March 2016

First word

It is my pleasure and privilege to extend an invitation to all healthcare workers involved in lung health throughout Africa and the world to the 1st PATS International Conference. The conference is going to take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 9th April to 12th April 2016.

The Pan African Thoracic Society was formed in 2003 to create a representative African respiratory society for the region to address the high burden of respiratory illness and to promote lung health in Africa through education, training, research, and advocacy.

This is the first conference of the PATS since its inception. The conference will bring together a gathering of healthcare workers from across Africa, including physicians, paediatricians, general practitioners, thoracic surgeons, and other health workers involved in lung health in the continent.

The theme of the conference, ‘Breathing life into Africa’, will give participants an opportunity to focus attention on the most pressing issues for lung health. The congress will provide a platform for the presentation of up-to-date reviews, as well as dissemination and discussion of results of cutting-edge research findings that will have wide implications for the practice of evidence-based respiratory care.

In addition, the congress will provide an excellent opportunity for collaboration and brainstorming on productive advocacy pathways for tackling the challenge of respiratory diseases in Africa. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen the role of PATS in promoting respiratory healthcare in the continent.

The faculty will include global and African leaders in lung health, as well as key representatives from leading international societies involved in lung health across the globe, including the European Respiratory Society (ERS), American Respiratory Society (ARS), South African Respiratory Society (SARS), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (IUATLD), and International Forum of Respiratory Societies (IFRS). To ensure meaningful participation and assured outcomes, representatives of these diverse bodies who are participating in the congress have been actively engaged in its planning and organisation.

Last but not least, the first PATS conference will provide an effective opportunity for meeting friends and colleagues who are engaged in respiratory health in Africa and globally.

On behalf of the PATS 2016 conference Organising Committee, I would like to encourage and welcome you to take part, and benefit from attending this major respiratory conference.


Dr Joseph A. Aluoch, FRCP, EBS, Chairman, Organising Committee, Pan African Thoracic Society 2016 Conference

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The Pan African Thoracic Society exists to promote respiratory health in Africa. It is supported by the Nuffield Foundation (UK) and the American Thoracic Society. www.africanthoracic.org

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