



NEWS RELEASE

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2023 Academy of Public Health's Distinguished Fellowship Award Recipients Announced

Abuja — The selection committee of the Academy of Public Health, the flagship body of the West African Institute of Public Health, awards the *Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (DFAPH)*, the highest fellowship rank in the Roll of Fellows of the Academy eight (8) eminent persons; **Pape Amadou Gaye**, **Leslie Mancuso**, **Wondimagegnehu Alemu**, **Joy Phumaphi**, **Oyewale Tomori**, **Rose Gana Fomban Leke**, **Michel Sidibé** and **Uche Veronica Amazigo**.

They will join a list of other eminent awardees, namely: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Akinwumi Adesina, Winnie Byanyima, Leslie Greenslade, Helen Clark, Joanne Liu, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Mauricio Cardenas, Aya Chebbi, Mark Dybul, Michel Kazatchkine. The others include Precious Matsoso, David Miliband, Thoraya Obaid, Preeti Sudan, Ernesto Zedillo and Zhong Nanshan.

The eminent personalities for the Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (DFAPH) were nominated by the selection committee of the APH, with inputs from the young professionals in public health across Africa, for their leadership and impact in working towards ensuring equity, better health and wellbeing for all. They will be recognised for their great work.

A brief on each of the nominees to the Fellows' Roll is as follows:

Pape Amadou Gaye is a notable figure in the field of international development and humanitarian assistance. A President Emeritus of IntraHealth with a distinguished career spanning several decades, Gaye has held leadership positions in renowned organizations, including IntraHealth International. He is recognized for his unwavering commitment to improving global health outcomes, particularly in underserved regions. His visionary leadership and advocacy efforts have contributed significantly to the advancement of healthcare access, workforce development, and healthcare quality. Pape Amadou Gaye's impactful work continues to inspire positive change and make a lasting difference in the world of global health and development.

Leslie Mancuso is the CEO of Jhpiego, an organisation dedicated to improving healthcare for women and families worldwide. With a background in nursing and global health, Mancuso has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing healthcare solutions in resource-constrained settings. She has spearheaded numerous initiatives to strengthen maternal and child health services, enhance healthcare workforce capacity, and combat infectious diseases. Mancuso's commitment to delivering quality healthcare in underserved communities has garnered recognition and made Jhpiego a pivotal force in global health, impacting countless lives through innovative and sustainable

interventions.

Wondimagegnehu (Wondi) Alemu is an esteemed Adjunct Professor and former senior World Health Organization (WHO) official. With a wealth of experience in global health, Alemu has made significant contributions to the field, especially in Africa. His tenure at WHO involved vital roles at national, regional and global levels that shaped international health policies, particularly in combating infectious diseases and strengthening healthcare systems in low-resource settings. As an Adjunct Professor, Alemu continues to share his expertise, inspiring future generations of public health leaders and fostering innovation in the pursuit of global health equity and sustainable development.

Joy Phumaphi is a prominent figure in global health and development. With extensive experience, including serving as Botswana's Minister of Health, she has been a strong advocate for healthcare access, women's rights and malaria elimination. Ms. Phumaphi has held key roles in international organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations. Her dedication to improving healthcare systems, particularly in Africa, has earned her numerous accolades and made her a respected leader in the field. Joy Phumaphi continues to champion health equity and gender equality on a global scale.

Oyewale Tomori is a distinguished figure in the field of infectious diseases and virology. With a distinguished career spanning decades that includes WHO, he has made significant contributions to research, education, and public health initiatives in Africa. Professor Tomori has played a pivotal role in combatting infectious diseases like Ebola and Lassa fever, providing expertise and leadership in various global health organizations. His dedication to strengthening healthcare systems and infectious disease control measures in Africa has earned him recognition as a prominent leader in the field of virology and public health on the continent.

Rose Gana Fomban Leke is a highly respected Cameroonian malariologist and Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Parasitology at the University of Yaounde I. With a distinguished career in global health and research, Dr. Leke has made significant contributions to the field of malaria research. Her groundbreaking work encompasses a wide range of topics in immunology, parasitology, and global health, and she has been recognized as a prominent leader in these areas. Dr. Leke's dedication to advancing scientific knowledge and advocating for women in science has left a lasting impact on the field of medicine.

Michel Sidibé is a distinguished advocate for a people-centered approach to health and social justice. He served as the second Executive Director of UNAIDS for over a decade, contributing significantly to global AIDS response efforts. Mr. Sidibé's leadership and speeches have been instrumental in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and promoting access to quality healthcare. His commitment to combatting the epidemic and advancing the UN's mission for the 21st century has made him a prominent figure in global health and development.

Uche Veronica Amazigo is a distinguished professor of Medical Parasitology and a renowned public health specialist. She holds the honor of being a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. Throughout her illustrious career, Professor Amazigo has made valuable contributions in the fields of health, parasitology, and social inclusion and development. Her expertise has been instrumental in the control of neglected tropical diseases, particularly onchocerciasis (river blindness). Her leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact on global public health, making her a highly respected figure in her field.

The Distinguished Fellowship recipients lead the Fellows' Roll for their exceptional leadership and service to humanity in making a difference in the lives of people and inspiring young leaders to also excel in their public health work. The awards committee composed of public health professionals and development experts selected the top nominees by young professionals in public health across Africa.

The Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (with post nominal scripts "**DFAPH**") was established by the Academy of Public Health in 2016 as a special fellowship Award for outstanding leaders making impact in public health, especially in ways that will positively impact on health systems in Africa and beyond.

The *West African Institute of Public Health*, which is the leading regional nonstate health development organisation working in enabling environment, professional development, research, standards, consulting and advisory services., as well as programme implementation. The Academy of Public Health is the faculty of the Institute, which is a membership-based body that focuses on building a strong network of highly skilled and competent public health practitioners. The Institute is also the keeper of the regional charter of public health.

Award recipients are formally being notified of their awards and the date for the Induction Ceremony, a hybrid event, is Thursday November 2, 2023 in Abuja, the Nigerian Federal Capital Territory.