the ocular surface. Dry eye syndrome affects an estimated 26% to 75% of patients with glaucoma, and is influenced by the number of drugs used and treatment duration. Although preservative-free drugs are less harmful than preservative-containing drugs, both can contribute to a decline in ocular surface health. Clinicians should proactively manage glaucoma patients for ocular surface disease, the authors conclude. Journal of Current Ophthalmology, in press

Spectral domain OCT detects anatomic changes in glaucoma patients
The latest Ophthalmic Technology Assessment reviews the use of spectral domain OCT to diagnose glaucoma. The evaluation comprised 59 level I or II studies, each showing OCT reliably detects retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL), macula and optic nerve damage in patients with preperimetric and perimetric glaucoma. Although RNFL measurements are not interchangeable between instruments, various commercial OCT devices can distinguish normal from glaucomatous eyes. Global rim area, inferior rim area and vertical cup-to-disc ratio are the best disc parameters to identify nerve damage. Ophthalmology, November 2018

Laser capsulotomy does not increase risk of retinal detachment
The literature review finds no convincing evidence to support the association between Nd:YAG capsulotomy with an increased risk for developing retinal detachment (RD). The authors propose that the discrepancy between studies might be related to inadequate group sizes, short observation period and co-existing disorders. However, they were unable to conclude that Nd:YAG capsulotomy does not increase RD risk in myopic patients. The authors advise that treatment energy should be kept as low as possible, as high energy levels and anterior hyaloid damage might increase the chance for RD development. Asia-Pacific J. Ophthalmology, Sept/Oct 2018

Review of Rho kinase inhibitors showcases an emerging therapy for glaucoma
This article reviews the role of Rho kinase inhibitors in glaucoma management. The authors discuss the scientific development of Rho kinase inhibitors to lower IOP and offer a primer on its neuroprotective, vasoactive and antifibrotic properties. The authors specifically explore the clinical trial data for 2 approved drugs: ripasudil (Glanatec, Japan) and netarsudil (Rhopressa, United States). Despite a high rate of local adverse effects, the authors conclude Rho kinase inhibitors represent the first new class of clinically useful ocular hypotensive agents since the 1996 approval of latanoprost. Ophthalmology, November 2018
OSN NEWSLETTER WISHES ALL OSN MEMBERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!