

## BACKGROUND

- Anesthesiologists are doctors that play decisive roles in pain management, patient monitoring, and critical care of patients (Figure 1).
- Public awareness rates of the anesthesiology profession has been found to be persistently low (Mathur et al, 2009).
- This study was conducted to explore the level of awareness of anesthesiologists among students, academic and non-academic staff members of various South-western Nigerian tertiary institutions

## METHODS

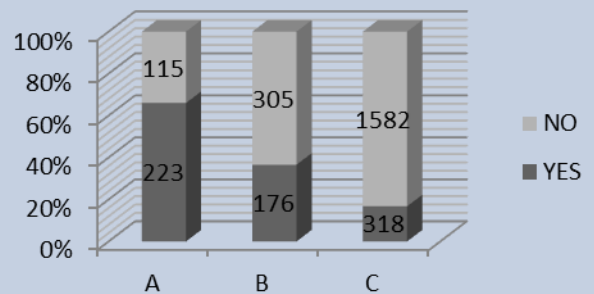
- This study was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted among students, academic and non-academic staff members attending the South-western Nigeria Zonal Congress of Deeper Life Campus Fellowship in October 2014.
- Study tool was a well-structured anonymous questionnaire, which was administered to 2,996 consenting participants.
- Out of the 2,996 self-administered questionnaires, only 2760 were returned filled; 12 questionnaires were discarded due to incomplete data.
- Data of 2,748 respondents were analyzed in this study.



**Figure 1:** Illustration of an anesthesiologist

## RESULTS

- The mean age of the 2748 respondents was 22.6 years, 95% were single, 85.7% were Yorubas, 69.2% were students, and 53% were affiliated to a university.
- Only 26.1% (717/2748) have heard of Anesthesiology before (Figure 2), and the top three sources of their information were books (321/717 [44.8%]), internet (245/717 [34.2%]), and media (141/717 [19.7%]).
- Only 62.5% of these 717 respondents knew that anesthesiologists are responsible for the induction and maintenance of sleep during surgical operations, while only 18.7% of them knew that anesthesiologists renders palliative care to patients with chronic diseases.



A=health workers; B=non-health workers, C=unemployed

**Figure 2:** Column chart showing the distribution of **yes/no** responses from each occupational category of respondents to the variable “Before now, have you heard of the profession called anesthesiology before?”

## CONCLUSIONS

- The level of awareness of this studied population on the medical roles of anesthesiologists in clinical care is very low. Anesthesiologists need to be at the forefront of awareness creation on their medical specialty.

## REFERENCES

- Mathur SK, Dube SK, Jain S. Knowledge about anaesthesia and anaesthesiologist among general population in India. Indian J Anaesthesia 2009; 53(2):179-186.