



representative of the Director General of West African Health Organization (WAHO) also gave a notable goodwill message stressing regional cooperation. They all expressed the importance of collaboration and pledged their continuous support for the College.

- ❖ Special awards were presented to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; **Dr Temitope Ilori**, Director General National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA); and **Dr Kelechi Ohiri**, Director General National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA).
- ❖ A Medical Outreach was organized at Kuje Area Council, Abuja on Saturday 26th October 2024 between 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Science Primary School, Kuje. A total of 746 community members were attended to, in the form of medical consultation, screening, deworming, enrolment into health insurance, dispensing and referrals.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and the Faculty of Internal Medicine WACP, covering partnership in training and faculty development.
- ❖ The Theme of the Conference: “Improving Health Systems in The West African Region: Opportunities and challenges” and subthemes “National Health Insurance Schemes as a strategy for Universal Health Coverage”; Artificial Intelligence in Medical Practice – How prepared is the West African subregion; Lifestyle, culture and the control of NCDs, were explored in the keynote addresses, symposia, plenary sessions, oral presentations, and poster presentations.
- ❖ A total of 1,175 participants (761 in-person and 414 virtual) attended the meeting from eight chapters, and these included 47 accompanying persons.
- ❖ The academic activities of the meeting included the following:
 - The Mabayoje College Lecture, titled “**Improving Patient Care and Health System Through Defragmented Care**” was delivered by **Dr Lawrence Akin Moses** (Nigeria) on behalf of the Faculty of Family Medicine.
 - The Training symposium focussed on “**Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Medical Education in West Africa**” with oral presentations by **Dr George Aquah** (Ghana), **Dr Manmak Mamven** (Nigeria), and **Dr Olufemi Ogunrinde** (Nigeria).
 - The College Symposium presented by the Faculty of Paediatrics with the Theme



“The impact of Lifestyles, Culture, and modifiable NCDs in children and adolescents”

Topics covered in the symposium included: Overview of the burden of NCDs in childhood and adolescents in the subregion by **Dr Christiana Osei-Yeboah** (Ghana), Lifestyles, Culture and NCDs in children and adolescents by **Dr Joanah Ikobah** (Nigeria), NCDs in children and adolescents by **Dr Nma Jiya** (Nigeria), and Mitigation of NCDs in children and adolescents by **Dr Readon Ideh** (Nigeria).

- Scientific sessions were held in six parallel streams and included 50 oral and 28 poster presentations relevant to the theme and subthemes.
- A plenary session highlighted Integrative Medicine and its applications to clinical practice in the subregion.
- ❖ A total of 321 new Fellows and 383 new Members in the medical specialties of Community Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Paediatrics & Psychiatry were inducted at the opening ceremony. A total of 19 Fellows were also inducted during the closing ceremony including the induction of **Dr Ibiwari Damiete Erekosima as the first International Fellow.**
- ❖ College prizes were presented to 22 Members and Fellows.
- ❖ In-person participants enjoyed social events including a welcome cocktail, a city tour and the conference dinner.
- ❖ The grand opening of the WACOP Hotel and Conference Centre took place on the 30th of October 2024, and the plaque was unveiled by the Director General, WAHO, **Dr Melchior A.J.C. Aissi.**
- ❖ The closing ceremony also witnessed the installation of the new College President, **Dr Mourtalla M. Ka**, who will assume office on 1st January 2025.



absence of regulatory frameworks.

- ❖ Many AI training models are not based on datasets from the region which has implications for the applicability of results in medical practice in West Africa.
- ❖ The LOC innovatively ensured the conference was hosted as a “green conference” by adopting approaches to reduce carbon footprint.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Governments, Development Partners and other stakeholders

- ❖ Strengthen the implementation of high-impact health interventions and adoption of Health Insurance Programmes for Universal Health Coverage.
- ❖ Increase budgetary provisions and overall investment for health in line with the Abuja declaration.
- ❖ Enhance financial accountability and transparency to positively impact health governance and implementation of policies in response to health needs.
- ❖ Explore public-private partnerships to enhance the deployment of technology-based solutions in the health sector.
- ❖ Commission the College to develop and deploy the ethical framework governing the application of technology-based solutions in the sub-region's health sector.
- ❖ Increase financial support urgently to enable the College to train and retain specialists to meet the rapidly changing health needs in the region.

Recommendations to College

- ❖ Conceptualize a 'Train, Retain and Equitably Distribute' (TRED) strategy to enhance the production of specialists for the subregion.
- ❖ Develop additional subspecialty training programmes to meet the health needs of the subregion.
- ❖ Develop structured medical education in the management of NCDs such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension, and advocate the use in health systems.
- ❖ Advocate for inclusion of substance abuse education in curricula of schools at appropriate ages to be taught by teachers, not health professionals.
- ❖ Develop clear policies to guide the training and ethical application of AI by trainees and trainers.
- ❖ Facilitate the adoption of skills needed by Fellows and Members to practice defragmented care.

