

Celebrating AJRH Editor in Chief as new President of the African Academy of Sciences

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The *African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)* is delighted to celebrate the election of our Editor in Chief Professor Friday Okonofua, as the new President of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

Professor Okonofua was officially admitted into office on Monday, 13 July 2026, following his election by fellows of the Academy to lead Africa's premier Pan-African scientific academy for the 2026–2029 term. Prior to his election, he served the Academy with distinction as Secretary General, providing exemplary leadership and making significant contributions to strengthening the Academy's governance, strategic direction, and commitment to scientific excellence across the continent.¹

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), founded in 1985 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, is Africa's foremost merit-based scientific organization. The Academy promotes excellence in science, technology, and innovation; supports research and capacity strengthening; recognizes outstanding scientific achievement through its Fellowship; and advances evidence-informed policymaking to address Africa's development priorities.²

Professor Okonofua's election is a fitting recognition of his distinguished career as a clinician-scientist, educator, researcher, institution builder, and internationally respected leader in reproductive health. Over several decades, his pioneering work in reproductive medicine, maternal health, infertility, obstetric fistula, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and health systems research has significantly influenced policy, practice, and research across Africa. Through the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), he has championed research capacity

development, mentored generations of African scientists, and strengthened institutional capacity for health research and innovation.³

As Editor-in-Chief of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)*, Professor Okonofua has provided visionary leadership that has strengthened the Journal's academic reputation, editorial quality, international visibility, and scientific impact. Under his stewardship, the AJRH has continued to uphold the highest standards of scholarly publishing while serving as one of Africa's leading platforms for disseminating high-quality research in reproductive, sexual, maternal, newborn, and public health.

His election as President of the African Academy of Sciences represents not only a remarkable personal achievement but also a significant honour for the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), the Nigerian scientific community, and the wider African research community. We are confident that his leadership will further strengthen the Academy's mission of advancing scientific excellence, fostering innovation, promoting evidence-based policymaking, and supporting sustainable development throughout Africa.^{1,2}

On behalf of the Editorial Team of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, we extend our warmest congratulations to Professor Friday Okonofua on this well-deserved honour. We wish him every success, wisdom, and strength as he assumes this important continental responsibility and look forward to the continued impact of his visionary leadership in advancing science, health, and development across Africa.

Congratulations, Professor Friday Okonofua, on this historic and well-deserved achievement.

Conflict of interest: Judith Obaseki is the senior managing editor of the African Journal of Reproductive Health

References

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