

African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA)
2022 Conference Special

The Afya

Newsletter

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AFHEA NEWSLETTER

Over the years, it has remained important to share one of the key reasons for which the acronym AfHEA was selected for the Association. The Acronym was chosen because it bears close resonance to the Swahili word for health, 'Afya' which also happens to be the word for health in several other African languages, making it most appropriate. This is also the reason why our newsletter is also called Afya – a newsletter that provides information to members and other stakeholders about AfHEA and its activities and achievements.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE AFHEA BOARD

I welcome all our readers and participants with great excitement to the 6th AfHEA Biennial Scientific Conference. For the first time since this esteemed Association was set up, we decided on a fully virtual conference format where all participants will follow the conference proceedings virtually. This has become necessary due to the risk associated with travel in the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and its attendant and projected implications on the health of participants. It comes as no surprise therefore that the theme of the 6th AfHEA Conference is centered on health systems resilience in Africa and the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is very encouraging to see how membership, partners and all other stakeholders alike remain enthusiastic and resolved to push AfHEA forward through active participation in this conference that is virtually hosted by the beautiful nation of Rwanda. We are equally heartened with regards to the passion and collective efforts being made by all to strengthen health economics, health financing and health policy frontiers within Africa.

In essence, we are pleased to see the massive support to AfHEA's mission which is the "Promotion and strengthening of the use of health economics and health policy analysis in achieving equitable and efficient African health systems and improved health outcomes for Africans, especially the most vulnerable populations".

The massive continuous response to our activities, particularly our scientific conferences which have become a benchmark within Africa in matters of health economics, financing and policy can not be overemphasized. This ultimately is a clear indication of a brighter and better future both for AfHEA and our continent in terms of achieving improved health outcomes within Africa.

The health community especially in Africa will take inspiration from deliberations at this conference and I am confident that the discussions that will take place will become a strong point of reference for public health policy decision formulation across Africa. Let us therefore forge together and chart a common path of creating for ourselves health systems in Africa that are truly resilient. Then, we can continue to be proud of ourselves for establishing the first and only truly African network of health economics, financing and policy professionals to have led Africa into true health systems resilience.

As you may have followed current developments within AfHEA, we have been going through a great leadership transition as well as operational and sustainability reforms. The operational effectiveness and sustainability reforms have been supported by one of our key and long standing partners, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



I am pleased to inform you that much of this work has been successfully completed, and we are now in a much better position in terms of operational effectiveness and are exploring various pathways for greater sustainability for the Association. The leadership transition, as you may well have known commenced somewhere in 2016 after the Rabat conference with the appointment of an additional executive committee management team, followed by the re-constitution of a

new Board between 2019 and 2021. The transition has been climaxed with the appointment of the new Executive Director in the person of Prof. John Ataguba. Prof Ataguba will take over the duties of steering this Association effective the 1st day of April, 2022 till the completion of his tenure. I take this opportunity to deeply congratulate Dr. Chris Atim for successfully steering the affairs of the Association since its creation and to extend to Prof Ataguba the

full support needed to ensure that AfHEA continues to deliver on its mandate.

Once again welcome to the 6th AfHEA Scientific Conference and have a pleasurable reading.

Thank you!

Dr. Renée Tania Bissouma-Ledjou

AfHEA Board Chair

ABOUT THE SIXTH AFHEA INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The 6th Scientific Conference of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA), is virtually hosted from Kigali, Rwanda from 7th to 11th March 2022. The broad theme of this conference is "Towards Resilient Health Systems in Africa: The Role of Health Economics and Policy Research". It is the first fully virtual conference due to the challenges posed by covid-19, and based on feedback from AfHEA members and the Board of Trustees of AfHEA decided on a fully virtual conference format whereby all participants will follow the conference proceedings virtually.



The sub-themes of the conference are:

- i. Decolonizing Health Economics and policy research and the drive for greater equity and inclusion.*
- ii. Vaccine economics: equity, distribution, financing, trade and the lessons learnt during the covid-19 pandemic.*
- iii. What adjustments are required to make health and health financing systems in Africa more resilient to pandemics? Cost-effectiveness of addressing social/ underlying determinants of poor health vs. funding medical interventions.*
- iv. Building back better health systems: the role of innovation, multi-sectoral approaches and global financial architecture in building resilient health systems in Africa.*
- v. UHC, politics, policy processes, and reforms during covid-19 pandemic.*
- vi. The role and use of data and evidence for policy decisions in a pandemic (the case of covid-19).*
- vii. Looking to the future: what plans are in place to mitigate the impact of covid-19 post the pandemic?*

ABOUT THE SIXTH AFHEA INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Over the past decade, AfHEA conferences have contributed significantly towards the research agenda setting in health in Africa (Click here to learn more on how we have contributed to research agenda setting). The conferences also serve to contribute to capacity strengthening of, and networking among AfHEA members, experts working in these fields in Africa, as well as

promoting high quality and standards in the generation of policy-relevant evidence and the use of appropriate health economics, policy and financing tools in the sector. The conferences attract an average of 250 participants from Africa and beyond (the 2019 conference attracted over 400 participants). Our participants include a mix of students, policy makers, researchers and practitioners in the health economics, health policy and health financing and related fields.

The table below provides the five (5) international scientific conferences AfHEA has successfully held since its inauguration. All of these conferences were directly or indirectly related to universal health coverage (UHC).

Date	Location	Theme
10-12 March, 2009	Accra, Ghana	Priorities of Health Economics in Africa
15-17 March, 2011	Saly, Senegal	Towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa
11-13 March, 2014	Nairobi, Kenya	The Post-2015 African Health Agenda and UHC: Opportunities and Challenges
26-29 September, 2016	Rabat, Morocco	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Grand Convergence and Health in Africa
11-14 March, 2019	Accra, Ghana	Securing PHC for all: the foundation for making progress on UHC in Africa. The conference also marked AfHEA's 10th year anniversary.

The successful organization of these international conferences in different countries is proof of AfHEA's strong network of members in different regions of Africa.



Photos: 5th AfHEA Biennial Scientific Conference

RECOGNIZING OUR VIRTUAL HOST — KIGALI, RWANDA

Rwanda, known for picturesque scenery and warm, friendly people and considered the 'Land of a thousand hills' is one of the most remarkable countries in Africa and the world. Rwanda is a beautiful nation blessed with an incredible array of wildlife and biodiversity, vibrant culture and breathtaking landscape and architecture, making it a favourite tourist destination for many travelers. Having been ranked by the World Economic Forum as the 9th safest country in the world, it is a country big on climate action with plastic bags completely banned since 2008 and one of the cleanest places on the continent of Africa to visit.

Rwanda has a special seat at the table of modernization in Africa with some of the most forward-thinking and progressive individuals on the face of the continent leading a new process of creativity and innovation across the arts, sciences and technology. In terms of business and investment, the World Bank ranked Rwanda as the second easiest place to do business and the second fastest growing economy in Africa with the nation's encouragement of think tanks that work to drive private sector growth and technological advancement. Rwanda also stands tall as an ideal tech incubator, pioneering tech-savvy initiatives and world-class primary, secondary and tertiary education with an ecosystem that links high tech industry, research and education to capital investment in order to create jobs and reduce current account deficit and youth

unemployment.

Rwanda is the spearhead of the Africa Continent Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) signed with over 50 other countries and is poised to reap the benefits of small- and large-scale industrial development, as well as reliable, quality infrastructure. As a conference destination, Rwanda is an excellent hub for meetings and events, with world-class facilities such as the Kigali Convention Centre located close to the Kigali airport, which offers a premium environment for regional and international conventions, exhibitions, festivals, meetings and other events. AfHEA is pleased to have this shining African gem as the virtual conference host and hopes that although virtual, participants will imbibe the rich and vibrant culture on display during the opening of this conference.



Photos: Rwanda, its flag and its beautiful sceneries

ABOUT AFHEA: SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

About Us:

The African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) is a bilingual (English and French) non-political and non-profit-making association inaugurated in March 2009 with headquarters in Accra, Ghana.

AfHEA's Vision:

Better and equitable health for Africans through better policies and efficient use of resources.

AfHEA's Mission:

To improve health outcomes, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable population groups, by promoting high-quality standards in the generation of policy-relevant evidence and the use of appropriate health economics tools within the discipline of health economics and financing in Africa.

AfHEA's Membership

Membership is at the core of AfHEA, and is open to all Africans and non-Africans (including institutions) working on health and health care issues related to Africa. AfHEA membership has grown tremendously (and continues to grow) since it was officially registered on the 17th of September 2008. Our membership includes over 350 individual health economics, financing and policy experts, professionals and students, as well as health care practitioners from African countries residing within and outside the continent in non-governmental organizations,

multilateral agencies, Universities or other research institutions and in government ministries across Africa. Membership also includes policy makers who share a passion for improving health care delivery through the implementation of best-practice research evidence and advocacy, in addition to institutional members including School of Public Health of the University of Ghana, Health Economics Unit of the University of Cape Town, CESAG of Senegal, Wits Health Consulting PTY Ltd, Results for Development (R4D), Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE2RO) and BDOM (Bureau Diocésain des Oeuvres Médicales).

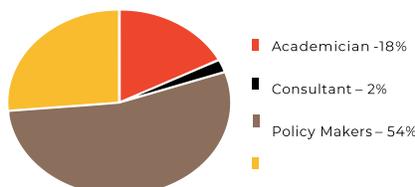


Chart: Wide network of very committed individual members made up of 63% Male, 37% Female

Join us!

Prospective individual members are invited to complete a registration form and make a payment of \$106.00 which includes a one-time admin fee (\$20) and a year's membership fee (\$80), with the additional \$6 charged for online payment processing. Details on institutional membership can be found in the link below. As part of operational effectiveness and sustainability reforms, we are currently reviewing our membership strategy and benefit package to give more value to members. The new membership strategy and benefit package is expected to be completed and launched by mid-year. The strategy aims to provide more added value for members and keep members engaged not only at conferences, but all year round. The registration forms (in English and in French) can be downloaded from the AfHEA website at www.afhea.org or [here](#) for individual membership and [here](#) for institutional membership. Take action and kindly join us today.

Our Objectives

Two overarching objectives drives AfHEA's core business model namely;

- i. Capacity strengthening in health economics, financing and policy
- ii. Promotion of use of health economics tools to support policymakers in their decision-making process

The specific objectives that feed into these overarching objectives are to:

- i. Be a forum for information sharing and exchange among those working in health economics and related fields in Africa;

- ii. Promote the development and retention of health economics capacity within Africa, with particular emphasis on supporting the needs of lower income countries to train and retain such experts

- iii. Promote the production and dissemination of high-quality research findings by health economists and health policy analysts working in Africa and on Africa-related issues;

- iv. Support health policy development and advise policy makers and health partners in African countries on viable

- options for equitable health care financing;
- v. Represent the interests of African health economists and health policy analysts in international forums (such as the International Health Economics Association) as well as to facilitate communications and relationships between health economists working in Africa and the broad international networks of academic, scientific and policy experts to foster mutual respect and understanding.

OUR EXPERTISE

AfHEA offers technical expertise on critical health economics, financing and policy issues as related below:

- i. Policy analysis and advice
- ii. Universal health coverage
- iii. Adolescent, sexual & reproductive health

- iv. Maternal newborn & child health
- v. Strategic Purchasing
- vi. Costing of health services & economic evaluations
- vii. Cost effectiveness analysis
- viii. Technology assessments

SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

i. Health Economics and Financing Technical Assistance

Since its inception in 2009, AfHEA has provided technical assistance to various organizations and meetings. We highlight some of the more recent below:

INSTITUTION	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED	TIMING
UEMOA	Technical presentation and contribution to the West Africa Monetary Union's (UEMOA) technical meeting on health risk coverage (health insurance) for West Africa countries	Dec 7 –Dec 9, 2021
African Union	(AU) ALM tracker sub-committee	Feb 2020 - date
	High-level Ministers meeting in	24-29 Mar 2011
UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF)	Side meeting to Accelerate Implementation of the ICPD	July 2019
West Africa Health Organization (WAHO)	Annual Meeting on Health	In 2018
	Ministers of Health meeting in	May 2011
Ghana, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	Presidential appointment of AfHEA's Executive Director as	2015 to 2016
Nigeria, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	Facilitation of NHIS Nigeria's visit to Ghana to understudy Ghana's	Mar 1-6, 2020
World Bank	Technical partner in the first African flagship course on health	Jun 2010
	Harmonization for Health in	Nov. 2010
African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST)	Consensus Building meeting on the African Platform on Human Resources for Health (APHRH)	4-8 Sept. 2011
	HRH Community of Practice (COP) of the Harmonization for Health In Africa (HHA) meeting	Sept. 2011

ii. Recent AfHEA Research and Policy-related Projects

AfHEA continues to carry out its mandate through implementation of health economics projects. Some of the more recent are captured below:

PROJECT TITLE/ PERIOD	DONOR(S)	NARRATIVE
RECENTLY ENDED AND EXISTING PROJECTS		
AfHEA Research Capacity Building and Dissemination (Jul. 2012 to Aug. 2015)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Rockefeller Foundation (RF)	<p>The AfHEA project was motivated by the realization that health sector decision making in sub-Saharan Africa frequently does not benefit from the insights that health economics evidence and analysis could bring to the sector. The overall aim was to enhance the quality of policy-making and build the capacity of African health policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the development and implementation of policies and programs towards universal health coverage. This project was successfully implemented within the timelines and has contributed to the increasing application of health economics, financing and policy in health sector decision making in Africa.</p>
Support to AfHEA for Research and Capacity Building on Health Financing Issues (1 Oct. 2014 - 31 Mar. 2017)	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)	<p>The purpose was to provide quality analytical work and enhance capacity to conduct research that will fill the existing knowledge gaps on the effective health financing approaches to achieve optimal health outcomes in Africa. The project sought to contribute to achieving three key health sector objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved health outcomes and economic growth by making available better evidence for enhanced performance of the health sector in African countries. 2. Increased resource mobilization as well as improved efficiency, effectiveness and equity of resource allocation and management in the health sector through high quality analytical work. <p>Capacity building for health economics and financing as well as policy analysis in Africa.</p> <p>This project was successfully implemented within the specified project timelines and achieved the desired</p>
Strengthening AfHEA to provide High Quality Technical Support for PHC Strengthening and Health Financing in Africa (31 Aug. 2017 - 31 Aug. 2022)	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)	<p>The grant sought from the Foundation is to strengthen AfHEA's technical capacity to support African policymakers to use evidence and analytic tools from health economics, financing, and policy to design and implement effective primary health care (PHC) policies. The strategic objectives of this investment include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the analytic capacity of AfHEA members to apply the tools of health economics, financing and policy to advancing the PHC agenda in Africa

		<p>2. To contribute to improving PHC performance in African countries</p> <p>Support conference preparatory activities</p> <p>The conference has been identified as a major tool to achieve the project's objectives. AfHEA has used its biennial scientific conference, the largest gathering of health economists and experts in health financing in Africa, to strengthen the capacities of its members to support the PHC agenda in their countries more effectively. This project is currently far advanced in implementation and ends in August</p>
<p>EcASaRH Interventions (Apr. 2019 – Apr. 2023)</p>	<p>International Development and Research Centre (IDRC)</p>	<p>The EcASaRH project, funded by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), kick-started in April 2019 and is expected to end in 2023. The project is expected to contribute to our understanding of ASRH interventions in the context of Ghana and Senegal and Africa as a whole. The objectives of the project are to: identify priority ASRH interventions in Ghana and Senegal, cost the interventions and assess the existing funding gaps for the interventions identified, and lastly formulate strategies for resource mobilization to</p>
<p>Investment Cases for Transformative Results (Oct. 2020 – Apr. 2021)</p>	<p>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</p>	<p>AfHEA has been selected by UNFPA to assist in providing technical research support on the "Investment cases for transformative results" project. The aim of the project is to develop strong investment cases argument to support advocacy for investing in reducing maternal mortality, support advocacy for the UHC agenda on family planning, ending female genital mutilation and ending gender-based violence. This project is being implemented in five African countries, namely, Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia and South Sudan. The project was successfully implemented and achieved the desired impact.</p>

NEW PROJECTS		
Public Financial Management Project (Dec. 2021 to May 2022)	World Health Organization African Region (WHO-AFRO)	Towards the end of 2021, AfHEA was awarded a grant by WHO-AFRO to undertake research on health budget execution and public financial management in four countries: Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Cameroon. The project will seek to unearth the root causes of low budget execution in these countries, document and understand the mitigation measures for low health sector budget execution and accordingly inform policy change for improved health sector budget execution in Africa.
Vaccine Rollout (ECOVA) (Feb 2022-Mar 2025)	IDRC	AfHEA, together with partners Africa CDC and UNECA, were recently awarded a grant by IDRC to implement a 3-year project titled "Equitable Access to the Covid-19 Vaccines in Africa (ECOVA)." This project aims to generate evidence to inform solutions to improve Africa's ability and capacity to manufacture, effectively distribute and administer COVID-19 vaccines. It critically examines international regulatory frameworks which affect equitable access to vaccines, and the domestic challenges in Africa including manufacturing capacity, equitable delivery and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. The project will be action-oriented, contributing to practical ways of ensuring vaccine equity in Africa.

iii. Capacity Strengthening

1. In April 2021, AfHEA with support from WHO-AFRO through the Hideyo Noguchi African Prize for medical research and medical services issued a call for papers to support and mentor early career researchers to strengthening their capacities on scientific writing. This mentorship program culminated in a scientific writing workshop for early career researchers in June 2021. The workshop attracted over 100 participants from across the continent. 12 mentees were selected, mentored and supported to develop their papers for publication. These papers are currently at various stages of reviews by the *Frontiers in Health Services Journal*.
2. In March 2019, AfHEA in partnership with WHO-AFRO organised a scientific and grant writing training workshop for African early career researchers in health systems and policy. About 50 participants from nine (9) African countries attended the workshop. The workshop took place in Accra, Ghana. The main aim was to train African early career researchers on scientific writing for publication and grants. This will ultimately contribute to improving the share of publications from Africa.
3. Between July 2012 and August 2015, AfHEA successfully implemented a UHC capacity-building project titled "African Health Economics and Policy Research Capacity Building and Dissemination Project." During the project's implementation, five UHC training workshops were organized for Francophone (3 workshops) and Anglophone (2 workshops) countries, as highlighted in the table below. The aim of the workshops was to build the capacities of African health policy makers, researchers and practitioners for the development and implementation of programs towards UHC and help countries acquire indigenous skills and resources to implement in-country sustainable UHC policies and initiatives. The choice of the topics for the workshops was informed by evidence following needs assessment surveys that were carried out in 19 sub-Saharan African countries at the project's inception.

Title of workshop	Date	Location	No. of participants	Countries represented	Collaborating institutions
La couverture universelle en santé: principes de base, mise en œuvre et suivi des progrès (English Translation: Universal Coverage in Health: Basic Principles, Implementation and Progress Monitoring)	Jan 27-Feb 7, 2014	Dakar, Senegal	26	8	IDRC/RF/CESAG /UEMOA
Universal Health Coverage: Basic Principles, Implementation and Progress monitoring	Aug 18 - 29, 2014	Nairobi, Kenya	19	5	IDRC/RF
La couverture universelle en santé : Coordination des réformes – outils politiques et stratégiques (English Translation: Universal health Coverage: Coordination reforms - Political & Strategic Tools)	Oct 13 - 18, 2014	Dakar, Senegal	30	11	IDRC/RF/CESAG
La Couverture Universelle en Santé: principes de base, mise en oeuvre et suivi des progrès (English Translation: Universal Coverage in Health: Basic Principles, Implementation and Progress Monitoring)	Oct 20 - 30, 2014	Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire	23	6	IDRC/RF/ WAHO
Universal Health Coverage: Basic Principles, Implementation and Progress monitoring	Nov 16- 26, 2015	Abuja, Nigeria	21	5	WAHO

iv. Grants Management

AfHEA as a health economics, financing and policy organization recognizes the importance of efficient use of resources and therefore takes a serious approach to grant management of the funding it receives. Our approach to grant management is built on the principles of efficiency, accountability and trust. We are an organization that

believes and practices the efficient and appropriate use of the resources received for maximum positive lasting impact in society. Additionally, strong financial and internal control processes that are well documented in our policy manuals and provides guidelines on grants management and expenditure. We have extensive experience in major donors and partners' management requirements, and are strategically positioned as an organization with strong financial management, donor compliance, sub-grantee management; and ensuring

the highest levels of accountability and risk management.

v. Donors and Partners

Over the years, AfHEA has established and nurtured good relationships with key donors and partners. We have been able to attract over 10 million US Dollars since our inception in 2009. See some of our key donors and partners list below.



WORLD CONGRESS 2023 ON HEALTH ECONOMICS – IHEA

Following the decision to hold the 2021 Congress virtually, iHEA is pleased to announce that Cape Town will host the 2023 Congress instead of 2021 as originally planned. The Health Economics Unit (HEU), of the University of Cape Town, which is the oldest health economics research center in

Africa, will host the congress. The congress will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), from July 8-12, 2023. The iHEA board and team are monitoring any government guidelines relating to COVID-19 and will continue to provide updates should any changes occur

FAREWELL TO A BRILLIANT LEADER!



True leaders are rare to come by but working with a great leader who also happens to be the pioneer and the very 'pulse' of a great institution such as AfHEA is an extremely rare opportunity not many are lucky to have. Today, we take this special moment to recognize our outgoing Founding Executive Director, Dr. Chris Atim. Dr. Atim since the very inception of AfHEA has been responsible for the overall institutional performance, ensuring overall organizational effectiveness within the Association.

Chris is a health economist with 25+ years' experience working on health systems financing worldwide. He currently works

with Results for Development (R4D) as the Senior Program Director responsible for health systems and financing work in Ghana and Nigeria. He also worked with the World Bank, Path Malaria Vaccine Initiative (in Geneva), the HLSP Institute (in London), Abt Associates, the Belgian government on health schemes and the ILO in Senegal. He was also an associate professor in health economics (specialties in health insurance and health policy) at the Institute for Higher Management Studies in Senegal. Other notable feats include research and activities that propelled the growth and viability of the NHIS throughout West Africa and even as far as Rwanda. Dr. Atim is bilingual (English and French) and holds a Master's and a PhD in development studies (economics thesis), from the University of

Norwich and the University of Sussex, respectively. In addition, he has completed coursework in epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and in health economics and economic evaluation at the University of York.

Chris, your exceptional leadership and outstanding feats for this Association has propelled AfHEA to the heights of success and recognition among industry

players. You worked passionately and selflessly, navigating through a previously little-known and particularly arduous terrain in Africa towards capacity strengthening in health economics, health financing and health policy. The popularity of health economics, financing and policy analysis in Africa is largely attributable to your work as one of the pioneers of the field in Africa. Even more notable has been your vision for the development of the health economics and policy field in Africa which culminated into the creation of AfHEA with several other colleagues – who would later entrust you with that vision which you have carefully nurtured up until this high point.

Thank you for supporting AfHEA, for relentlessly pushing towards success and for sharing your skills and wisdom with all who have worked and partnered with you. We hope your next chapter is an even greater one. We can only unanimously agree in selecting a few African dialects to graciously say, "Well done! Bravo! Bien joué! Welgedaan! Sannu da Aikatawa! ! mere nke oma! Umefanya vizuri! Daradara şe! Ayekoo"!

Congratulations from us all!



MESSAGE FROM INCOMING AFHEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (JOHN)

Rising to fill the 'enormous shoes' of Dr. Chris Atim and to rein in a new and greater future for AfHEA is Prof. John Ele-Ojo Ataguba who has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as the incoming Executive Director. John was appointed after emerging on top of a rigorous recruitment process which saw an impressive pool of candidates vie for the role. Professor Ataguba who will be taking over the role of Executive Director from Dr. Chris Atim beginning from April 1st 2022, was beforehand the Deputy Executive Director in charge of Capacity Development for AfHEA. John is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the International Health Economics Association (iHEA), a fellow for the Pan-African Scientific Research Council (PASRC), and a research fellow for the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) network. Prof. Ataguba has recently been appointed the

inaugural Canada Research Chair in Health Economics at the University of Manitoba. Before joining the University of Manitoba, John was a Professor of Economics and Director of the Health Economics Unit at the University of Cape Town, and served as the interim South African Research Chair in Health and Wealth at the University of Cape Town. He is also an advisor both nationally, and to international agencies, including the World Health Organization.

John is additionally a leading researcher in the economics of health inequality and health equity in Africa and internationally, with several years of research and teaching experience in many African countries. He supervises dozens of postgraduate students, publishing widely in areas related to health economics (including poverty, inequality, equity in health and health care, social

determinants of health, health financing and the economics of ageing). John holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Cape Town. His academic career began as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Nigeria, where he graduated with a first-class honours degree in Economics. He was a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Councils for Health and Healthcare and Healthy Ageing and Longevity and has received many awards, including the TW Kambule-NSTF Award, for science and research in South Africa. He was also a Mellon Mandela Fellow (20016/17) at Harvard University, USA. His message to AfHEA membership and all stakeholders reads, "I acknowledge the huge responsibility of leading AfHEA and will commit to delivering to the best of my abilities. I also want to use this opportunity to thank Dr. Chris Atim for his sterling leadership and commitment to AfHEA over the past years.. Although AfHEA is still growing, I want to assure you that your investments in AfHEA, and those of fellow colleagues, will continue to grow into the future".

A huge congratulations to Prof. Ataguba and to the entire Association!!

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