

IAGG NEWSLETTER

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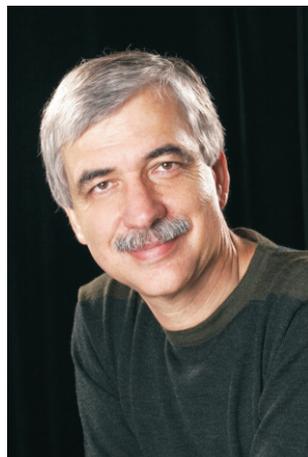
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Message from the President

By Renato Maia Guimarães

Health in Africa: beyond AIDS



Most news from health in Africa is related to AIDS and other infectious diseases, but in many African countries health systems are facing an increasing pressure from chronic disorders. The prevalence of hypertension and diabetes is high, and the insufficient primary healthcare response makes the burden of these conditions occur earlier in life. So, how is the health status of older persons in Africa? It may be a surprise to many who share a pessimistic view in relation to the continent where humankind came from, that between 3 and 7 per cent of the population of different countries are aged 60 years and more. Can Africans be candidates to successful ageing? There are many questions to be solved. IAGG is highly sensitive to the burden of chronic diseases, since they affect primarily the aged. That was the motivation for us to help unveiling the curtain of ageing and non-communicable diseases in Africa. IAGG and Help the Aged jointly supported a meeting organized by the African Research on Ageing Network - AFRAN, a group of the

University of the Oxford Institute of Ageing and an IAGG standing committee, to discuss ageing in four African countries (Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa).

We are proud to have played an active role in this initiative, and congratulate all the participants for the high scientific quality of their presentations regarding the status of research, policy and training in the four countries represented. IAGG is committed to foster the development of Geriatrics and Gerontology in Africa. Other initiatives must ensue to strengthen the care of the aged Africans.

Our logo has 5 petals representing the 5 continents of the world. However, until now, only 4 regions are represented in our executive board. To fill this gap, it is about time for Africa to have a seat in the board of IAGG.



THE EVENT

On July 8-10, 2008, the "Advancing Health Service Provision for Older Persons and Age-related Non-communicable Disease (NCD) in sub-Saharan Africa" meeting was held in Abuja to discuss the main aspects of chronic diseases and ageing in sub-Saharan Africa. The event was organized jointly by Laura Mello Machado, IAGG International Affairs Advisor, and by Isabella Aboderin, from AFRAN, with support of Adesola Ogunniyi, head of the Department of Medicine, University of Idaban.

Over three days, 30 key policy, practice, and research representatives of four African countries – Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa – met in Abuja, Nigeria, for structured discussions and presentations about the aging scenario in Africa.

IAGG was represented by its president, Renato Maia Guimarães and by Laura Mello Machado. Also Bilkish Cassim, president of the South Africa Geriatrics and Gerontology Society; Radhouane Gouiaa, president of the Tunisian Association of Gerontology; and Monica Ferreira and Jaco Hoffman from the steering committee of AFRAN.

PROGRAMME

The meeting was designed in a bottom-up methodology, allowing the participants themselves to report the status of age-related policies, health care, research and training in their countries. Cross-cutting discussions followed each presentation, and all participants gave their input on how to improve the current scenario. The non-African attendants were facilitators only, to support the flow of discussions. The outcome of this meeting was pulling together all the information collected, so that common actions could be implemented. Please visit www.iagg.com.br for more details.

The Abuja Policy-research Dialogue (APRD)

The Abuja Policy-research Dialogue (APRD), organized by the African Research on Ageing Network (AFRAN) in partnership with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) and Help the Aged UK, aimed at the development of policy-relevant research on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

THE AIMS OF THE ABUJA POLICY-RESEARCH DIALOGUE (APRD)

The APRD aims to systematically pinpoint the most pressing information and training needs and build a strategic foundation for addressing these. It will do so building on joint deliberation between key policy, research and practice representatives from four key countries: Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa. These countries represent the major sub-Saharan African sub-regions and have already developed interest and groundwork in areas of ageing and health.

Through three days of specialist presentations and structured discussions on each country the participants have:

1. Established the precise forms and implementation status of formal policy provision on age-related chronic disease and health of older persons
2. Critically assessed key factors impeding adequate primary, secondary and tertiary health service provision for age-related chronic disease and older persons
3. Identified principal information and/or training gaps associated to these impediments
4. Envisioned principal national and/or international research and training responses, and initial steps, needed to address the identified gaps
5. Forged a collective plan of action to take these first steps forward



Dr. Isabella Aboderin, event coordinator.



Above, Dr. Renato Maia Guimarães and Guests of Honour: Dr. Alaba Ojomo, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria and Prof. Adesola Ogunniyi, University College Hospital, Ibadan.



Dr. Frederick Bukachi from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



The picture shows participants and representatives of The Government of Nigeria at the Opening Session of ABUJA POLICY-RESEARCH DIALOGUE MEETING - JULY 2008.

Why Africa?

Africa Background I

Numbers of older persons in SSA will rise sharply in coming decades

Sizeable proportions suffer from multiple, mostly preventable or manageable, chronic conditions and related disability

Older persons indicated to receive less health care than younger persons despite equal or greater incidence of ill-health

Africa Background II

Two frameworks (Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing - MIPAA and AU Plan) call on SSA governments to forge health care responses to age-related NCDs and older persons's needs

Yet, little significant policy action has ensued in SSA. Health systems largely remain unresponsive

The policy impasse points to critical information and training gaps

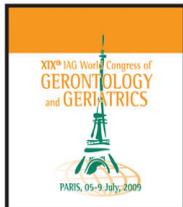
The dialogue was conceived to respond to this situation

IAGG Executive Board Meeting - June, 2008



The executive board of IAGG met in the city of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. Topics for discussion included the Collaborating Centres program and the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Paris 2009.

Renato Maia Guimarães, Claudia Burlá, Monica Perracini, Bruno Vellas, Gloria Gutman, Laura Machado, Alexandre Kalache, Jean-Pierre Baeyens, Norah Keating, Fernando Gomez, Paula Travassos, Carlos André Oighenstein.



The 19th World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics PARIS 2009 - Longevity, Health and Wealth

The next IAGG World Congress will be held in Paris, France, July 5-9, 2009. This is a unique opportunity for geriatrics and gerontology specialists to gather in the world most famous destination and discuss about the latest novelties in the field of aging. The Congress decided not to have invited symposia. Much to the organizers surprise, a record number of 501 proposed symposia were submitted from 53 countries of the five continents. This is certainly an excellent indicator of the comprehensiveness and success of the Congress. All submitted symposia will be reviewed by the Congress Scientific Committee and a selection will be made based on the scientific interest, achievements of the speakers in the proposed field, and international character of the symposium. Due to the very high number of submissions received, the selection process will last until September 2008.

For further information, please visit: www.gerontologyparis2009.com.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008 WEAAD

The 2008 global celebration of the WEAAD, organized by INPEA, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, an IAGG standing committee, was held in Ottawa, Canada, on Monday, June 16. The 2009 WEAAD will be held in Paris during the 19th World Congress of IAGG. For further information, please visit the website www.inpea.net.

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Please, visit IAGG's website at www.iagg.com.br. There, you will find The Virtual College of Gerontology and Geriatrics, designed to foster the connection of all those who share a common interest in aging around the world. The Virtual College includes a Lecture Room, a Hall of Great Names and a Library. The site offers an Image Bank, with pictures that portray aging in different parts of the world available for download, for your papers and presentations.