

AWARDS & HONORS

Dr. Gbenga Ogedegbe Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

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Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, MPH, (pictured left), the Dr. Adolph and Margaret Berger Professor of Population Health and Medicine, **has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine**, considered one of the highest honors in health and medicine. He joins over 2,000 U.S. and international members elected by their peers “in recognition of outstanding achievement in health, medicine, and intersecting fields.”

In a career as a physician and a clinical scientist that spans continents, Dr. Ogedegbe has dedicated himself to developing strategies to eliminate racial disparities in cardiovascular diseases and improve the outcomes of chronic diseases in minority populations. With a commitment to advancing health equity, Dr. Ogedegbe has led culturally-tailored community- and practice-based strategies to reduce incidence and improve outcomes of cardiovascular diseases in African Americans. His scholarship in

translation of evidence-based behavioral interventions to practice-based settings has provided a foundation for applying novel strategies to the management of hypertension. This includes building relationships with faith-based settings and barbershops to ensure the health system is reaching those with high blood pressure who cannot easily access health services.



Dr. Ogedegbe demonstrates the proper technique for taking blood pressure readings at a church in Harlem. He has developed programs to bring health outreach efforts into underserved communities.

Underlying Dr. Ogedegbe’s approach is a deep understanding of the real world challenges people face to stay healthy in their day-to-day lives. “People know they have high blood pressure. They are aware of that. But you know what gets in the way? Life gets in the way,” Dr. Ogedegbe said in a video in 2015 for NYU Langone’s “Made for New York” campaign. “So we decided one way to solve the problem is to actually bring health to the community, where they live, where they eat, where they work, and where they play.”

Dr. Ogedegbe has expanded his work globally to Sub-Saharan Africa, where he is funded by the National Institutes of Health to strengthen research capacity in non-communicable diseases and implement task-shifting strategies to improve hypertension control in the region. A unique signature of Dr. Ogedegbe’s research capacity building work is the creation of the Cardiovascular Research Training Institute or CaRT program, which brings more than 40 U.S. and European junior scientists from diverse health disciplines every year to Ghana and Nigeria to train in research methodology. To date, CaRT has trained over 80 investigators from nine universities, some of whom have gone on to have independent research careers. Dr. Ogedegbe aims to replicate this program in other universities in West Africa in order to increase Africa’s healthcare workforce, which has a major shortage. Sub-Saharan African countries carry 25 percent of the global disease burden, yet have only 14 percent of the global health workforce and produce merely 2 percent of global research output.



Dr. Ogedegbe (front row, center) with trainees in Nigeria.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Dr. Ogedegbe earned his MD in Ukraine and came to the U.S. for his residency training in internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center. He held research fellowships at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Weill-Cornell Medicine, and faculty positions at Columbia University Medical Center and Cornell before joining NYU Langone in 2008 as the founding director of the [Center for Healthful Behavior Change](#). When the [Department of Population Health](#) launched in 2012, Dr. Ogedegbe became the inaugural director of its Division of Health and Behavior. At NYU, he has also served as vice dean and chief medical officer at the College of Global Public Health, and is currently associate vice chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning for the University.

A beloved teacher, Dr. Ogedegbe has mentored more than 100 minority physicians and investigators in the U.S. and overseas, receiving some of the country's most significant mentoring awards, including the John M. Eisenberg Excellence in Mentorship Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Herbert W. Nickens Award for Diversity from the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Daniel Savage Science Award from the Association of Black Cardiologists, as well as the Jonathan E. Fanton Leadership in Education award from the Nigerian Higher Education Foundation. Dr. Ogedegbe was honored with an endowed chair at NYU Langone at Dean's Honors Day earlier this month.

New members to NAM are elected by currently active members from a field of candidates [nominated](#) "for their accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health." NAM now has a total 2,127 active members in the U.S. and 172 internationally, of whom nearly 50 are Nobel laureates.

Comments (10)



Congratulations, Dr. Ogedegbe!
Duncan-Carnesciali, Joanne October 17 7:22 PM



Comgratulations Dr. Ogedegbe! Well deserved.
Juliana Laze October 18 9:22 AM



Congrats! great news.
Safia Khan October 18 12:36 PM



congrats
Noadiah Grant October 18 3:42 PM



congrats
Noadiah Grant October 18 3:42 PM



Great story. Congratulations!
Maureen Hoch October 19 8:17 AM



Congratulations Dr. Ogedegbe! A well-deserved honor to a person doing amazing work.

James Mandler October 19 8:31 AM



Congratulations! You were a mentor to me during my medical school rotations at Montefiore Hospital when you were a resident and it is so nice to hear about your amazing work!

Steven Wishner October 19 9:40 AM



Congratulations Dr. Ogedegbe! I am pleased and proud of the work you are doing especially with minority groups and underserved communities/regions. It is surely a blessing to be able to give back and these are awesome, meaningful ways in which you are contributing to global healthcare. Continue doing the great job you have committed to.

Sharon Wynter October 20 9:59 AM



Congratulations!

Christina Cronin October 20 2:30 PM

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