

Personal Statement for Dr. Delali Fiagbe, MD, FGCP Candidate — WPA Zonal Representative, Centra and West Africa: Zone 13

I am a Senior Lecturer and Neuropsychiatrist at the University of Ghana Medical School, where I serve as Head of the Department of Psychiatry. The Psychiatric Association of Ghana has endorsed my nomination for this position.

As President of the Psychiatric Association of Ghana (2023–2025), I have led national mental health policy reforms, launched a nationwide aggression and suicide management training programme across selected regional hospitals, and facilitated high-level engagements with international partners including GIZ Hospital Partnership, Mental Health Authority and FCDO. I also served as Training Coordinator for the Faculty of Psychiatry at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, shaping postgraduate psychiatric education to match international standards. We are proud of training Gambia's first psychiatrist with the Ghana college of physicians and surgeons and hope to scale up this model to sister nations critically in need of psychiatrist. Gambian Psychiatric Association and happy to be it's leader with support from the Psychiatric Association of Ghana. We have also facilitated training of residents in child and adolescent psychiatry from Sierra Leone. As Head of Department at the University of Ghana Medical School, I expanded our research output to over 15 peer-reviewed publications in two years and led a multidisciplinary team overseeing clinical operations, education, and research. As Head of Department, we have also received and nurtured medical students from Nigeria and Cameroon during their psychiatric rotations. I am also an active member of **WPA ECP[Early-Career Psychiatrist]**, I have fostered partnership between member across various regions.

I am also a panel physician with the West Africa Panel Physician Association. Through our interactions at various levels, I am well positioned to leverage these relationships to disseminate the strategic objectives of the World Psychiatric Association across the subregion.

I am an active member of the American Psychiatric Association. I spearheaded the visit of Marketa D. Wills to Ghana during the Psychiatric Association of Ghana's Annual General and Scientific Conference in 2025, where she delivered a landmark address on **Optimising resource allocation in African mental health through values-driven strategies for sustainable development**. Our vibrant partnership with the APA positions us well to leverage this relationship across the Central and West African subregion as APA yearns for effective collaboration with the sub-Saharan Africa.

My Vision for the Role

If elected for the first tenure, I will focus on three priorities:

Strengthen WPA visibility and engagement across Central and West African member societies, ensuring the Association's programmes and advocacy work reach all parts of our zone. I am willing to support WPA's communication efforts in a personal capacity by sharing relevant content through my social media channels, where appropriate and consistent with WPA's policies

Amplify Central and West Africa's voice in WPA decisions, so that policies and funding reflect our region's needs and strengths.

Foster regional collaboration on research and training by building partnerships to address our region's most pressing mental health challenges, including the treatment gap, child and adolescent psychiatry, and neuropsychiatric disorders.

I will also strengthen task-shifting mechanisms across the subregion as a guaranteed strategy for enhancing mental health service delivery

My Commitment

I have over a decade of clinical, academic, and leadership experience, including international partnerships with Dalhousie University (Canada) and participation in European training programmes. I bring good communication skills, a robust professional and social network, Tech savviness and a deep commitment to the WPA's mission of advancing mental health worldwide. I am ready to dedicate the time and energy this role requires, including travel to meetings and conferences.

I would be honoured to serve Central and West Africa [Zone 13] in this capacity.