

## Candidate for RBM CMWG Co-Chair

**Prof. Olugbenga Mokuolu**

**Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Health  
Sciences, University of Ilorin  
Nigeria**

### Biosketch



Olugbenga is a Fellow of the West Africa College of Physicians and a renowned Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Ilorin/Teaching Hospital in Nigeria. He also holds the doctorate degree of the National Postgraduate Medical College, Nigeria. Between 2018-2022, he served as the National Malaria Technical Director to the National Malaria Elimination Programme in Nigeria. He is the Portfolio Director, Malaria Projects in Nigeria, for the Management Sciences for Health, Arlington, USA. In this capacity, he has seen efficient implementation of the Presidents Malaria Initiative for States (PMI-S) and Global Fund Malaria Projects in Nigeria. He has served as member and chair of the WHO Technical Expert Group on Antimalarial Guidelines Development. In his various roles, he has contributed extensively to research on malaria, especially severe malaria, antimalarial clinical trials, resource mobilization through technical support to several African countries from various funding agencies, capacity development on malaria case management and development of malaria strategic plan. He also co-developed training manuals on case management at international, regional, and national levels. He was designated a Champion to End Malaria in UN Photo gallery in 2011, Unillorin Researcher of the year in 2011 and joint winner of the 2017 NLNG Prize for Science in Nigeria, and top 20 heroes in the fight against malaria in Africa (2023). He is currently the Founding Director of the Centre for Malaria and Other Tropical Diseases Care in Nigeria.

### Motivation note

Malaria continues to exert a heavy toll on our world. While tremendous progress has been made from the Americas to Asia to Africa, the disease has continued to manifest with unique characteristics that challenged the global health system. The fight against malaria is multisectoral, but it comes down from the point of strategy to two major categories: disease prevention and effective case management.

In the last two decades, I have worked extensively across several African countries where I have provided technical support to many National Malaria Programmes in activities ranging from strategic plan development, resource mobilization, development of training manuals, capacity development, engagement in policy influencing clinical trials and active involvement in policy adaptations or change management processes. This extensive exposure has provided me with an understanding of the complexity of the malaria landscape, especially in malaria case management. I have been fortunate to be a medical teacher, where I have engaged in undergraduate and graduate teaching on malaria among medical students and resident doctors over the years. Beyond the medical students, I am involved in training several categories of health workers, and there has been increasing penetration of

various professional groups. These exposures have enabled me to develop strong communication skills on malaria among stakeholders, from policymakers to community health workers.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Case Management Working Group meeting held in Ghana, the importance of the working group and the potential for being a vehicle of change or supporting countries was very glaring. I saw the open atmosphere and the ease with which countries expressed their challenges. I also heard the different cries for help and the opportunity for knowledge sharing among the nations. Moreover, serving as MSH Portfolio Director overseeing malaria projects in Nigeria, afforded me the opportunity to directly engage with national and subnational government structures on malaria case management and surveillance while interfacing with donor expectations. Against this backdrop, I felt this is a place I rightly belong to, and it will be an incredible privilege to actively promote the quality of case management for malaria in the respective countries where malaria is still a disease of significant public health importance. I look forward to innovative mechanisms for supporting countries in adopting best practices in malaria case management. I want to work with the excellent secretariat and the Co-Chair to build a strong network of nations bound to reduce malaria deaths to near zero through effective case management. I see the working group facilitating the domestication of various WHO guidelines on case management for ease of country implementation. Furthermore, we can look at sustainable financing mechanisms for case management commodities.

It is, therefore, my commitment to put at the disposal of the CMWG my experiences over the years to combine leading with learning and making rapid adaptations that will help fulfill the CMWG's goals. I look forward to a substantial and impactful contribution to reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality through improved quality of malaria case management across affected communities.