

Conference Summary: “Safety Across the Borders Conference / Workshop” – September 2013

On Tuesday 24th September at the De Hall in Ikeja, over 200 health professionals, from hospitals and health centres around Lagos, met for a one-day conference / workshop titled 'Safety across the Border. This event was organised by Stream Pharmaceutical UK in conjunction with the Lagos State Safety Commission and the Ministry of Health. Stream Pharmaceutical UK have previous experience in this area by working with organisations and government bodies in UK, Ghana, Saudi Arabia and Namibia.

Dr Alero Roberts was the *Conference moderator* and the day started with an introductory speech by the Director General / CEO of the Lagos State Safety Commission, Mrs Dominga Odebunmi, who welcomed everyone to this important event. The day continued with both local and international speakers covering all aspects of safety within the healthcare environment.

During the afternoon the delegates were divided into two sessions. The pharmacists attended the workshop titled “Clinical Governance and Medication Errors”. The remaining delegates, who consisted of doctors, lab scientists, departmental heads, representatives from the Lagos State Safety Commission and the Ministry of Health, attended a workshop which considered aspects of patient safety and health sector reforms.

Speakers at the conference included Dr O. Olatunji, *Permanent Secretary, Health Services Commission Lagos State*, Dr Leke Pitan, *African Advisor International Hospital Federation and former Commissioner of Health Lagos State*, Professor Ayo Atsenuwa, *Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Consultant to Stream Pharmaceutical* and Remi Babalola from *Remi Babalola Nigerian Red Cross Initiative*. The international speakers were Joe Crombie *the Executive Technical Director of Stream Pharmaceutical* and Elizabeth Ozogolu *NHS UK Prescriber Advisor and a consultant to Stream Pharmaceutical UK*.

The day ended with a panel session where all delegates were invited to discuss their concerns and ideas with the speakers. The general consensus according to the evaluation forms completed that day indicated that delegates had developed a greater awareness of safety and now felt 'empowered' to provide a better service to the patients within their care.

Some of the comments received were:

- *“This training was a pacesetter. It sets a good standard for all healthcare professionals. This was the best training this year so far”.*
- *“Training was well coordinated”.*
- *“Educative, well informed, more needed”.*
- *“Good workshops, more needed”.*
- *“Would like to see the training extended over more days so that even more content can be covered”.*
- *“This training should be held annually”*

Stream Pharmaceutical are grateful to everybody who provided such valuable feedback and to the Lagos State Safety Commission and Ministry of Health for collaborating with Stream Pharmaceutical to make the event an overwhelming success. Stream Pharmaceutical are committed to listening to this feedback to ensure that future conferences and workshops for people working within the health sector in Lagos will equip them to be the safety ambassadors and support Lagos State Government in ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all its patients, employees, clients and others who may be affected by its healthcare services.