

ADDRESS OF THE AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR OGUNTOLA JELIL ALAMU, AT THE 5th SIDCAIN CEREMONY, HELD ON THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2016

The Honorable Speaker of the State of Osun House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Najeem Folasayo Salam

The Permanent Secretaries, Ministry of Health (immediate past and present)

The Permanent Secretary, Hospitals Management Board, (immediate past and present)

Principal Officers of the Osun State University

Provosts, Deans & Directors

Directors in the Hospitals Management Board

Members of UNIOSUN Senate here present

Students of the University

Friends from the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the greatest privilege and honour to welcome you all to the 5th SIDCAIN scientific conference holding in this University.

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder resulting from a defect in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both. Insulin deficiency in turn leads to chronic hyperglycaemia with disturbances of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism. It is a major cause of ill health and premature deaths in our society, and as such is a costly disease to the individual, family and society. The condition has recently emerged as a health crisis of international dimension, especially type 2 diabetes. International organizations and individual countries are rising up to the challenge by instituting specific preventive and therapeutic strategies aimed at reducing the global burden of the disease.

The acronym SIDCAIN refers to the 'Strategies for Improving Diabetes Care in Nigeria' - a group of medical professionals with the overall vision of developing strategies towards preventing non-communicable diseases at the primary and secondary healthcare levels. Through their stated mission, the group hopes to improve the overall care of Non Communicable Diseases in the country, thus preventing or delaying onset of complications. In the words of the visiting World Diabetes Foundation Field observer from Denmark, Mr Ulugbek Bekmukhamedov in (March 1) 2013, "SIDCAIN is a long-standing and reliable partner. The partner has been known by its strong project management, good implementation, strong awareness campaigns, as well as timely reporting. SIDCAIN team comprises 12 *resource persons*, who are medical professionals and university teachers from Ogun, Oyo, Osun and Ekiti States. The SIDCAIN Research Team is a network of these professionals working in different university health departments/hospitals and conducting several trainings, workshops and research at improving the care of people living with diabetes.

The SIDCAIN group has successfully completed World Diabetes Foundation assisted projects in Ogun and Oyo States, while that of Osun State is ongoing. In Ogun and Oyo States, a total of 56 non-communicable disease clinics have been established and 1180 health workers have already been trained to man these clinics at the end of the projects. Over the years, their activities have expanded to include public awareness programmes, establishment of school health clubs and the *Journalists Action Against Diabetes* Programme amongst others. They have also held the annual non-communicable disease conference and distinguished personalities lectures. Previous events have been held in Ibadan, Osogbo and Sagamu whilst personalities such as Are Afe Babalola, Prof. John Idoko (NACA), Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Mr Dele Momodu have given the lectures.

SIDCAIN is a member of the Diabetes Association of Nigeria – the umbrella Association involved in diabetes advocacy in the country.

Distinguished ladies and gentleman, advocacy refers to the act of soliciting for public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. Diabetes Advocacy includes many activities that a person or organization undertakes including media campaigns, public speaking, lobbying and the likes. Diabetes Advocacy becomes very effective when there are enabling laws. It is a call to understand and prevent the serious impact of diabetes. This underscores the presence of the Chairman of this event, the Honorable Speaker of the State of Osun House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Najeem Folasayo Salam.

In October 2011, the Diabetes Association of Nigeria developed the maiden edition of the National Clinical Guideline for the management of Diabetes Mellitus in Nigeria. This has led to a coordinated approach towards tackling the disease in the country under the leadership of the Distinguished Guest Lecturer of today, Professor Sonny Chinenye, an erudite scholar from the University of PortHarcourt.

Tomorrow, this program shall play host to the Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, Obafemi Awolowo University, Professor Clement A. Adebajo, who shall discuss the *Future of Diabetes Care in Nigeria – the promising role of antidiabetic medicinal plants*.

Distinguished participants, I welcome you all to UNIOSUN and to the 5th annual SIDCAIN Diabetes conference. I wish you all fruitful deliberations. Thank you for listening and God bless.

Professor Oguntola Jelil ALAMU
Acting Vice-Chancellor
3rd March, 2016