

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE DEPUTY VICE – CHANCELLOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS (PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE, SAN) AT THE 2021 CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS OF NIGERIA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.

ALL PROTOCOLS DULY OBSERVED!

On behalf of the Vice – Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor Oyeboade Adebowale , I welcome you all to this year’s Workshop/Conference of the Association of Science Laboratory Technologist of Nigeria with the theme **“Solving Human Challenges in this Covid Era, through Sustainable Technological Development and Research; Science Technologists as Key Players.”**

Looking at the array of eminent dignitaries who have graced this auspicious occasion despite their tight schedules, I feel re-assured that this Association has made and is still making positive impacts.

Our Distinguished Guests; esteemed organisers of this conference, Ladies and Gentlemen; I thank you for the kind invitation and gracious opportunity to give a Goodwill message at the 2021 Workshop/Conference of this Association.

I heartily congratulate this Association on the successful commencement of this year’s conference. ASLTON is a professional organization with quality membership across Nigeria.

It is a good time to gather together under the auspices of the Science Laboratory Technologists National body Association, trying to channel ways of solving human challenges in the COVID era, through Sustainable Technological Development & Research, whilst using Science Technologists as key players.

As our Nation along with several other countries across the globe grapple with the depressing effects that the outbreak of COVID- 19 pandemic has caused on different aspects of our existence; our economy, health care system, social lifestyle, belief system, education and quite strangely, our religious belief which has not been spared either. Indeed, all have been battered.

This conference/workshop, is a reasonable step in the right direction to look around and start solving the issues and challenges posed by the advent of COVID-19, while trying to salvage our economy, healthcare structure, education and other vital systems.

One may ask, what exactly is the role of the Science Laboratory Technologists in solving human challenges posed by the deadly Corona virus pandemic? Basically, a Technical Laboratory Scientist is responsible for using established literatures on laboratory technologies and basic scientific experimentation to improve processes and products. Their roles as a body and Association, include amongst others:

- Implementing various experimental studies and providing support to all laboratory objectives and plan so as to modify various experiments and analyze all statistical data.
- Maintaining and preparing all required research documents and assisting to collate all consent records to prepare required medical reports and manage all protocol deviations for all research associate events.
- Designing all manuscripts for research and making required presentations for training all personnel in everyday activities.
- Assisting students with all biological sample preparation and developing required molecular laboratory techniques to determine an efficient research programs for all laboratory.
- Monitoring and procuring all necessary materials for research and managing of all research equipment.
- Managing all lab equipment and associate supplies needed to efficiently collect and maintain data and evaluate all project literature.
- Preparing all documents for manuscripts and maintaining inventory of all order equipment and supplies to ensure compliance with all federal policies and mandates.
- Provides technical assistance to all research support staff.
- Facilitates regular communication with all students and laboratory staff to perform various experiments.

I believe that all these roles if channeled rightly and appropriately would enhance sustainable technological development. As we all know, the transfer of knowledge, skills and solutions in the science and technology fields can have a profound and lasting impact on the development trajectories of nations and peoples.

The world cannot develop or advance and we would not be able to achieve Sustainable Technological Development without modern technology and new solutions to old problems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the pressing need for countries to focus more on elevating science, technology and innovation (STI) in both policy and practical terms. We need more research, collaboration, data and knowledge sharing to cope with the immediate impacts of the coronavirus crisis and go beyond it.

More than ever, we need a multilateral approach to ensuring that STI solves the human challenges posed by the COVID – 19 pandemic and I believe this is one of the major goals of this Association at this period.

I am convinced that the various speakers scheduled to speak are adequately qualified and equipped to do justice to the theme. While we look forward to their rich and well researched submissions and recommendations on the theme, it would be most gratifying if these recommendations and submissions which I am sure would address the fundamental framework of our human challenges at this time, are adequately implemented.

I wish all participants a refreshing and educating time.

Thank you.