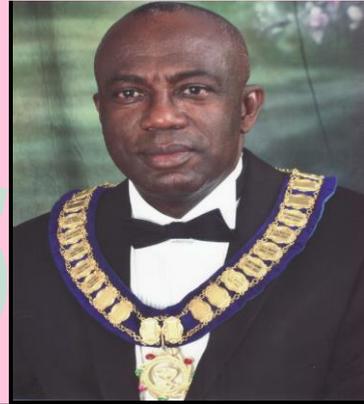


FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DECEMBER 2015
DECEMBER 2015



Dear Colleagues,

December 2015 has begun, and we are entering the end of the first quarter of my tenure. My Team will offer a dedicated, visionary leadership to create a new outlook for this profession, practice and practitioners. Let us continue to trust God Almighty as we put our hands to the mill.

I bring you, once again, an update on our progress and directions for the past month and welcome your thoughts, inputs, criticisms and questions. We will certainly need these on every step of the way. So do not hesitate to keep us “on our toes with constructive feedback and vital information.”

PRESSING ISSUES

PHARMACY CENTRE, BAATSONA, ACCRA



Pharmacy Centre receiving facelift

We continued with minor works at the National Headquarters in Baatsona, Accra to improve security and enhance the neatness and outlook of the compound. I once again encourage members, especially those of us in Accra/Tema metropolis to pass by, offer our thoughts on the on-going minor works and utilise or recommend the place as an ideal venue to family and friends for weddings, funerals and other social events.



Pharmacy Centre receiving facelifts

Very soon, the new Pharmacy Centre Committee will come up with actual plans for the next phase. I also wish to assure you that our preliminary engagements with the Regional Lands Commission officials have been productive and we are eagerly pursuing the title to the land. They have assured us of a re-zoning exercise in the entire area and are willing to assist us with our request.

PHARMACY COUNCIL NEW POLICY

We also continued our engagements with the Pharmacy Council on the implementation of the next phase of their new policy. While this has not been easy owing to time constraints, I am optimistic that the Society and the Council will ultimately conclude and come up with some modifications to the implementation which will hopefully achieve the same purpose without compromising our interest. At our last SEC meeting, the issue was extensively deliberated upon guided by sentiments from Greater Accra and Ashanti's recent Regional Meetings. By the close of this month, we hope to have concluded on our engagements with the Council so I can report on a definitive outcome. I encourage members to be rest assured that we are striving for a fair balance of the interests of both the public and the practitioners.

GHOSPA CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Negotiations on GHOSPA's conditions of Service continued. Three (3) SEC members joined the GHOSPA Team at the last meeting and though not conclusive, the process continues. This enabled us to gain deeper insights into the negotiation process. My team remains committed to the cause of GHOSPA and we are ready to offer any form of assistance considered vital.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE REVIEW

We have submitted our formal position on the review of the NHIA to the review Committee and have recently published our [proposal](#) on the website (www.psg.org). This is to welcome your inputs and additional thought as we still have an open window to submit additional thoughts. I am glad that pursuant to our discussions and recommendations, the Review Committee has formally invited Pharm. Kwesi Eghan to serve on the Pharmaceutical Sub-Committee. We asked for more than that but we believe his knowledge and experience will make him an excellent ambassador for our cause and the overall success of the review process.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS



Figure 1 PSGH President with some Ghanaian pharmacists in North London. Top L-R: Belinda, William, Patrick Karikari, Yaw Afrani (Lansah Chemist MD), Isaac Quarm, Prof. Eric Aboagye. Bottom L-R: Barbara Brese, Marc Baffoe Bonnie, Joe Owusu Agyemang

Last month, I took the opportunity on a private business visit to the UK to engage our colleagues there on their thoughts and support for the profession, practice and practitioners back home. These discussions were fruitful and I look forward to incorporating them into our future plans.

We also participated in the collaboration of the private sector and the National Malaria Control Programme of the Ghana Health Service under the Ministry of Health and UNICEF. The objective was to share current strategic framework to reduce the burden of malaria on employees and their families. Prince Kofi Amoabeng of the UT Group was introduced as the Malaria Ambassador for this cause.

The Society was represented at the graduation ceremony for participants in Quality Control Training of the Centre for Pharmaceutical Advancement and Training (CEPAT) in collaboration with the United States Pharmacopoeia Convention in Ghana (USP-Ghana).

USP-Ghana is home to the Center for Pharmaceutical Advancement and Training (CePAT). Launched in May 2013, CePAT aims to equip regulatory authorities and officers, quality assurance and quality control professionals, manufacturers, and others in the pharmaceutical industry with knowledge and skills to promote access to good quality medicines. As key partners in the fight against sub-standard medicines, I will encourage all practitioners in regulation, quality assurance and control to explore the training opportunities to enhance their knowledge and expertise.

We participated and presented fraternal greetings at the Annual Conference of the Ghana Medical Association (GMA) and the Bi-Annual Congress of the Ghana Registered Nurses Association (GRNA). GMA elected a new President in the person of DCOP Dr. Ewool with whom I have begun preliminary discussion to explore strategic collaboration as key health practitioners on some common issues. More on those deliberations as we progress.

STRUCTURES

I have shared with SEC my vision and plan for the “new outlook”. I look forward extensively sharing these with Governing Board this month before we launch into full scale action. I have proposed a functional structure with the following under the Governing Board and SEC:

- four constitutionally established directorates under each of the 4 elected executive members;
- other key constitutional committees like Finance, Editorial, Discipline, Internal Audit and the PSGH Constitutional Review Committee;
- five other Presidential Committees to achieve specific deliverables which will define the foundation of the new outlook.
- An effective National Headquarters co-ordinating and supporting the entire structure.

We have appointed Chairpersons who are in the process of forming their teams and developing various programmes of work for the next year based on my expectations and goals for each.

I repeat that when these basic processes are done, and the Governing Board have been fully apprised of these, I will share with you comprehensively my vision and how I seek to prosecute it within the time limits prescribed by our constitution.

I call for a deepening of our sense of volunteerism and support in any position/Committee we find ourselves. This journey is about our collective future.

THIS MONTH

The critical goals for this month are to complete the basic structure for the new outlook: committees, formation, compile programme of work, budgeting, and share these extensively and in detail with the Governing Board to secure their understanding, support and guidance. Once this is achieved, I will inaugurate all the groups to commence work. I must say that a few have informally begun preliminary tasks which we will report to the GB.

INVITATION

I remain open to maintaining a direct, professional and open engagement with every pharmacist everywhere to receive your insights, thoughts, ideas and proposals on the way forward for any of the numerous challenges we face. You can send them formally and directly through the PSGH Website or any media. I am interested in whatever impacts on your practice and how we can strengthen the impact of the PSGH on you, your practice and your business as a Pharmacist.

Just send us your areas of concern and how we can improve those areas.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am available on this website, facebook on the PSGH Lounge and email on: rockyboat2001@yahoo.co.uk. Other SEC and GB members closer to you are willing and ready to welcome your thoughts.

CONCLUSION

As the year heads for a close, I will entreat you to believe in tomorrow, irrespective of the challenges we may be facing now. Wherever you find yourself as a Pharmacist, remember you are our ambassador there. Your acts, your omissions, your attitude, your skills, your achievements, failures, and general conduct directly affect our collective image/brand. So we owe it to God, our profession, practice and posterity to live up to the highest ethical, moral and professional standards in pharmacy.

Let's wrap up this year with a renewed commitment to forge together as one people, one profession, with diverse practice areas but one goal: to become and remain the most trusted friend of the human race.

I am ready to lead the drive towards this goal. Join me, let's press on together.

Thank you,

God Bless Pharmacy,

God Bless the PSGH,

God Bless us all...