



## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE 36TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

FAMSA Headquarters



**Theme:**

**Integrating Research to Enhance  
Medical Education in Africa**

**17th – 19th December, 2022**

## INTRODUCTION

The 36th General Assembly of the Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA) took place in the city of Living stone in Zambia from the 17th to the 19th of December, 2022. The theme of the conference was '*Integrating Research to Enhance Medical Education in Africa*', and the sub-themes included;

- Emergency response to pandemics
- Vaccine development in Africa
- Non-Communicable diseases in Africa
- Mental Health
- Neglected tropical diseases in Africa
- Medical education and research funding

## DAY 1

The General Assembly and Scientific Conference began in earnest with an opening ceremony which included recognition of delegates and speakers, recitation of the Zambian National Anthem. A representative of the Local Organizing Committee gave an overview of the General Assembly, highlighting how the hybrid sessions will go. This was followed by a Welcome Address by the Vice-President of the Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA), Mr Malinga Paddy, who welcomed all delegates to the Scientific Conference on behalf of the FAMSA President. Subsequently, Mr Kamoko, representing the Minister of Education of Zambia, also welcomed everyone to the General Assembly.

A Panel of Discussion by *One Day Africa* was held on “**Vaccine Development in Africa**”, highlighting the importance of Research and Mentorship in the Continent. Following this, Mr Mulako Simwemba gave an abstract presentation on “**BRIISP Medicine Dispenser**”, a Zambian initiative featuring a machine that dispenses prescribed medication using a prescription code or card at any time and convenience.

Delegates proceeded on a lunch break before the next plenary session on **“Challenges to Memory-Driven Learning”**, and the Speaker for this was Dr. Dawin Sichimba. Prof. Mpabalwani then led a session on **“Medical Education and Research Funding”**. This was followed by an abstract presentation by Mr. Abdulhammed Babatunde.

Subsequently, the first session on Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa was taken by Dr Zulu. Miss Maria Pedro then delivered an abstract presentation on “Providing Evidence-based Academic Instructions about Wound Care to African Healthcare Professionals by using Mobile Devices”, following which the meeting was closed for the day.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY ONE**

The first session of the General Assembly (GA) commenced at 8:15pm with an opening address by the Administrator of the FAMSA Headquarters’ Board, Ms. Deborah Ogundijo. She stated the rules that will guide the GA. As only 4 Medical Students’ Associations (MSAs) were in attendance, it was decided that the General Assembly be reconvened the following day to give more MSAs time to pay their dues and register for the GA.

## DAY 2

It began with a plenary session on **Mental Health**. The speakers were Dr. C. Lulembo, Dr Naeem Dalal, and Dr. Gloria Sangiwa, who spoke on “**Anxiety and Stress: How to Cope**”, “**Career in Psychiatry**”, and “**Depression among Medical Students**” respectively. It was followed by a Question and Answer Session, before abstract presentations on “**Prevalence of Depression amongst Adult Haemophilia Patients registered with Haemophilia Foundation of Zambia**” and “**Coping Strategies for HIV and Mental Illness Comorbidity among Patients in South Western Uganda**”, respectively. Following this the second session on “**Neglected Tropical Diseases**” was led by Dr. Malan Malumani, and subsequently, a session on “**Emergency Preparedness and Response to Pandemics**” by Prof. Nathan Kapata. Afterwards, delegates proceeded on a lunch break.

The conference resumed with an abstract presentation on “Preparedness and Response Capacity to Future Pandemics post COVID-19” by Mr. Scofiel A. Mulinda. The President of the Federation of African Medical Students’ Associations (FAMSA), Mr Yankuba Jabbie, then gave his address. Other members of the Executive Council present also gave their remarks.

Following this, abstract presentations on “Awareness, Coverage and Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination among Undergraduate Students in Nigeria”, and “Coping Strategies for HIV and Mental Illness Comorbidity among Adult Patients in South-Western Uganda”, were made by Mr. Dimeji Olawuyi and Mr. Katugume Prosper, respectively. Afterwards, the Local Organizing Committee gave their closing remarks and the Scientific Conference came to a close.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION ONE**

The first session of the General Assembly began at 8:00 pm with an opening address by the FAMSA Vice President Malinga Paddy on behalf of the President who was in Tanzania. The Administrator of the FAMSA Headquarters, Miss Bisola Ogundijo then proceeded to introduce herself, explained the aims of the GA and opened the floor for the election of the GA chairperson and secretary. She also emphasized the importance of decorum during the sessions and shared the agenda for the GA. The General Assembly Chairman and Secretary were elected as follows:

**Ernest Nsenwanya** (BUMSA) – *Chairperson of the General Assembly*

**Daniella Sanni** (GAMSA) – *Secretary to the General Assembly*

The GA Chairperson, Ernest Nsenwanyana, then made a call for motions to amend and adopt the agenda.

The Administrator of the FAMSA Headquarters, Ms. Deborah Ogundijo stated the duties of the Credentials Committee and the Financial Ad hoc Committee.

**Credentials Committee:** Their role was to receive nominations for the electoral positions 12 hours before the next GA Session. Members of this committee included:

Mr Obinna Amaji - Head

Mr Abubacarr Darboe

Mr Morris Njenga

**Financial Ad hoc Committee:** Their role was to certify that MSAs participating in the GA were financially eligible by confirming their payment of dues. They were also to verify the financial reports from the Headquarters and the Executive Council. Members of this committee included:

Miss Evelyn Makasa Katebe – Head

Mr Prosper Katugume

Miss Patience Akampurira



## **DAY 3**

The delegates were treated to a Cultural Night, featuring music, dance, and other creative presentations that depicted the rich African heritage.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION TWO**

The second session of the General Assembly began at 6:40 pm. A motion was moved to have Executive Council members stand in for MSAs that have not paid their dues, however, if the MSA fails to pay up at the stipulated deadline, the Executive Council member will lose the certificate for their tenure. Hence, these MSAs were allowed to have speaking and voting rights in the General Assembly.

Reports were given by the Chairpersons of the Standing Committee on Professional Exchange (SCOPE), the Standing Committee on Medical Education and Research (SCOMER), the Standing Committee on Health and Environment (SCOHE) and the Standing Committee on Publications (SCOPUB).

A motion was moved to contact the Standing Committee on Population Activities (SCOPA) to present her report before the General Assembly is over.

The Regional Coordinators for East Africa presented her report, while the Coordinators of West Africa, South Africa, Central Africa and North Africa were absent for their report presentation and it was postponed to before the end of the General Assembly.

The FAMSA Headquarters Administrator, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, General Secretary and President presented their reports too.

The FAMSA HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group`s report was presented. The financial report of the tenure was presented by the Director of Finance of the FAMSA Headquarters.

The Treasurer General presented the report of his office and the financial statement of the tenure.

## **MAJOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr Yankuba suggested that the protocol framework document prepared by the 34<sup>th</sup> Executive Council to guide Executive Regulations be added to the bye laws and the constitution.

The motion was adopted.

## **DAY 4**

The 4<sup>th</sup> and final day of the Scientific Conference and General Assembly ended with the departure of Local and International delegates after they had toured tourist sites within Zambia.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION THREE**

It began at 10:00am. Miss Ifeyinwa Ogbogu and Mr Yankuba Jabbie were added into the protocol framework. Report was taken from the Policy Advisory Committee, Antimicrobial Committee and Credentials Committee. Mr Amaji moved the motion to allow schools that have not paid their dues to participate in the elections as long as an Executive Council member stands in for them.

The financial ad-hoc committee report was presented. Mr Amaji presented the report while Mr Darboe seconded the motion.

Manifestos were presented by intending candidates.

The following people submitted letters of interest to the Credentials Committee;

**President**

- Mr Banturaki Davis

**Vice President**

- Mr Abdulhammed Babatunde
- Mr Julius Muhindi

**East African Regional Coordinator**

- Mr Lugaaju Charles

**Chairperson, Standing Committee on Medical Education and Research**

- Mr Sefiu Adeshina Usman

**Chairperson, Standing Committee on Publications**

- Ms. Fatoumata Sanjo

## **RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS**

**PRESIDENT – Mr Banturaki Davis**, Uganda

**VICE PRESIDENT – Mr Abdulhammed Babatunde**, Nigeria

**EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL COORDINATOR – Mr Lugaaju Charles**, Uganda

**CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH– Mr Sefiu Adeshina Usman**, Nigeria

**CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS – Miss Fatoumata Sarjo**, Gambia

## **PRESENTATION OF YEAR PLAN AND BUDGET**

10th January 2023 was adopted as the date for the FAMSA year plan and the budget presentation by the 2022/2023 FAMSA Executive Council.

## **MAJOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The protocol framework document prepared by the 34<sup>th</sup> Executive Council to guide Executive Regulations was added to the bye laws and the constitution.

## **HOSTING RIGHTS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

After a bidding process, it was decided that the next General Assembly would take place in Abubacar F Darboe Gambia on 17th November, 2023. The General Assembly and Scientific Conference was brought to a close after this.

| MSA                      | Names                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mbarara University MSA   | Ernest Ssewanyana     |
|                          | Lugaaju Charles       |
|                          | Prosper Katugume      |
|                          |                       |
| University of Ibadan MSA | Obinna Amaji          |
|                          | David Babalola        |
|                          | Abdulhammed Babatunde |
|                          |                       |
| Makerere University MSA  | Banturaki Davis       |
|                          | Akampurira Patience   |
|                          | Bamwine Anthony       |
|                          |                       |



|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Olabisi Onabanjo University MSA</b> | <b>Usman Sefiu Adeshina</b> |
|  | Adeyemi Abdulkabir          |
|  | Ikudesin Olorundunsin       |
|  |                             |
| <b>University of The Gambia MSA</b>    | Abubacarr Darboe            |
|  | Muhammed J Bah              |
|  | Fatoumata S Sarjo           |
|  |                             |
| <b>Kenyatta University MSA</b>         | Laura Nyiha                 |
|  | Wendy Kinara                |
|  | Morris Njenga               |
|  |                             |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University | Paulo Lupokela  |
|  | Julius Muhindi  |
|  | Ebenezer George |

## *Acknowledgements*

### **THE 36TH GA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (University of Zambia Medical Students' Association (UNZAMEDSA) and Lusaka Apex Medical University)**

- **Landilani TEMBO**, *OC Chairperson*
- **Salma ADAMS**, *OC Vice-Chairperson (Programs and Logistics)*
- **Walusungu MTONGA**, *OC Vice-Chairperson (Finance and Marketing)*
- **Ellard MUNDIKKE**, *OC Vice-Chairperson (Publicity and Communications)*
- **Diwell MWANSA**, *OC Vice-Chairperson (Contents)*
- **Joyce KATWISHI**, *OC Vice-Chairperson (Registrations)*
- **Frank MALUNGA**, *Monitoring and Evaluation Board*
- **Clement MUSOKA**, *Monitoring and Evaluation Board*
- **Victor LILANDA**, *Exhibition Officer*
- **Melatiah MBEETWA**, *Hospitality & Accommodation Officer*
- **Bupe TAMBATAMBA**, *Venue Manager*
- **Munambeza MUNYUMBWE**, *Programs and Logistics Department*
- **Lameck MANDA**, *Payment Officer*
- **Joseph CHINYAMUKA**, *Website Manager*

## Acknowledgements

### **THE 36TH GA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (University of Zambia Medical Students' Association (UNZAMEDSA) and Lusaka Apex Medical University)**

- **Jane KUNDA**, *Social Media Officer*
- **Jonathan MACHOYA**, *Public Relations Officer*
- **Doricah MASUKU**, *Design Manager*
- **Isaac MVULA**, *Publicity and Communications Department*
- **Daniel BANDA**, *Publicity and Communications Department*
- **Inonge M'SOKA**, *Productions Officer*
- **Chanda NSOFU**, *Workshop Coordinator*
- **Emmanuel CHIBBAMULILO**, *Local Registrations Officer*
- **Ngawa MWALE**, *International Registration Officer*
- **Nanzumwa NALUYELE**, *Registrations Department*



**Chikaodinaka Nnawuogo,**  
Undersecretary to the 36th GA,  
FAMSA Headquarters,



**Rachel Dada,**  
Board Secretary,  
FAMSA Headquarters,

**Deborah Ogundijo,**  
Administrator,  
FAMSA Headquarters,



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