

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2, DECEMBER, 2017

NJDR

NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH

Official Publication of the School of Dentistry, College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria



EVENT ON MARBLES...

The Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Dental Research, Professor Ozoemene Ndubuisi OBUEKWE Presents His Inaugural Lecture

***Emeka Danielson ODAI MSc, FMCDS**

*Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon and Secretary to the Editorial Board

The Editor-in-Chief, Ozoemene Ndubuisi OBUEKWE a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, in the School of Dentistry, University of Benin, Benin-City presented his inaugural lecture titled 'Navigating the Maxillofacial Wilderness: A surgeon's Journey' on Thursday the 22nd day of June 2017 in the Akin Deko (Main) auditorium of the University.

Professor Ozoemene Ndubuisi OBUEKWE was born in Lagos on the 19th of May, 1964. He attended Santa Maria Primary School, Aba (1971 – 1976) and thereafter College of the Immaculate Conception (C. I. C) Enugu (1976 – 1981) where he obtained the West African School Certificate. He gained admission into the University of Benin to study Dentistry and obtained the BDS in 1987. He had his internship at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Benin City (1987 - 1988) and then proceeded to Maiduguri, Borno State for the National Youth Service (1988 – 1990).

He joined the University of the Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) for his Residency Training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1990, obtaining the Fellowship of the West African College of Surgeons in 1996. He joined the services of the University of Benin in 1997 as a Lecturer I and rose through the ranks, becoming a Professor in 2007. He has joint appointment as a Consultant, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. He served as Coordinator, Residency Training Programme from 2009 to 2014. He is also the Coordinator, Dental Services from 2009 to date. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Connecticut Health Center between November 2008 and April 2009. He had served as Head of Department, Oral Surgery and Pathology, University of Benin and Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, UBTH at various times.

He is a Member of the Nigerian Medical Association, Nigerian Dental Association, Nigerian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the International Association for Dental Research, and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists (FICD). He is the Editor, Nigerian Journal of Dental Research, Chairman, SmileTrain Programme, UBTH. He is presently the Dean, School of Dentistry, University of Benin.

The lecturer in a well packaged, articulated and delivered lecture, noted his early influences which include his father, Dr. GN Obuekwe, a Howard trained dentist and his uncle, Professor CO Obuekwe, a microbiologist. Others include Professors AO Ejide, CO Iwu, O Akpata, MA Ojo and BDO Saheeb. He showcased brilliant surgeries and researched evidences in his areas of specialization (orofacial clefts and maxillofacial traumatology) in a lecture interspaced with rousing ovations as the audience viewed dramatic postsurgical transformation of patients.

He convincingly educated the diverse audience that genetic and/or environmental factors are implicated in the causation of orofacial clefts contrary to the beliefs of 'spiritual punishment' for real and apparent misdeeds as well as the handiwork of witches and wizards. The challenges with eating, speech, hearing, dental etc., were highlighted and the possibility of successful treatment was demonstrated with the various post repair pictures of orofacial cleft patients. He solicited for moral, psychological and possibly financial support was advocated for the patients and parents/caregivers in place of the usual isolation and mockery. The need for, and advantages of multidisciplinary approach to patient management were highlighted as the lecturer acknowledged the various team members contributing to the success story.

Whereas environmental factors play roles in causation of maxillofacial trauma, government, law enforcers and individual patients' roles were reported to be very significant in the remote and immediate causation of maxillofacial trauma. The significant losses in terms of finances, man-hours and quality of life were noted. The lecturer advocated consistent involvement of psychologists in management of maxillofacial trauma in view of the massive psychological distress associated.

It was noted in concluding remarks that there exists a low public awareness about maxillofacial surgery as a specialty. Secondly, the incidence of cleft lip and palate in our environment is fairly high, with risk factors pregnant women need to avoid. The availability of specialist team to manage cases was noted. Thirdly, trauma is a leading cause of injury, disability and death in our environment. Causes of maxillofacial trauma and the factors influencing these were outlined...high on the list were road traffic accidents and gunshots. The modern approach to care of maxillofacial injuries, in the pre-hospital and pre-treatment periods as well as treatment protocols for maxillofacial injuries were highlighted. Recommendations were for individuals, various organization and government to wake up to their responsibilities. ENOUGH OF LIP SERVICE!!!

REFERENCE

Obuekwe ON. Navigating the maxillofacial wilderness: a surgeon's journey. *Inaugural lecture series 192*. University of Benin, Benin-City Nigeria. 2017.



Professor ON Obuekwe, doing justice to his title at the 192nd of the UNIBEN Inaugural Lecture Series



Cross-section of the audience at the 192nd of the Inaugural Lecture Series



Another view of a cross-section of the audience at the 192nd of the inaugural lecture series



Another view of a cross-section of the audience at the 192nd of the inaugural lecture series



Another view of a cross-section of the audience at the 192nd of the inaugural lecture series



An applause immediately after the lecture



The Vice Chancellor, Professor FFO Orumwense and the family of Professor ON Obuekwe



The Vice Chancellor, Professor FFO Orumwense and the lecturer in the 192nd of the UNIBEN inaugural lecture series, Professor ON Obuekwe.