One-day workshop, which focused on the current trends in the management of Tuberculosis with focus on Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB), was recently held in Lagos. The workshop hosted by the Arthur Mbanefo Digital Research Centre and organised by Loving Gaze, was targeted at medical community in Lagos, public health care and Government welfare officers, the pharmaceutical community, corporate social responsibility managers and the health officers of major private organisations.

The general objective of the workshop according to organisers was to educate medical doctors in Lagos State on their crucial role in TB and MDR-TB control.

Among the resource persons were: Dr. Alda Gemmamni, St Kizito Clinic Medical Director, Dr. Elizayed Osman, who is a World health Organization (WHO) Consultant on MDR-TB and Country Representative of Damien Foundation Belgium (DFB) in Nigeria as well as Tuberculosis Program expert; Dr. Hussein Abdur-Razzaq, the Lagos State Co-coordinator for Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Leprosy Control programme (NTBLCP).

Nigeria is among the top 22 countries with high burden of tuberculosis in the world. This is further complicated with the growing public health problem of Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) with over 7000 cases were reported to have MDR-TB in Nigeria.

Although strides have been made nationally and globally over TB/MDRTB control, a substantial gap still exist between the effective management of Tuberculosis at the health facility level where medical practitioners take the lead. This has contributed to the alarming trend of MDR-TB Lagos state has been reported to contribute the up to 10% of the national burden of TB making the state with the highest incidence of TB. Up to forty-five medical practitioners in the State who are at the forefront of making or breaking the global and national efforts to curb Tuberculosis, participated in the workshop.

Dr. Alda Gemmamni, St Kizito Clinic Director who opened the workshop said, “We set up a TB/DOTS center in 2005, 9 years ago. Since its inception we have made over 8,000 visits aimed to screen, diagnose and monitor Tuberculosis. More than 1,200 patients have been successfully treated. Corporate donuers such as Chevron, which donated us the X-Ray machine, and helped us building the TB Dots Centre, have been crucial in sustaining our efforts. FGNNP/ Shell donated a fully equipped ambulance, which has strengthened referral of very ill patients including those with TB. Also, community participation is imperative in strengthening the health system framework, which will positively impact on existing TB programs. More education, funding, technical support and research on TB management at all levels of health care is crucial. These will contribute greatly in reducing the burden of TB and HIV as expressed in the millennium development goals. This workshop aims to share and deepen our knowledge of TB management among the health care community in Lagos. Loving Gaze intends to Educate while Teaching.”