

## Biography for Dr. Kolawole Okuyemi

**Kolawole S. Okuyemi, M.D., M.P.H.**, is a Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health and Director for the Program in Health Disparities Research at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He is also Director for Cancer Health Disparities initiatives for the Masonic Cancer Center, an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota.



He received his medical degree from University of Ilorin, Nigeria, completed a family medicine residency and Master of Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas (USA), and a public health research fellowship at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia (USA).

Dr. Okuyemi was the recipient of the 2011 Researcher of the Year Award from the Minnesota Academy of Family Physician. He was also recognized as among the top 5 NIH-funded researchers in 2010.

As Director of Program in Health Disparities at the University of Minnesota Medical School, he leads a dynamic interdisciplinary team of more than 25 junior, mid-career, and senior health disparities research scientists conducting extramurally (mostly NIH) funded research in areas such as nicotine dependence/smoking cessation, nutrition/obesity, kidney diseases, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, pharmacokinetics, neuroimaging, health services research, patient-provider relationship, cancer prevention, and community-based participatory research.

Dr. Okuyemi's career in the last 20 years has focused on research and programs to improve the health of minorities and underserved populations and reduce health disparities using pharmacological and culturally tailored behavioral interventions. In addition to being the Principle Investigator and Director of the NCI-funded Minnesota Center for Cancer Collaborations (a Community Networks Program Center, 2010-2015), he has been Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on several federally (NCI, NIDA, NHLBI, HRSA) funded studies totaling nearly \$30 million aimed at reducing tobacco- and cancer-related health disparities especially among African Americans, African Immigrants, and homeless populations.

He is principal investigator on first large smoking cessation intervention study for homeless population funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (\$3 million; 2007-2012) that assessed the effects of Motivational Interviewing and Nicotine patch among 430 homeless smokers.

Dr Okuyemi has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles and book chapters.