

Ikechi Okpechi



Short Bio/CV

Dr. Okpechi received his undergraduate and post-graduate medical education at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and doctoral training at the University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa. He was former head of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at UCT, past member of the KDIGO Executive Committee (2017 – 2019), and former Chair of the ISN Fellowship program. As chair of the ISN Fellowship program, he helped in pioneering the ISN Regional Training Centres (ISN-RTCs), an initiative which identified local regional training centres to enhance local (within region) fellowship training programs. He has also mentored several ISN fellows at UCT from several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

He was also an ISN Educational Ambassador and used this role to lead several ISN CME programs and workshops for training clinicians on kidney biopsies, management of glomerular diseases, management of CKD and kidney failure, and setting up of dialysis and kidney transplant services in countries of sub-Saharan Africa including Nigeria, Kenya, Botswana, and South Africa. He was mentor for ISN-Sister Renal Centre (ISN-SRC) program between UCT and Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria, helping the centre to develop useful clinical capacity for patient care, training of their workforce which enabled them to successfully graduate the program.

He was part of the organizing committee for the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (ISN-WCN) in Cape Town, South Africa in 2015 and has been a member of the scientific program committee for the ISN-WCN in Cape Town, South Africa (2015), Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2020), Bangkok, Thailand (2023), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2024), and Nephrology Annual Review Course Coordinator in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2022). He has been an invited speaker at numerous ISN-WCN and other global and regional nephrology congresses including the European Renal Association and the Japanese Society for Dialysis Therapy.

He was subject editor (Hypertension, CKD, and glomerular diseases) for the ISN Academy program and participated in the ISN-CKD Advocacy project, an awareness-raising initiative on early identification and intervention for CKD. He was the post-graduate (master's and doctoral) course convener at UCT and supervised several post-graduate students, of which many graduated with a distinction and returned home to hold important clinical and administrative roles.

He is a member of the Standardized Outcomes in Nephrology (SONG-CKD) initiative and an editorial board member for several prominent nephrology and global health journals including *Kidney International*, *Nephrology (Carlton)*, *American Journal of Kidney Disease (AJKD)*, *African Journal of Nephrology, Medicine (Wolter Kluwer)*, and *PLOS Global Public Health*. He is a founding member of the CKD-Africa collaboration consortium, a network of CKD investigators across Africa. He is a member of the ISN North America and Caribbean Regional Board and member of the ISN-Global Kidney Health Atlas (ISN-GKHA) steering committee. He managed the project for the third iteration of the ISN-GKHA. He has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and several book chapters. He is a clinical researcher at the University of Alberta, Canada and Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa.

Candidate's Statement

The ISN North America and Caribbean region is currently made up of 15 countries and territories of which 13 are Caribbean Islands and nations. Many of these Caribbean nations have low nephrology workforce, low or absent nephrology trainees, and often with absence of robust kidney disease database / registry. If elected as Deputy Chair/Councillor, I will participate in developing, monitoring, and reporting on ISN activities and build relationships with affiliated societies across the region. I will also help to identify ways of developing training

programs (e.g., CMEs, workshops, etc.), especially for nurses and primary care physicians in the Caribbean nations where nephrology workforce is significantly lacking. While the United States and Canada have robust kidney registries, the absence of kidney registries across the Caribbean countries has been a major set back in advancing and advocating for kidney care in the region. Hence, I also hope to use my role to identify processes to establish and maintain a functional and effective kidney registry for Caribbean nations using the ISN toolkit. This will greatly improve advocacy efforts for kidney care in the region. Finally, I will also use my role to build research collaborative efforts in the region and within the ISN.