

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

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PRESIDENT AHMSG



Good morning,

AHMSG board and ordinary members, Our keynote speaker, Prof. Peter Malfertheiner, esteemed speakers, delegates, participants, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 1st International Conference of the African Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group, today 16th August 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa.

This conference marks a significant milestone in our bid towards actualizing our goals in the field of Helicobacter and Microbiota Research. As we gather here today, we aim to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and explore new frontiers in *Helicobacter* and Microbiota Research.

AHMSG'S  
TRIBUTE TO  
ROBIN WARREN





Today, we honor the remarkable legacy of Robin Warren, 11 June 1937 – 23 July 2024, a true pioneer in the field of medicine. His groundbreaking discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) revolutionized our understanding of gastroenterology and transformed the lives of millions worldwide.

With his unwavering dedication and unrelenting curiosity, Robin challenged conventional wisdom and pushed the boundaries of scientific inquiry. His work not only shed light on the causal link between *H. pylori* and peptic ulcers but also paved the way for novel treatments and improved patient outcomes. Robin's contributions extend far beyond his scientific achievements.

He inspired a generation of researchers, clinicians, and students with his passion, humility, and kindness. His legacy serves as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and perseverance.

As we celebrate Robin's remarkable life and achievements, we remember his:- Unwavering commitment to scientific excellence- Courage to challenge established paradigms- Generosity in sharing knowledge and expertise- Compassion for patients and families affected by *H. pylori* - Inspiring mentorship and leadership.

Robin Warren's impact on medicine will be felt for generations to come. His discovery of *H. pylori* will forever be remembered as a landmark moment in the history of science, and his legacy will continue to inspire us to strive for excellence, push boundaries, and make a difference in the lives of others."

# In Honour of Prof. Arigbabu MD, FWACS, FAFC, FAFUC

In the same vein, AHMSG will also like to honour our late founding Board member, Prof. Anthony Oluwole Arigbabu.

Prof. Anthony Oluwole Arigbabu was born on 29 November 1935 and passed away on 27 February 2024 after a short illness. For most of his career he worked at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU/OAUTHC), Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He is described as a 'Professor amongst professors', a skillful surgeon, compassionate physician, and a great teacher and mentor.

Those who knew and worked closely with him including myhumble self fondly refer to him as 'Baba'; a testament to the kind person he was, and their love and adoration for him. His invaluable contributions not just to those individuals he taught and mentored, but the institutions he led will leave an indelible legacy which will continue to impact on future generations for decades to come.

He represented a trusted pillar of support in the Group and he will be dearly missed by AHMSG.

## A fond farewell



*He is described as a  
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**Professor A. O. Arigbabu** MD, FWACS, FAFC, FAFUC

*29 November 1935 - 27 February 2024*



I would like to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed keynote speaker Prof. Peter Malfertheiner and other speakers from Europe, US and Japan and of course Africa. Their expertise and insights will undoubtedly enrich our discussions in the next few days.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my Team and I from Nigeria, Cornocopia Communications and the Media Team both from South Africa and Nigeria for the organization of this conference as we have worked tirelessly in putting together this remarkable event. It is our dedication and hard work that made this conference possible.



The African *Helicobacter* and Microbiota Study Group (AHMSG), registered as African *Helicobacter* and Microbiota Study Initiative (AHMSI) Ltd/Gte was officially registered in 2022 and I have steered the ship of this Group for the past two years with seven quarterly webinars and the one for the third quarter in September, is ready with our speaker being Prof. Emad El-Omar from Australia and we will invite everyone in due course. We have also been able to publish two remarkable publications and one manuscript almost ready to be sent out for publication. Plans are also underway to conduct some studies in some of our African countries.



The AHMSG, a body that is made up of experts from several countries in Africa with a mission to advance *H. pylori* research, determine accurate prevalence, diagnosis, treatment and management of *H. pylori* infection in the continent. We currently have 16 Board members from 10 African countries.

AHMSG is in the right footing as it is being supported by the European Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group (EHMSG) (four of them are here with us) that has been in existence for over thirty years and responsible for developing and updating the famous Maastricht /Florence Consensus for which I was a proud delegate of the VIth Edition in 2021.





I am grateful to God for making this gathering possible and also to Richen HongKong Sight our platinum sponsors who have supported and partnered with us (AHMSG) as demonstrated in making today a reality and I am positive that this ground breaking event has ushered in a research movement that will curb and bring *H. pylori* infection in Africa to the barest minimum.

This event is a hybrid one so I welcome everyone that has joined us virtually across the world. Those of you that have travelled from far and wide to make today a success I welcome you.

Our invited guests I welcome you indeed. We also look forward for more collaboration with our Group as we journey together.



The central theme of this maiden conference revolves around 'Understanding *Helicobacter pylori* and related pathologies towards a better management in Africa'. This topic reflects the current trends and challenges in our field and promises engaging discussions and innovative solutions.

Throughout the conference, we have a diverse range of sessions planned, including keynote addresses, panel/debate, discussions, posters, and networking opportunities. I encourage you all to actively participate and make the most out of these sessions.



As we embark on this intellectual journey together, let us embrace the opportunity to learn from each other, exchange ideas, and forge lasting connections. I am confident that this conference will inspire us all to think out of the box, push boundaries and strive towards excellence in our respective endeavors. The journey to this very day dates back to 1994, when I was in Manchester, UK for my predoctoral.

In conclusion, I wish everyone a fruitful and enriching experience to the 1st International Conference of the African Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group. Let us make the most of this gathering by engaging wholeheartedly with one another. At this conference, I will also be handing over to Prof. Mashiko Setshedi as the next AHMSG President.



Baie dankie

Thank you