

Profile

Kwasi Torpey is a Professor of Family Health and Dean of the University of Ghana's School of Public Health. Kwasi has over 26 years' experience as a physician, scientist, researcher, program director and trainer. He received his MBChB from the University of Ghana Medical School and his Master of Public Health in International Health from the Netherlands School of Public Health. He obtained his PhD in the Institute of Tropical Medicine and the University of Antwerp in Belgium. Kwasi is a fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and the West Africa College of Physicians. He is Honorary Associate Professor of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and an Associate Fellow of the Amsterdam Institute of Global Health and Development in the Academic Medical Centre at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He is also the Scientific Chair of International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research in Resource-limited Settings (INTEREST); the first African to serve in that role. Professor Torpey's work has focused largely on infectious diseases particularly HIV, TB, hepatitis and more recently COVID 19. Non communicable diseases, reproductive health and health systems are also key areas of his research.

Kwasi, prior to joining the University of Ghana had a long and distinguished career working for Family Health International (FHI360), an international NGO based in the United States, spanning over a decade and half implementing public health programmes in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe and Zambia for a wide range of clients including United States Agency for International Development, United States Centres of Disease Control and Prevention, World Bank, UK Department for International Development, United Nations donor funded projects and Ministries of Health in sub-Saharan Africa. Within Family Health International, he served in the following roles; Deputy Chief of Party and Technical Director for the \$443million USAID-funded Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS (SIDHAS) project in Nigeria; Senior Regional Technical Advisor (Africa Region); and Director, Technical Support for Zambia. Across these positions he has provided technical support to country programs in HIV prevention, care and treatment. He served as the clinical lead to design and implement the START program in Ghana. This was one of the first public sector HIV treatment programs in Africa and culminated in the access of HIV treatment in Ghana. He subsequently provided technical assistance in the expansion of HIV treatment in Zambia, Nigeria, and several sub-Saharan African countries. During this period, he led or co-

led several proposals raising over USD 1.5 billion in grants for HIV and other public health program implementation in Nigeria (accounting for over \$900 million), Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Kwasi also served in the Ghana Police Service at the Police Hospital as a public health physician and a deputy of the Ghana Police AIDS Control Programme. He was involved in early efforts to control HIV among most at risk population within the Police.

Capacity building and mentoring

Kwasi brings on board strong mentorship capacity to prepare the next generation scientists and researchers. Within Family Health International, he led the Regional Resource Network to identify, train and mentor young and promising Africans to take leadership in public health and HIV programming through the accelerated professional development initiative. Several of the members of the network are currently leading the national response in their respective countries. He has continued these efforts in the Africa Region as Principal Investigator for the World Health Organization Human Reproduction Program Alliance for Anglophone Africa based in the University of Ghana School of Public Health. It is aimed at strengthening research capacity in sexual and reproductive health rights. This project has offered 26 scholarships to African students including 11 Ghanaians to study for Masters and PhD at the University of Ghana. Kwasi is also Site Principal Investigator, for HIV Co-morbidities Research Training in Ghana (HIV-ComRT) a collaboration between the University of Ghana and Yale School of Medicine funded by National Institute Health/Fogarty which offers scholarship exclusively to Ghanaian students at the Masters, PhD and post-doctoral level. To date 13 Ghanaians have benefitted from these scholarships.

Research and Grants in UG

Prof Torpey has a strong research portfolio successfully winning grants from Ghana Health Service, World Health Organization, Global Fund, World Bank, National Institute of Health/Fogarty International, GIZ, USAID among others. Since 2016, he has successfully won over 24 grants totaling over \$10 million dollars (1.5 million/per year). He is the principal investigator in the following research studies and initiatives;

- Integrated Bio-Behavioural Surveillance Survey 2022.
- World Health Organization-Long Term Institutional Development HUB Grant for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

- Development and delivery of online MSc in Reproductive Health in collaboration with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Rapid assessment of persons who use and inject drugs in Ghana
- World Health Organization Multi-country research study to assess content validity of a new sexual health related survey instrument
- COVID19 and Pregnancy and neonatal outcomes in Ghana
- Socioeconomic impact of COVID 19 on the poor and vulnerable within the context of HIV, TB and malaria
- HIV Co-morbidities Research Training in Ghana
- Evaluation of Strengthening Continuum of Care Project for Key Populations.
- Validation of Clinical Prediction Score for HIV-Hepatitis C coinfecting patients.
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Key Population Interventions in Ghana

He is co-principal investigator of the Treatment Outcomes and Adverse Effects in patients initiating and maintaining a Dolutegravir based treatment regimen in Ghana and the WHO funded Health systems analysis and evaluations of the barriers to availability, utilization and readiness of sexual and reproductive health services in COVID-19 affected areas.

Consultancies, Committee and Boards at the international level

Prof Torpey has consulted for several organizations in different countries including Global Fund Against TB, HIV and Malaria, World Health Organization, Family Health International, United States Agency for International Development, ViiV Health Care, Johnson and Johnson, Abt Associates, USA and among others. He is a member of the World Health Organization Pregnancy and COVID 19 Research Study Group. He has served in the following roles; AIDS Funds Grant Review team, member of the panel of experts on AFRICA BUILD: European Commission in Africa to build capacity for sustainable research, Member, Adult HIV Care and Treatment Expert Panel, World Health Organization-PEPFAR Collaboration among others. Prof Torpey worked as a member of Global Fund Technical Review Panel in Geneva, Switzerland. These are global technical experts selected to review and recommend proposals in HIV, TB and malaria for funding. Prof Torpey served as the focal point for the HIV team from 2014-2018. During his tenure, the TRP recommended a

total of 12 billion dollars for New Funding Model 1 and 14 billion dollars for New Funding Model 2 for 110 countries. Professor Torpey was re-selected in 2023 to serve another four-year term on the Technical Review Panel.

Committees and Boards at the National Level

At the national level, he is a member of the Governing Council of the Ghana AIDS Commission, Non-communicable Disease Multisectoral National Steering Committee, Ministry of Health Universal Health Coverage Task Force, Ghana Health Service HIV Technical Working Group, CTask Team of Differentiated Service Delivery among others.

University Committees and Boards

Within the University of Ghana, he is a member of several statutory and adhoc committees including Chair, College of Health Sciences Academic Quality Assurance Committee, Member, ORID Management Committee, Member, College of Health Sciences Research Board, University Academic Board, College of Health Sciences Academic Board etc

Contribution to science and teaching

Prof Torpey played a key role in HIV treatment in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa translating clinical research findings into guidelines and policy to improve access in HIV testing, prevention of mother to child transmission and clinical care. He originated the adherence support worker concept and task shifting, outreach model in HIV care in Zambia, HIV adherence calendar and community HIV treatment approaches in Nigeria. Kwasi is a thought leader in HIV-noncommunicable diseases integration and has introduced different implementation models in Zambia, Kenya and Nigeria.

He has published over 100 peer reviewed publications, over 70 peer reviewed conference abstracts, three book chapters and several technical reports. He has supervised 29 students at the masters level. He has successfully supervised 14 PhD students who have graduated or defended their thesis with another one submitting their work for assessment. He is currently supervising an additional 12 PhD students who are in different phases of their studies.

Professional Associations and Awards

He is a member of the International AIDS Society, American Public Health Association, HIV Medicine Association and Infectious Disease Society of America and Ghana Medical Association. He is a fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and West African College of Physicians.

Prof Torpey is the first recipient of Dr David Barry prize for outstanding contribution to HIV treatment. He also received Distinguished and Pioneering Role in HIV Treatment in Ghana Award

Family

Prof Torpey is married to Mrs Juliana Torpey and blessed with three children namely Gianna, Keith and Albert.