

ICAPHE Launches as the First Global Body Established to Strengthen Public Health Education through Accreditation

Oslo, Norway: **ICAPHE** (The International Council for Accreditation and Advancement of Public Health Education) has officially launched as the first organisation established specifically as an independent, internationally focused accrediting body with a mission to improve the quality and impact of public health education worldwide.

ICAPHE's purpose is to enhance public health education through rigorous non-prescriptive community focussed accreditation, international peer review and evidence-informed research and collaboration. Headquartered in Norway, the organisation brings together experts from all six World Health Organization regions to establish an inclusive, representative and collegial approach to educational quality assurance.

Students are central to ICAPHE's mission. By working with universities, public health programmes and governments, ICAPHE aims to ensure that graduates are well-prepared to address complex health challenges and contribute to improved population health outcomes.

ICAPHE President Friday Okonofua quotes, *"Today marks a significant milestone in the history of public health education with the launch of the International Council for Accreditation of Public Health Education (ICAPHE). This new global agency is dedicated to ensuring the quality and excellence of public health schools and programs worldwide. ICAPHE aims to promote transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in public health education ultimately enhancing the competence and preparedness of public health professionals to address pressing global health challenges."*

By establishing a rigorous and credible accreditation process ICAPHE will enable public health schools and programs to demonstrate their commitment to delivering high-quality education and training that meets international standards. This will not only benefit students and professionals but will also contribute to improving population health outcomes and advancing the field of public health globally.

As ICAPHE begins its work we look forward to collaborating with public health schools, programs and stakeholders worldwide to shaping the future of public health education and promoting excellence in the field."

Friday Okonofua, MD, PhD (International Health, Karolinska), FRCOG, Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Health, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria; Member, US National Academy of Medicine; Takemi Fellow in International Health, Harvard School of Public Health; Secretary General, African Academy of Sciences; Vice-President, Nigerian Academy of Science

ICAPHE is directed by CEO Dr Julien Goodman, who said, "ICAPHE brings together exceptional expertise in global accreditation and academic public health leadership. Our goal is to create a collegial, transparent and supportive environment that enables institutions, educators and students to engage in continuous improvement. By sharing good practice and applying consistent, evidence-informed standards and research, we can help prepare the next generation of public health professionals."

ICAPHE will collaborate with educational institutions, practice partners, communities and students to share resources, promote quality improvement and support academic programmes in achieving excellence.

About ICAPHE

The International Council for Accreditation and Advancement of Public Health Education (ICAPHE) is the first independent global accrediting agency dedicated to improving public health education through rigorous accreditation, peer review and international collaboration. Learn more at www.icaphe.org