

## FAMPO – TEN YEARS ON

Dr. Taofeeq A. IGE, President FAMPO

### Background to Formation

At the sideline of the 48th Annual SAAPMB (South African Association of Physicists in Medicine and Biology) meeting, held at the Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel in Durban (South Africa), the then IOMP Vice-President (Prof. Fridjtof Nuesslin) espoused the need to have a regional body of the Medical Physicists in Africa which shall be affiliated to the IOMP therefore, a short meeting was convened on 7th June, 2008 in one of the small committee rooms with representatives of the 5 African countries in attendance at this annual meeting and scientific conference. It was suggested that the members present should reach out to all the member states via the email to galvanize opinions towards the establishment of a virile regional chapter that will be the pride of all Medical Physicists in Africa. Meanwhile Taofeeq was mandated to put forward a letter of intent to the IOMP executive committee on this development and encomiums were showered on the convener of the meeting (Prof. Nuesslin) as well as the host of the meeting (Dr. William I. D. Rae) who also submitted the first draft of the *Federation of African Medical Physics Organizations (FAMPO)* constitution on Friday 13th June, 2008. The final draft, after the initial one which was circulated among members, was unveiled on Wednesday 25th March 2009.

### First Executive Committee

The first executive committee of FAMPO was elected at the margins of the AFROG (African Radiation Oncology Group) conference in Harare (Zimbabwe) on Friday 11th December 2009. Prof. W.A. Groenewald from South Africa chaired the meeting with fifteen delegates from 12 countries and Dr. Ahmed Meghziene (the then Head of DMRP – Dosimetry and Medical Radiation Physics – section of the International Atomic Energy Agency – IAEA) was in attendance as an observer.

Ahmed ibn Seddik (Morocco) was elected the President, Vice-President was Rebecca Nakatudde (Uganda), Khaled El-Shahat (Egypt) became the Treasurer and Taofeeq Ige as the Secretary-General. The minutes of this delegates meeting together with the FAMPO constitution were submitted by Ahmed and Taofeeq to the then IOMP Secretary General – Prof. Madan Rehani – at the IAEA, Vienna on Tuesday 15th December 2009 as part of the requisite instruments

(formal application) needed in order to admit FAMPO into the IOMP fraternity.

### Aims and Functions

In March 2010, the IOMP council approved FAMPO's application as the newest and youngest regional organization of the IOMP. FAMPO was therefore established to improve and solve the challenges faced by Medical Physicists in Africa and with aims and functions as follows: (i) To promote improved quality service to patients and the community in the region (ii) To promote the co-operation and communication between medical physics organisation in the region, and where such organizations do not exist between individual medical physicists (iii) To promote the profession and practice of medical physics and related activities in the region (iv) To promote the advancement in status and standard of practice of medical physics profession (v) To promote and improve the training of medical physicists (vi) To promote research and development in the field of medical physics (vii) To promote appropriate use of technology to the benefit of rural populations (viii) To organize and / or sponsor international conferences, regional and other meetings or courses (ix) To collaborate or affiliate with other scientific organizations and lastly (x) It's a non-profit organisation.

### Current Status and Some Achievements

The current executive committee are: Taofeeq Ige – Nigeria (President), Chris Trauernicht – South Africa (Vice-President), Ahmed ibn Seddik (Past President), Odette Samba – Cameroon (Treasurer) and Francis Hasford – Ghana (Secretary General). The three committee chairs are: Nadia Toutaoui-Khelassi – Algeria (Education and Training); Graeme Lazarus – South Africa (Professional Development) and Ehab Attalla – Egypt (Scientific). The 24 member FAMPO Council was inaugurated on 10th October 2018, thus, devolving the governance of the body to the “grass-root/member-state” level and fulfilling a major constitutional requirement. The AJMP (African Journal of Medical Physics) was launched in November 2018 and the second edition was recently released. The FAMPO website ([www.fampo-africa.org](http://www.fampo-africa.org)) has been a success story and major information dissemination attraction. The FAMPO newsletter debuted in January 2019 and the fourth edition is set to be released soon.