

My Epilepsy Advocacy journey By Dr Mohan Dike

I joined Epilepsy Association of Nigeria In July 20th 2016 after an invitation by the national president Epilepsy Association of Nigeria(EAN) Dr S.E Nwakwue at the head office No 2 weeks road Aba abia state, In 2016 at Abia state university I saw a girl struggling with seizure while her friends and other students around her ran away, seeing this alone, I was torched I decided to be an epilepsy advocate, I took the girl to our center at No 2 weeks road Aba where we took care of her. Since then she has been active in her studies.

Dr S.E and I created youth action against epilepsy which am the president to help create awareness to the youths and medical students. Since the creation of this youth action against epilepsy the number of youths involved have increased.

Although epilepsy have impacted my life when it claimed the life of a stroke patient when I was working at wisdom Hospital in 2015, He died as a result of non stop seizure for more than 3years.

Between August 13th and October 29th of 2016 I visited Uturu in Abia state with my team to create awareness and treat epilepsy patients. In Uturu parents of children with disabilities and medical complexities are struggling to access consistent, high-quality, accessible child care. I decides create grants for childcare providers to establish eilepsy treatment and rehabilitation center. On 20th of Otober 2016 we conducted the first epilepsy diagnosis and treatment and a new epilepsy center was approved by the community head of Uturu.

In 2017 I established a new Epilepsy center which is situated in Isiala mbano of Imo state, in that same year we recorded 113 patients. I believe that Investing in grants for inclusive childcare will help ensure that children with Eilepsy receive support alongside their siblings and peers.

On May 15, 2018 when I visited Barrister St mozes Ogbonna in his villa at Umuahia He gave us a land where we will build our Epilepsy center at Enugu . In Enugu January 18th 2019, The first free treatment was conducted by my team which more than 150 patients was diagnosed of epilepsy.

I created a facebook page, Instagram page and website for all the fathers, mother's, sons and Daughters living with epilepsy, the caregivers, Doctors, Nurses and Advocates.

My long term goal was to improve the psychosocial care for people with epilepsy, i am fortunate to have a research team that shared my goal of improving Epilepsy awareness and improving psychosocial care for people with epilepsy. Many children with epilepsy have academic problem, our research team developed different method to help the children with epilepsy.

I have been involve in many presentations and support group to make sure we push epilepsy up the political agenda in Nigeria and bring about change at the government level.

I see myself as the most luckiest person to learn from great advocates like Ann Little Executive Director, International Bureau for Epilepsy and Action Amos vice president. There are a variety of things to keep me motivated when it comes to epilepsy advocacy, with this great personnel beside me I will always learn and fulfil my potential.

Together we can make this world a better place