

3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on

# BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER

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## Addressing the fundamental issues of breast cancer in Nigeria and Africa

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With a population of 198,000,000 people, Nigeria has the highest cancer death rate in the world. Studies show that 4 in every 5 women and 805 in 1000 cases of breast cancer result in death. In 2007 the Pink Pearl Foundation created a platform for breast cancer awareness. It was evident that the low rate of information on breast cancer across the nation, 11 years down the line rates of death is still on the rise. Did we not pass the message enough? Was our language unclear? These are questions we ask ourselves daily, but the truth is even with a clear enough message and vast awareness campaigns, Nigeria has little to no structure created containing breast cancer cases or even any kind of cancer. With 36 states and 198,000,000 people Nigeria has less than 10 proper infrastructures that are tailored to solving the issues of breast cancer. Most people result to private sector care and this in turn means spending a whole lot more money, with more than half of the population below poverty line, it is safe to say that only 0.9% of the population can survive the epidemic we face from breast cancer in our country. This is why the foundation and other noble organizations should continue to put heads together to change the narrative and should draw attention to the plight we face as a people when it comes to breast cancer. We are looking into more diverse ways to tackle the problem resulting from breast cancer across the country especially when it has to do with financing and infrastructure.

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