

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - GDA



Dr. Paapa Puplampu
President - Ghana Dental Association

Dear Colleagues,

Warmest greetings and felicitations on the 31st Annual General Congress of our Association.

God has been faithful, and I am particularly thankful to Him for preserving our lives during the COVID-19 era.

Colleagues, we have come this far because of your commitment to the cause of the Association in delivering good oral health care to the Ghanaian populace, Congratulations!

We cannot overemphasize that oral health is an integral part of general health; we must stand tall in delivering such, despite the challenges of the time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us reasons to be innovative in delivering good oral health care in the new normal. I encourage all practitioners to continue to protect both staff and patients by observing the protocols religiously; please do not compromise on rendering excellent and safe service.

As Team Ghana (Ghana Dental Association & UNILEVER GHANA), we must congratulate ourselves on enormous gains and successes in FDI World Oral Health Day projects; indeed, Team Ghana is the only National Dental Association (NDA) worldwide to win WOHD projects back to back. (2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021), to this, we say BRAVO! Ayekoooo!!! to Team Ghana.

I must be quick to add that this year's WOHD 2022 goes down in history as the first that we as an NDA organized programs simultaneously throughout all sixteen (16) regions in Ghana through your hard work and solidarity.

The Dentist contact program dubbed "#TalkToADentist" is designed to bring good oral health care to the client's doorsteps. We should continue to organize education, sensitization, and screening exercises for the populace wherever we find ourselves.

To this, Colleagues, we have petitioned the Government through the Honourable Minister for Health to do these three (3) things for mother Ghana;

1. Establish Dental Units in all District Hospitals in the Country.

Government should also retool the Dental Schools and facilitate the training of Dental Surgeons to address the oral health care needs of the Country.

2. Appoint a Chief Dental Officer for the Country to help advance policy guidelines for the continuous delivery of good oral health care.

3. Pay attention to the training, career progression, and scope of practice of the para-dental; i.e., Physician Assistants-Dental (PA-Dental & COHOs),

Dental Nurses (RDSAs & DSAs), and Dental Technologists (Technologists & Technicians).

Colleagues, we have come this far with the able support of our cherished partners, among which UNILEVER Ghana, through their Oral Care Category and the Pepsodent Brand, stands tall. To them, we say we are very grateful. This is not just a partnership but a cherished relationship. I am particularly thankful to the Education Committee for organizing CPDs and the Editorial Board of the Ghana Dental Journal. It is refreshing to have gotten indexed on two platforms (African Journal Online (AJOL) and African Index Medicus (AIM)).

Kindly join me in congratulating our Past President and our current FDI Liaison Officer, Dr. Gilbert Aboryo Ankrah, on his elevation to the position of President of the Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA), and by whose effort the GDA is proud and committed to hosting CDA's webinars on continuous professional development lectures. Congratulations Sir.

Thank you.