



Eke, AHIZECHUKWU

Tell us a bit about your professional background.

Ahizechukwu Eke, MD MPH is an Obstetrician and Gynecologist and a Feto-Maternal Medicine Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University school of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He is also a PhD Candidate with the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and a Research Fellow with the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. He graduated from the University of Calabar School of Medicine, Nigeria, and completed residency training in Nigeria and in Michigan. He continued his training at Harvard University to earn a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy & Management. He sits on the Governing Board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), serving as the District IV Junior Fellow Chair. He also serves on several national and international OBGYN committees, including the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Health Policy Committee. He serves on the editorial board of numerous OBGYN journals, and is a recipient of several national and international honors and awards.

Why do you want to become a member of Cochrane's Governing Board?

I believe I would be a great asset to the Cochrane Governing Board, because I have dedicated the last 10 years of my life to Health Policy leadership, mentorship, and development of systematic reviews. I have excellent collaboration with Cochrane authors in all parts of the world. Furthermore, I have worked closely with many different groups in Cochrane - authors and editors from developing and developed countries, native English speakers, authors for whom English is not their first language, consumers, clinicians and policy makers. I have acquired a solid working knowledge of how different groups in Cochrane function, as I have had opportunities to work with them firsthand. I have also facilitated the engagement of many projects with Cochrane, and have set-up new initiatives that **have moved Cochrane's agenda** forward, thus gaining a thorough understanding of the challenges leaders face in initiating new projects. I believe all these qualities and my dedication to Cochrane will make me an efficient member of the board.

What are Cochrane's key opportunities and challenges and what can the Board do to help address them?

As a Clinician and Health Policy expert, I can say that the most important challenges include lack of resources needed to complete Cochrane reviews timely for clinical guideline development; and inconsistencies that occur between systematic reviews and clinical guideline development. The greatest opportunity remains that Cochrane reviews are the most rigorous and best level of evidence in Medicine. I have identified strategies to increase the impact of Cochrane systematic reviews to evidence-based medicine. I have also identified ways to increase involvement of authors in the process of selecting, preparing, and updating reviews within Cochrane in a very efficient manner. Through these strategies, I am hoping to see increase in the number of timely, high-quality, up-to-date and relevant Cochrane reviews. Above all, the impact of these to the course of evidence-based medicine **in line with Cochrane's vision 2020** would be huge!