

## **PROF. FRIDAY OKONOFUA, FAS**

### **VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIMED**

*Professor Friday Okonofua, MD, PhD, ad eundem FRCOG*, is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology. He is a fellow of the West African College of Surgeons, the Nigerian Postgraduate Medical College, the International College of Surgeons, the International Health program at Harvard University, and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He also has PhD in International Health from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. He is a Fellow of both the Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS) as well as the New York Academy of Science.

Professor Okonofua is a champion of women's health, a discipline where he has published more than 200 refereed articles. He is also a recipient of more than 40 research grants, and he is a member of several international organizations and committees, including the editorial board of the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he has served for more than 12 years. He is a reviewer to 20 international journals, and a technical consultant to many international agencies, including the World Health Organisation, the Macarthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Okonofua commenced his academic career as Lecturer 1 in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Obafemi Awolowo University in 1986. He served as the Acting Head of Department between 1987 and 1992, and rose to the post of Professor in 1992. He transferred his services to the University of Benin in 1996, where he had been the Head of Department, Dean, Provost, and member of the University's Governing Council.

He has also been Secretary of the Faculty of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria, as well as the Secretary-General of the Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria. Between April 2005 and November 2009, he served as the Executive Director of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), supervising projects management in the 110 member countries of the organization. *He was also a Honorary Adviser on Health to President Olusegun Obasanjo from July 2006 to May 29, 2007.*

He is a recipient of several honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Special Achievers Award by the Nigerian Television Authority, Distinguished Services Award by the Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria, Award of “the most outstanding professor of the people” by the Students Union Government of the University of Benin. He was also recently honoured by the VC of UNIBEN for contributions to the success of the university where he served in many capacities for many years before he was appointed the pioneer VC of UNIMED by Governor Olusegun Mimiko.

Okonofua was also on December 2, 2016 honoured with the chieftaincy title of Gbekoleke of Ondo Kingdom by the Osemawe of Ondo Kingdom, Oba (Dr) Victor Kiladejo.

He is married with children.