

John Alechenu Idoko
Nigeria

Professor John Alechenu Idoko was born on 28 August 1950 in Aigaji village in present day Oglewu district of Ohimini Local Government Area of Benue State of Nigeria. He attended Native Authority Primary School Otobi and St. Francis College Otukpo, all in Benue state of Nigeria and graduating with West African School Certificate with grade 1 with distinction. He went on to do Higher School at the Federal Government College Sokoto in Sokoto state of Nigeria. He attended Ahmadu Bello University medical school in Zaria, Nigeria and graduated MB, BS in June, 1976. He later trained in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases through a residency program at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital and the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle Upon Tyne in the United Kingdom. He was a Commonwealth Research Fellow in Immunology at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1986 and 1987.

Professor Idoko was appointed Lecturer/Consultant in medicine at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria in 1984, rising to the position of senior lecturer in 1987. He later transferred to University of Jos in Nigeria where he was appointed Professor in 1992. At the University of Jos, Professor Idoko was head of Department of Medicine and later Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration of the University from 1994 to 1998. He was Principal Investigator of the Harvard University/AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN) Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Jos. The antiretroviral clinic (ART) at JUTH and Plateau State of Nigeria cares for about 20,000 patients with HIV, representing one of the largest clinics in Nigeria. The program in JUTH has a "Hub and Spoke" network of decentralized and integrated services to 14 secondary health facilities, 60 Primary Health Centres and about 200 communities delivering integrated services including HIV, TB, Malaria and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Professor Idoko was President of the Nigerian AIDS Research Network from 2002 to 2008, Chairman Nigerian National Antiretroviral Committee 2001 to 2009 and currently Director General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) in Nigeria.

Professor Idoko's research interests include clinical trials of antiretroviral drugs, adherence to ART, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis co-infection, resistance to ART, social and behaviour issues in HIV and models for scaling out comprehensive HIV services. He has over 70 published peer reviewed journals and contributed to several books.

Aspirations for the IAS

The most important aspiration is to continue to promote the work of the IAS particularly in my region through the vision of mobilizing colleagues to employ scientific evidence and best practices to reduce new infections and put more people on life saving drugs. We need to get down to zero new infections (particularly elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child), zero AIDS related deaths and zero discrimination by intensifying prevention, making treatment cheaper, strengthening domestic funding and making investment in AIDS work smarter.