

## AFOS 1/13/2024 (meeting #2)

1. Review of previous [meeting notes from 11/25/2023](#)
2. [www.afotos.org](http://www.afotos.org) (please go to directory section of website and fill out registration)
3. please send any links to talks, educational files and your photograph (if desired) to that website and we will add them to the website so that the content is accessible to all; to [www.afotos.org](http://www.afotos.org) (go to education links and submit; or can email attach the files to [Africaotosociety@gmail.com](mailto:Africaotosociety@gmail.com))
4. we discussed the need for a Mission Statement (based on the discussion, here is a first version to be approved at the next meeting). Please comment on this via the email above.

*The mission of the African Otologic Society (AFOS) is to establish a community of African providers and international partners to address otology and audiology patient and educational needs in Africa.*

*Through a coalition of dedicated otology and audiology providers, AFOS seeks to facilitate communication among providers, build medical and surgical education platforms, expand and report clinical and human research, and foster humanitarian resource exchange to improve provider education, communication, and patient care.*

*The AFOS is built on unwavering core values of community, social engagement, and a selfless dedication to the betterment of humanity through sustained and enhanced education, service and a steadfast dedication to the identification and treatment of human disease.*

*AFOS will serve as a central hub to build community within Africa for Africa, liaison with patterning organizations, identify and facilitate mentorship for providers at all levels of training and practice and in real time advisory (consultant) opportunities, oversee skills transfer and independent needs assessments through fellowship training to serve future generations.*

Mission statement above derived from the previous meeting discussion and listed comments about what should be included in the mission statement.

- a. Awareness/community/networking, facilitating resource exchange, sustainable, advisory, advocacy, equipment, education, training, research, scope of focus (start with training and capacity building);
- b. Lower and middle income countries; Priority is Africa; Preventative, political, led by locals for the locals with external support; Funding, sustainability, equipment
- c. Sustainability, educational processes (alignment/coordinating with societies; ie IFOS), awareness of opportunities and funding, skill transfer (simulation, hands-on, virtual), independent needs assessments (per country or region; ie, equipment versus mentorship, etc); advisory on demand (consultations), creating centers of education for teaching and training, whatsapp platforms/virtual doctors; regional temporal bone labs/centers for training, bidirectional training, development of fellowship training
- d. Africa, LMIC, providers at all stages, improve health of patients, clinical officers
- e. Address otology needs, ethics of humanitarian efforts/sustainability; training in country providers

5. Deciding on leadership structure for AFOS and if possible, put specific members in place.

We discussed leadership structure and the notes for that discussion included:

Identify key person/representative in each country; spokesman (to attend meeting on behalf of country or University)

Regional representative (based on countries already in Society; who has attended meetings and build a committee)

Electing leaders

Identify roles first

Interim committee for otology trainers

Administrative roles

Proposed leadership for next discussion: to include topics related to otology and audiology

1. Development of sub-committees to establish Africa-wide involvement within leadership roles and report on needs and development of:
  - a. Communications (building an interactive map identifying providers, locations, and current capacity on the continent; maintenance/contribution of AFOS website)
  - b. Education (capacity building; virtual, simulation, fellowships; lectures during monthly meetings)
  - c. Research (current research opportunities on continent; formulate research needs/initiative and opportunities to publish)
  - d. Clinical (building networks to discuss specific cases, case presentations each month)
  - e. Administrative/Resource Exchange (other AFOS membership needs, updates on equipment needs etc)
6. Discuss other needs or ideal components of the website ([www.afotos.org](http://www.afotos.org))
7. Discuss plans and needs for the next meeting on **February 17, 2024**