



GA²⁴

ILE-IFE, NIGERIA

Concept Note

Table of Contents

	PAGE NO.
1. Introduction	3
2. Mission	3
3. Objectives	3
4. Main Theme	4
5. Conference Structure	
• Day One	5
• Day Two	6
• Day Three	7
• Day Four	8
6. Expected Speakers	9
7. Expected Attendees/Delegates	9
8. Organisers	9
9. Host & Venue	9

Introduction

The **Federation of African Medical Students' Associations [FAMSA]** is an independent, non-political association established to foster the spirit of friendship and cooperation amongst African medical students. Established in 1968, she is recognized by the African Union (AU) & World Health Organization (WHO) as the official international forum of African medical students.

The **FAMSA General Assembly & Scientific Conference** is an annual meeting of African medical students, serves as an avenue to further our vision of contributing to the improvement of the healthcare of the underserved populace within Africa. Previous editions of the General Assembly have been held in various parts of Africa, with the most recent ones being held in Gambia, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The 38th FAMSA General Assembly & Scientific Conference shall witness the attendance of medical students, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and international players across Africa and beyond. From 3rd to 8th November 2024, about 1,500 delegates from the nooks and crannies of the continent are expected to gather at the ancient city of Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria under the theme:

Aligning Global Practices with Local Realities for Healthcare Transformation in Africa



Mission

The mission of the conference is to inspire a generation of healthcare students and participants to take charge and play active roles in transforming healthcare in Africa in alignment with global best practices.

Objectives

1. To provide a premier avenue for groundbreaking discussions concerning the transformation of healthcare in Africa.
2. To provide a platform for shaping an integrated perspective on the future of healthcare in Africa in relation to the best global practices.
3. To promote youth engagement in the transformation of healthcare in Africa.
4. To proffer recommendations to health issues in Africa for adoption by African countries, the African Union (AU) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)



Main Theme

Aligning Global Practices with Local Realities for Healthcare Transformation in Africa

In the pursuit of sustainable development across Africa, healthcare stands as a pivotal cornerstone. The continent faces significant economic, social, and environmental challenges that necessitate a proactive approach towards redefining healthcare systems. Historically, progress under previous development frameworks was uneven (sometimes impressive, other times slow and catastrophic), highlighting the urgent need for a transformative strategy.

Healthcare plays an integral role in the global development agenda as it is essential for uplifting communities and globalisation of overall practices. Africa's current health indices are critically low, demanding a paradigm shift towards comprehensive healthcare reform. This transformation is not merely an aspiration but a necessity to address core challenges, consolidate on the gains of the past, and chart the course for the globalised future - immediate and long-term.

The GA seeks to gather diverse perspectives and expertise. Young minds, professionals, and stakeholders from public and private sectors across Africa and beyond will converge to explore innovative strategies. This gathering aims to identify the barriers hindering healthcare advancement, deliberate on effective interventions, and chart actionable paths forward.

Key discussions will centre on leveraging digitization, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, strengthening intra-continental health systems governance, and fostering equitable healthcare access. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the conference shall empower Africa to lead its healthcare revolution with participants cultivating impeccably transformative solutions that ensure equitable health outcomes for all Africans.

The overarching goal for the FAMSA GA 2024 is clear: to effectively incorporate global practices into local realities, serve as a platform of realisation of healthcare transformation in Africa and a driving force of progress across all facets of human well-being.



Conference Structure

The FAMSA General Assembly & Scientific Conference is a 4-day event comprising Plenary and parallel sessions, Training sessions and Workshops, Abstract presentations, Exhibitions and Networking Sessions.

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2024

PLENARY SESSION I:

Sub-Theme: Digital transformation of health systems in Africa

From improving access to healthcare services and the overall quality of care to strengthening the healthcare supply chain and tracking diseases, the digital transformation of health systems remains a critical component to be explored for optimising our local realities to global practices. The potentials for reducing the demand on healthcare infrastructure and supplementing workforce shortage further re-emphasizes the place of digital innovation in our healthcare transformation journey. This conference will focus on scaling up existing interventions e.g. telemedicine and electronic health records and advance other core technologies such as advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning etc.

PLENARY SESSION II:

Sub-Theme: Enhancing social accountability, patient involvement and quality assurance in medical education in Africa

In the words of Rudolf Virchow, medical education does not exist to provide students with a way of making a living but to ensure the health of the community. This is the basis for which medical schools owe a responsibility to the community to train students to meet professional standards and community expectations. Similarly, patients and public involvement in medical education is a strong pillar in the principles of patient-centred care. This conference will explore the revamping of medical education to prioritise social accountability, patient involvement, and quality assurance for delivering more empathetic and socioculturally-sensitive clinicians trained under transparent, standard, well-established and widely acceptable practices/conditions for overall healthcare transformation in Africa.



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2024

PLENARY SESSION III:

Sub-Theme: Addressing health emergencies, biosecurity, climate change and multisectoral response mechanisms for Health Security in Africa

Globally, the highest incidence of public health emergencies is recorded in Africa every year. Yet, biosecurity and biosafety levels are scary, and our response mechanisms are poorly coordinated. These realities threaten Africa's health security, and this is worsened by climate change, inadequate surveillance and other factors. The conference will provide the platform for sharing experiences and best practices for addressing inadequacies.

PLENARY SESSION IV:

Sub-Theme: Protection of healthcare & human rights in forced displacement, migration, emergencies and disasters in Africa

Emergencies and disasters are leading to an increase in forced displacements in Africa, necessitating an urgent review of existing laws and regulations to protect the rights of these individuals and explore cross-border collaborations. Additionally, there is an increasing need for safeguarding healthcare facilities/services and practitioners during such periods of conflicts and disasters. Failure to protect healthcare exposes all parties involved in the conflicts and disasters to dangerous consequences of lack of access to essential care, which could further worsen the crisis by increasing morbidity and mortality rates.

PLENARY SESSION V:

Sub-Theme: Advancing local production in vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics in Africa

Despite facing a high burden of infectious diseases and health emergencies, most of the vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and other medical supplies used in Africa are manufactured from outside the continent. Besides limiting the ability of Africa to respond to the health needs optimally, the associated economic impact of relying on external production further weakens already impoverished economies. This conference will open up perspectives on how to secure global support for the advancement of local production, as a path to delivering a self-reliant African health system.



DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2024

PLENARY SESSION VI:

Sub-Theme: Combating antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases in Africa

Many low and middle-income countries in Africa are plagued with different infectious and neglected tropical diseases. While some have been completely eradicated, the fight is still on against many others. However, as we advance in the fight against our huge burden of infectious and neglected tropical diseases, Africa must be careful of the emergence of resistance against existing antimicrobials. This conference will provide the platform to set priorities for increased collaboration between relevant sectors under the one-health approach.

PLENARY SESSION VII:

Sub-Theme: Open science, responsible research and research education in Africa

Many medical students in Africa study in resource-limited settings where open science is not yet institutionalised, whereas their colleagues in developed countries are getting increasingly engaged in scientific research than ever. Hence, there is a critical need to adapt the medical curriculum in Africa to incorporate sufficient research education. We must also promote accessibility and transparency of research/science for the overall improvement of research outcomes from Africa. This conference will allow for discussions to chart the course for this future.



DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2024

PLENARY SESSION VIII:

Sub-Theme: Unmasking the silent epidemics in Africa: Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health

The prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (and mental health) in Africa is steadily surpassing that of infectious diseases. This transition indicates a fast-spreading epidemic which Africa is currently silent about. There is therefore an urgent need for Africa to align global practices with our healthcare realities to effectively manage these epidemics. This conference will proffer innovative and sustainable solutions towards combating these epidemics while alleviating the effects of the epidemics on the overall well being of the African populace.

PLENARY SESSION IX:

Sub-Theme: Empowering communities to combat gender-based violence and abolish harmful traditional practices in Africa

Africa is richly blessed with diverse ethno-cultural beliefs, many of which are still retained within the modern context of the continent. Gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices are examples of such beliefs rooted in wide social acceptability and often worsened by weak legislations. In places with strong legislations, enforcement is still problematic, suggesting how deeply rooted these issues are within the communities. Thus, ending this menace must involve community empowerment for informed decision-making as the frontburner And this is what the conference will be addressing - developing homegrown solution models to empower African communities to change the tide for good.

EXPECTED SPEAKERS

For more than ten different sessions, over 45 high-profile speakers will attend the 38th FAMSA GA. The speakers will include industry experts and bigwigs, policymakers and executors, researchers, academicians, clinicians, consultants, reputable non-governmental organisations, health-tech players, and complementary health & health-allied students.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES/DELEGATION

The conference expects about 1,500 participants, with eighty percent physical attendance, while others join virtually. The delegates will comprise Medical students, Other healthcare students, Healthcare professionals (HCPs), Policy-makers, Researchers, Academicians, Industry experts from across the globe

ORGANISERS

The Organizing Committee consists majorly of members of the Obafemi Awolowo University Medical Students' Association with support from the FAMSA Executive Council and International Campus Ambassadors (ICAs) from various Medical Students' Associations (MSAs) across Africa.



HOST & VENUE

The Obafemi Awolowo University Medical Students' Association will host the 2024 FAMSA GA. **The Obafemi Awolowo University Medical Students' Association, formerly Ife University Medical Students' Association (IFUMSA)**, is the umbrella body of all students pursuing the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.Ch.B.) degree in the prestigious College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Founded in 1972, she is one of the oldest MSAs in the Federation of Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA). The association has hosted several symposia, conferences, and outreaches that have shaped the healthcare landscape nationally and continentally.

The Venue of the GA is proposed to be Oduduwa Hall, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The venue is rich in history and has received several important guests of meetings of national and international reputation.



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