

Nigerian Association for Cleft Lip and Palate (NACLP)

NEWSLETTER

ACPA NACLP Partnership at the 80th ACPA Conference (May 2023)



Introduction

On the 2nd of September 2022 the Nigerian Association for Cleft Lip and Palate (NACLP) received an invitation to partner with the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA) in 2023. This partnership was designed

to provide an avenue to share research, ideas, experiences and challenges in cleft care provision during the 80th ACPA conference scheduled to hold between 2nd and 6th of May 2023 in Raleigh, North Carolina and beyond.

The Proposal

In August 2022 NACLP was informed by an international member and lifelong partner Prof Butali Azeez that the Leadership of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA) would like to engage in talks with the Executive of the Nigerian Association for Cleft Lip and Palate (NACLP). After a few exchanges of emails and interactions, a formal invitation for International partnership addressed to the President of NACLP requesting members of NACLP to join ACPA in May 2nd — 6th in Raleigh, North Carolina as international partners at the conference emerged.

Theme: _____

**Leading the
Science
Advancing
team care....**

The partnership involved the opportunity for members of NACLCP to make Scientific presentations at the conference, present a panel discussion on the Nigerian experience in cleft care provision, avail ourselves of opportunities to learn, collaborate on long-term or short term

with members and groups of the ACPA.

The Executive and members of NACLCP received this invitation with excitement, seeing it as a chance to learn from a collection of renowned cleft care providers from around the world and to bring back new knowledge and skills to Nigeria.

Preparations

In the months leading up to the conference, there was active publicity of the 80th ACPA conference on NACLCP group platforms and website. Members were motivated to participate and present papers at the conference. Emphasis was laid on the benefits and opportunities of attending and making presentations. An in-house call for abstract and peer review was undertaken.

Many thanks to our panel of nine Reviewers who did an excellent job on 13 abstracts, and our acceptance rate was 84%.

While plans to secure entry Visa to USA was ongoing, members enthusiastically gathered their travel documents, ensured that they met the visa requirements and commenced Visa applications.

The Leadership of NACLCP also engaged with leadership of the ACPA, in a bid to get support for Visa applications with the American authorities so that applications of members who wished to travel for the conference could be given special consideration. Members were regularly provided with updates on conference events, travel advisories, etc

In January 2023 a group was formed of all intending delegates, to ensure that the maximum possible cooperation was given to all members who wanted to participate in terms of getting appointment dates for their Visa interviews, arrangements for virtual participation of members who could not travel and nonmember rates for members of NACLCP who were not members of ACPA were some of the logistics that was needed to be looked into .

Participation

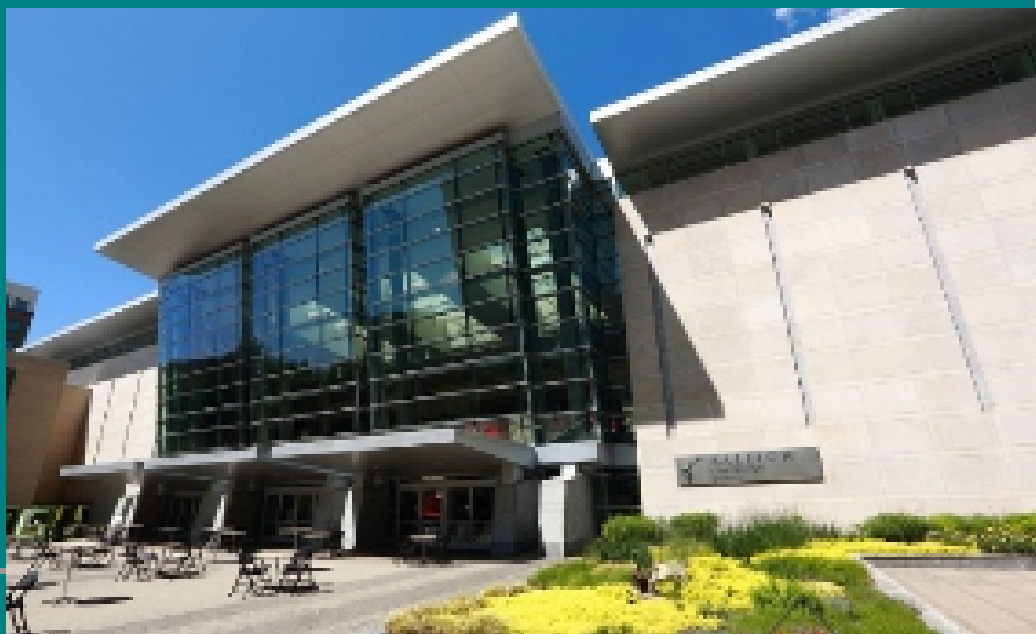
The 80th Annual Meeting of the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association (ACPA) took place at the serene and beautiful Raleigh Convention Centre, North Carolina, United States of America (Figure 1).

It was a five-day program packed with Instructional Courses, General Sessions, Symposia, Discipline fora and short talks which started on the 2nd of May to the 6th of May 2023.

Eight hundred people participated in the conference in person by 800 people, and

an additional 85 people from 29 countries attended the meeting virtually.

A record 622 abstracts were submitted from around the world, and 350 were accepted in the final program (56.3%). This includes presentations from more than 20 practice disciplines.



Six NACLP members (including Prof Azeez Butali and Dr Deji Fasemo) attended the conference in person; while 6 others participated virtually. With about 20 potential participants, having challenges with visa applications and were therefore unable to attend.



NACLP delegation had a great time at the ACPA conference.



Day 1: Welcome reception — an opportunity to meet participants in light mood and begin the work of collaboration. On the 1st day, the Welcome Reception was an opportunity to meet participants in light mood and engage in placid

talks towards works of collaborations. The African delegates were variously represented from Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria among others (Figure 2).



Figure 2

Day 2: Started with poster presentations. The day also featured an opening ceremony at which NACLP was recognized as the International partner 2023- and the President NACLP delivered an address. The Opening ceremony also featured a Keynote address titled.

The 2nd day featured an



Opening Ceremony at which NACLPL was recognized as the international partner 2023 and the President of NACLPL delivered an address. During the Opening Ceremony a keynote address was delivered by Sheldon Yellen titled “Breaking Through Barriers by Putting People First.” It was impactful and emotionally delivered. A Research Keynote was delivered on Day 3 by Janice Lee titled “Shaping the Future: The Advantages of Modular Integration (Working together to advance innovative craniofacial research)”

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th days typically started with early morning poster presentations. These days

also hosted concurrent sessions on the diverse arms of cleft care showcasing surgery, nutrition, speech, orthodontics, psychosocial, genetics, orthognathic surgery, team building among others in various conference rooms of the convention centre (Figure 3). Luncheon meetings were also utilized by various bodies in cleft care. Also, on these days were Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings on Feeding Nutrition and Growth Ethics (Day 2), Global Care Mental Health/ Psychosocial (Day 3) and Care Coordination 22q11.2 Related Disorders (Day 4). Day 4 ended with a much-attended Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner (Figure 4).



Smile Train Partners' meeting



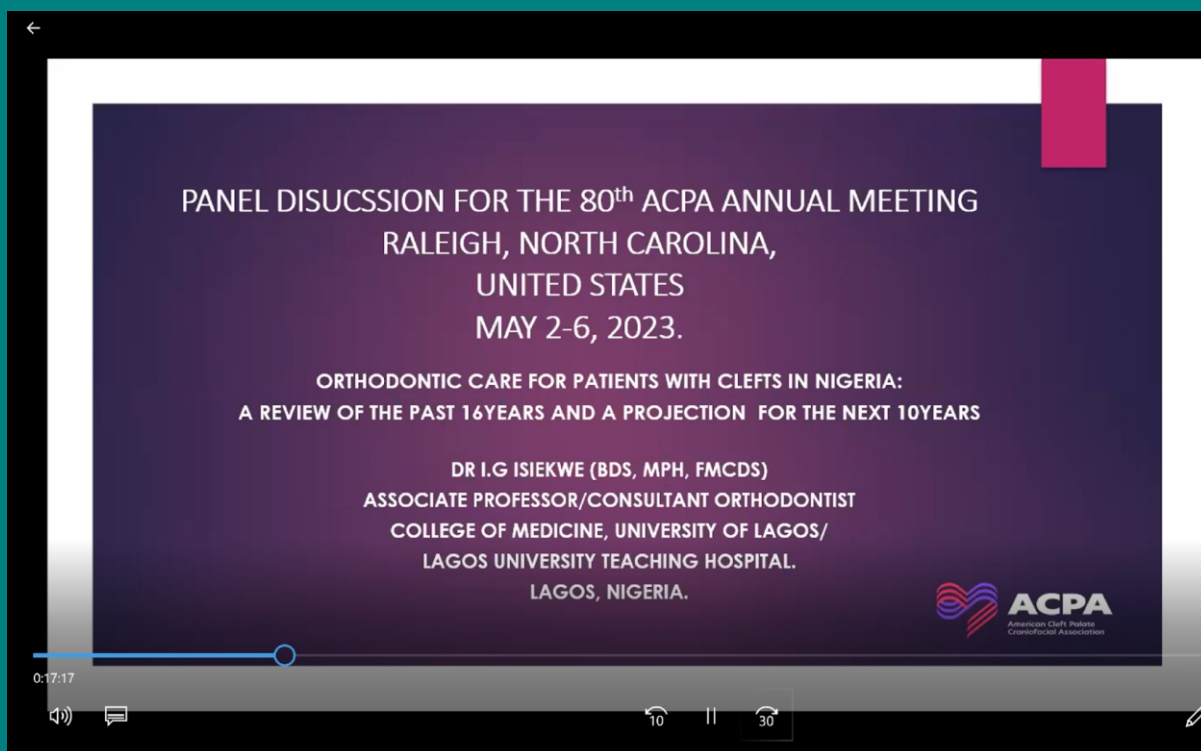
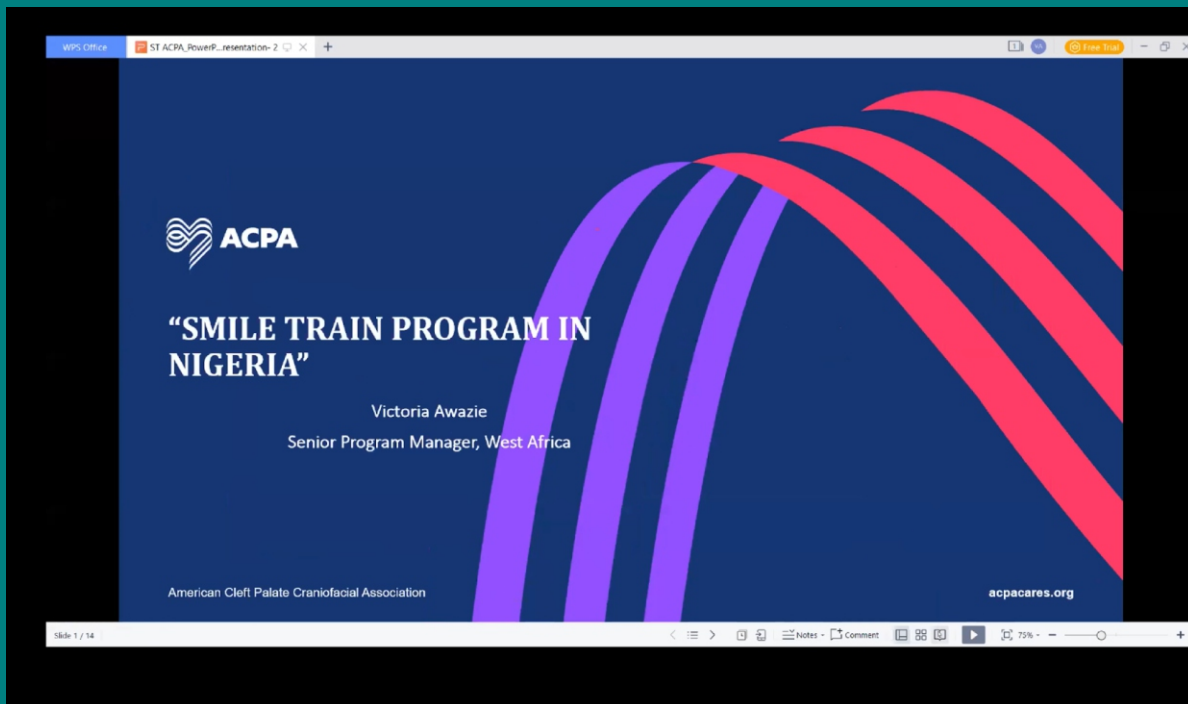
Presentations from Nigeria

The Nigerian delegates shared their experiences in cleft care through both poster and oral presentations as outlined below:

1. Evaluation of the Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (Tsh) Level and Growth Pattern in Children with Non-Syndromic Cleft Lip and Palate — Olawale Adamson, Poster.
2. Transverse facial cleft: an uncommon occurrence — Akinwale Efunkoya, Poster.
3. Cleft Care in Nigeria-Outcome in past sixteen years and aspirations for the next decade — Fadekemi Oginni, Oral panel discussion (Raphael Adebola, Gerald Isiekewe, Amina Musa and Victoria Awazie) — Soon to be published.
4. Echocardiographic Outcomes of Paediatric Patients with Orofacial Cleft at a Missionary Hospital in Southwest Nigeria — Stella Ogunmuwia, Poster
5. Preoperative quality of life of patients with cleft lip and palate in Nigeria: A multicentre pilot study — Afieharo Michael, Poster.
6. Satisfaction Rating and Anthropometric Assessment in Children with Unilateral Cleft Lip and Palate following Primary cheiloplasty in Southern Nigeria — Emmanuel Oke, Poster.
7. The Gains and Challenges in Delivering Cleft Related Speech Service in Nigeria: A Trainee's Experience — Nwamaka Ezeanochie, Poster.
8. A Review of Bilateral Cleft Repairs at Two Sub-Regional Centers in Nigeria — Oti Nimi Aria, Oral.

9. Evolution of Field Cleft Surgery Experience: a Ten-Year Review — Ifeanyichukwu Onah, Oral.
10. Analysis of Structural and Functional Outcomes of Primary Palatoplasty — Adeola Olusanya, Oral.
11. Single Stage Repair of Cleft Lip and Palate — The Experience of Two Centers in Nigeria - Ifeanyichukwu Onah, Oral

Panel discussion (Onsite and Virtual)





Introduction

- Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the most populous black nation in the world
- A population of over 200 million people living in 776 Local Government Areas (LGA) spread across 36 states in 6 geo-political zones (Federal Ministry of Health, 2011).
- In Africa, OFC is under-ascertained with little or no surveillance system in most parts for clefts and other birth defects.
- A Nigerian craniofacial anomalies study "NigeriaCRAN" established in 2006 to support cleft research specifically for epidemiological studies, treatment outcomes and; studies into etiology and prevention.
- A prevalence rate of 0.5/1000 for OFC from the total number of cases and live births during the study period.



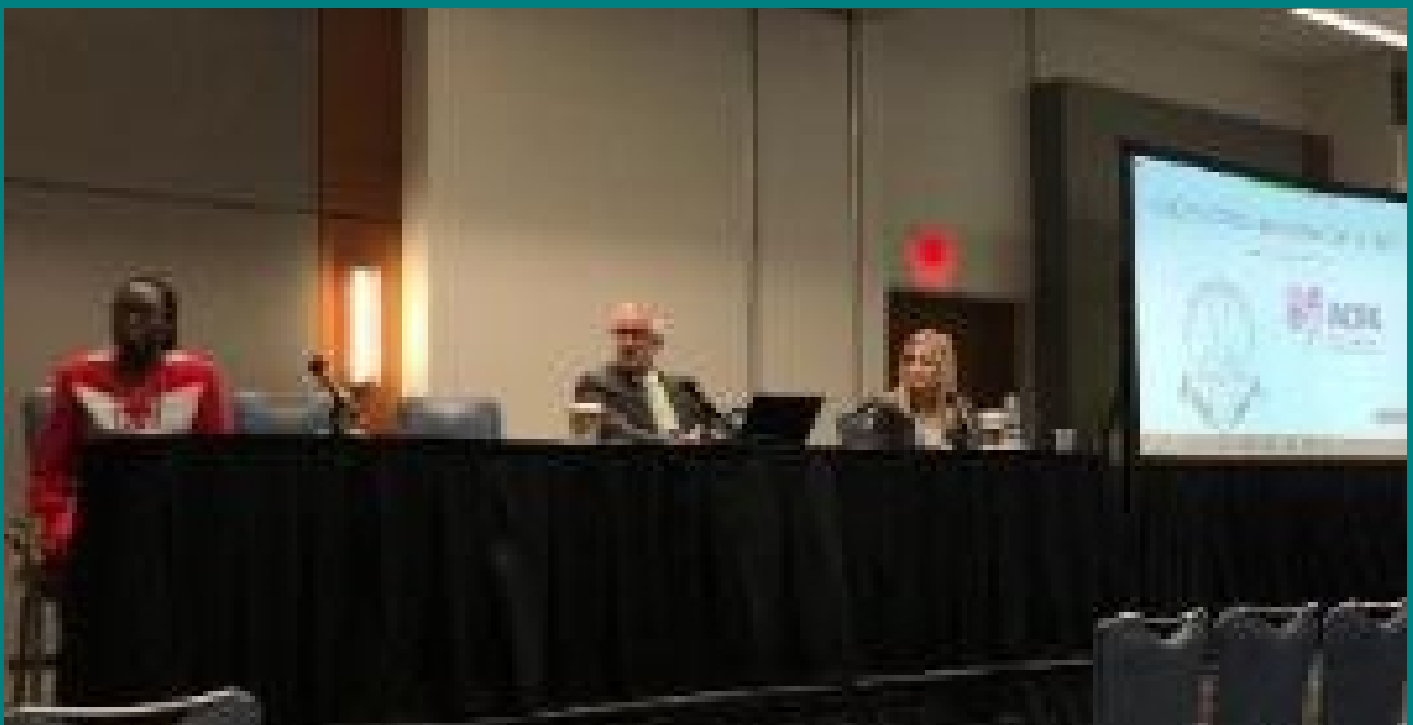
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American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association



AN OVERVIEW OF CLEFT-RELATED SPEECH SERVICES IN NIGERIA

By
Amina Musa Ibrahim



Prospects

NACLP is excited about the prospects for the future. We have an assurance that we are collaborating for years to come and not just for the year 2023. With Africa coming on as the focus of the Global Welfare SIG NACLP is positioned to Also provide leadership for cleft care in other African countries

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate and look forward to continuing the partnership. The executive and members of NACLP look forward to opportunities for exchange and

visiting scholarships to and from both Nigeria and the United States. Training opportunities to address areas of manpower deficits in local cleft care manpower such as in Speech therapy, Orthodontics and Geneticists. The exchange of expertise in sustainable funding and the production of local technology and equipment are also areas of future possible collaboration. Most important is collaboration in translational research and implementation science between both sides.

Appreciation

- The Smile Train: Sponsored 3 participants from Nigeria.
- ACPA: Registration fee waiver for NACLP EXCO members

