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Dear Marcé Executive Board Members,

Over 6 years ago, as a newly qualified psychiatrist, I came to the realisation that the majority of my patient population is female. In addition, there was always a grey area when it came to the management of women during the perinatal period.

This drove my interest in perinatal psychiatry. Being a member of the Marcé Society inspired my interests and motivated me to create an initiative and create awareness in Maternal Mental Health.

It started with creating a pilot perinatal psychiatry clinic and becoming an advocate for maternal mental health through CPD meetings, radio and television interviews and patient information journals.

As a potential board member of Marcé Society, my goals would be to utilise the platform to create and grow maternal mental health awareness not only in my region but within the continent of Africa. Maternal mental health is key to optimal infant and child outcomes. Maternal mental health requires collaborative networks across many disciplines in health. The Marcé Society encompasses the collaboration of healthcare providers in the front line of mother and child healthcare.

It would be an honour to serve, support and grow the Marcé Society initiatives and ensure growth of the Marcé Society in South Africa and the African continent as a whole. I would like to be a leader in liaison and collaboration of all healthcare providers who care for women and children. Maternal mental wellbeing is a preventative initiative that will secure the future growth of generations to come.

I look forward to provide fresh insights and perspectives and serve as a Marcé Society executive board member.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lavinia D. Lumu
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