



GACOPA 2ND INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES & SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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KIGALI, RWANDA

Theme: Maximizing the impact of COs and PAs ~ A strategy for achieving Universal Health Coverage



CONCEPT PAPER

GACOPA 2ND INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, KIGALI – 5TH -7TH MARCH 2020

Email: events@gacopa.org

Background

The Global association of Clinical Officers and Physician associates (GACOPA) is a global organization with worldwide membership from national associations, societies, international organizations, private organizations and individual practitioners who are qualified practicing clinical officers, Clinical Associates, Physician Assistants and Associates, Assistant Medical Officers, Health Extension Officers, Health Officers, Sub Assistant Community Medical Officers and analogues. Its headquarters are in Ghana (Registration Number **CG261482018**). The Association has grown to cover 24 countries and six others are in the pipeline.

Discussions in forming this global association of clinical Officers, Physician Assistants and analogues began in 2009 and finally bore fruit in 20..... It is currently hosted by the Graduate Physician Associates of Ghana. No Physician clinicians who are the core of its membership exist with different names the world over. GACOPA works to bring them together. They form a core group of Clinicians who have been the backbone of healthcare in numerous countries¹. They however lack WHO recognition and a common nomenclature. GACOPA bring together this critical mass to ensure they garner the recognition for their valuable input to health systems and to seek a common nomenclature.

GACOPA is committed to advocating for high standards of education, research, leadership and practice are essential for equity and quality in Universal health care. GACOPA also fosters sharing of knowledge across the Globe for professionals to share best practice, research, facilitate networks and linkage that helps to strengthen professional development.

Prospects will further seek to address the global challenge of shortage of medical practitioners and address the shortfalls of Health Care systems with reference to accessibility to affordable standard and quality healthcare.

GACOPA comes into existence at an exciting yet challenging time when the world grapples with numerous health system related issues. The Non-Physician Clinician has shown great expertise in executing their mandate, this has never been disputed^{2,3,4}.

They are the unsung heroes of the systems worldwide. GACOPA is committed to assisting them further accelerate health related activity to propel the world to achieving UHC by enhancing relevant collaborations and harnessing opportunities to ensure better health worldwide.

1. Mullan, F., & Frehywot, S. (2007). Non-physician clinicians in 47 sub-Saharan African countries. *The Lancet*, 370(9605), 2158-2163.

2. Chilopora, G., Pereira, C., Kamwendo, F., Chimbi, A., Malunga, E., & Bergström, S. (2007). Postoperative outcome of caesarean sections and other major emergency obstetric surgery by clinical officers and medical officers in Malawi. *Human resources for health*, 5(1), 17.

3. Pereira, C., Bugalho, A., Bergström, S., Vaz, F., & Cotiro, M. (1996). A comparative study of caesarean deliveries by assistant medical officers and obstetricians in Mozambique. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, 103(6), 508-512

4. O'Hare, B., Phiri, A., Lang, H. J., Friesen, H., Kennedy, N., Kawaza, K., ... & Mipando, M. (2015). Task sharing within a managed clinical network to improve child health in Malawi. *Human resources for health*, 13(1), 60.

The Conference will be held in Kigali, Rwanda between March 5-7 , 2020.

GACOPA 2nd international Delegates and scientific Conference

The role of the Non-Physician Clinician in health systems is undisputed worldwide. However, they are often not recognized and operate in relative anonymity, oblivious of similar cadres in other countries. GACOPA seek to change this trend and enhance enabling partnership towards achieving equitable health care. These clinicians also work in areas that are remote or marginalized and can be trained to offer life saving interventions that improve access to healthcare. GACOPA provides a platform via this congress to enable these clinicians to come together and deliberate on past success but more importantly to pave the way for a better tomorrow.

It is against this background that the conference seeks to bring together various cadres of Non- Physician Clinicians to draw from their experience and to guide future strategies towards attaining professional networks and regional collaborations that raise the standard of their practice and health care delivery.

The conference Theme:

Maximizing the impact of COs and PAs : A strategy for achieving Universal Health Coverage

Sub themes

~Role delineation of clinical services and professional identity

~Evidence based advocacy

~Intersection of health financing and human resources for health

~Service capacity and access care

PARTICIPANTS

The conference welcomes all Clinical Officers, Physician Assistants /Associates, Health

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Officers ,Clinical Associates, Assistant Medical Officers, Medical Assistants, Sub Assistant Community Medical Officers, Health Extension Officers, MEDEX, Doctor Assistants, Medical Licentiates, Surgical Officers and analogues, organizations in health Systems, Policy Makers to the conference.

Our target is 600 participants from at least 30 countries spread across the world.

Strategy

Sessions will be held through

- Plenary
- Panel discussions
- Oral presentations
- Sponsored workshops
- Scientific sessions
- Symposia

The conference aims to

- To provide delegates with a platform to interact, network and learn
- To allow delegates to discuss formulate plans to change implement possible change in their countries /local health system
- To ensure GACOPA to unite and be the voice of change to make this cadre great
- To discuss challenges and opportunities facing our colleagues from around the world
- To explore task sharing / shifting, as a sustainable solution to global healthcare
- Education, training and clinical practice in healthcare systems around the world

The scientific committee will be representative of international researchers and Universities linked to the practice of Clinical Medicine

In view the above objectives the following questions will hopefully be answered by the end of the conference

- What global health initiative and innovations can make health services effective, equitable and safe in the spirit of UHC ?
- What are Clinical Practitioners' perspectives on UHC and PHC?
- Best practices and lessons learnt in the areas of advanced training

- ,education and practice ?
- How can we position ourselves as clinicians to effectively generate information and education as well as evidence reports to highlight our work?
- How can we impact Policy using scientific research findings ?
- What Regional collaboration and integration opportunities are available, how do we harness them or create new ones to enhance academia, research and professional development ?
- What Regulatory framework is beneficial to our practice, what exists, what needs to be in place, what should be revised ?
- How to integrate health in all sectors ?
- How to pursue collaborative models of policy dialogues and increase stake-holders participation?

Pre-conference Programme

March 5th - GACOPA Annual General Meeting

- Site visits for selected delegates ,the sites will include historic sites and health related community projects
- Registration of delegates

March 6th -7th

- Opening ceremony
- Full conference programme and poster presentation
- Gala Dinner on the evening of March 7th

Abstract A call for abstracts from aspiring participants has been made with a deadline of 15th January 2020 . Abstracts are to be sent to abstract@gacopa.org

GACOPA welcomes expression of interest from health-related organizations who could become partners, Contributors or sponsors of the event
Email events@gacopa.org

BUDGET : The estimated total budget for the conference is :USD

REGISTRATION

Full conference registration

Fees in USD

International Delegates	100
Delegates from Rwanda	50

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Early Registration starts on 1st November with the Online registration starting from 15th January ,2020 via www.gacopa.org

The registration fee excludes transport to and from host Country, accommodation, and tours

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

GACOPA are grateful for the initiative that the Local planning and organizing committee under the leadership of the..... (RMCOO) President Nathan Rutatina

Key institutions that are part of the Local organizing Committee are:-

- University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Ministry of Health Rwanda
- Rwanda Medical Clinical Officers Organization
- Clinical Officers Students Association of Rwanda
- Rwanda Allied Health Professionals Council (RAHPC)
- Rwanda Convention Bureau

For more information visit www.gacopa.org or email us on events@gacopa.org