

Curriculum Vitae

Lukoye Atwoli, MBChB, MMed Psych, PhD, M.B.S., IFAPA, MKNAS, FAAS

Professor of Psychiatry and Dean, Aga Khan University Medical College, East Africa

Deputy Director, Brain and Mind Institute

Academic and Professional Background

Prof. Lukoye Atwoli is a distinguished psychiatrist, academic leader, and global health advocate with over two decades of experience in clinical care, education, research, and policy. He earned his MBChB from Moi University, MMed in Psychiatry from the University of Nairobi, and PhD from the University of Cape Town. His training includes disaster mental health, tropical medicine, medical informatics, and leadership development, reflecting a broad interdisciplinary foundation.

Leadership Roles

Prof. Atwoli has held senior leadership positions across academic, clinical, and policy domains:

- Dean, Aga Khan University Medical College, East Africa (2020– present) – spearheaded curriculum innovation, launched the AKU MBChB program, and strengthened faculty governance.
- Deputy Director, Brain and Mind Institute (2021– present) – advancing interdisciplinary research and mental health services.
- Dean, Moi University School of Medicine (2014–2019) – led curriculum reforms and institutional strengthening.
- Chairperson, Board of Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital (2020– present) – guiding national psychiatric service delivery.
- Global Leadership – Co-Chair, Board on Global Health, US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine; Chair, Association of Academic Health Centers International Steering Committee; Vice-President, WPA Section on Epidemiology and Public Health; Immediate Past President, African College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AfCNP).

These roles demonstrate his ability to lead complex institutions, build consensus, and influence global mental health policy.

Scholarly Contributions

Prof. Atwoli's research spans epidemiology of stress and trauma-related disorders, neuropsychiatric genetics, adolescent mental health, and the intersection of climate change and mental health. He has published extensively in high-impact journals, with an H-index of 41 on ResearchGate and 42 on Google Scholar, and over 10,000 citations, reflecting significant scholarly influence.

His publications can be found at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lukoye-Atwoli?ev=hdr_xprf.

His work bridges local contexts with global initiatives, positioning him as a thought leader in advancing evidence-based mental health policy worldwide.

Teaching and Educational Innovation

Prof. Atwoli has an exceptional record in medical education:

- Designed and revised psychiatry and other curricula at Moi University and the Aga Khan University.
- Led the launch of AKU's MBChB program (2023 intake).
- Served as external examiner for universities across East Africa (Nairobi, Makerere, Muhimbili, Egerton).
- International faculty at Duke University's Global Health Institute, and Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town.

He has consistently advanced innovative, competency-based curricula aligned with regulatory standards and global best practices.

Advocacy and Policy Impact

Prof. Atwoli is deeply engaged in advocacy at national and international levels:

- Member of Kenya’s Presidential Taskforce on Mental Health (2019–2020), contributing to national policy.
- Advisor to the World Medical Association Medical Ethics Committee.
- Contributor to Kenya’s Mental Health Policy (2016) and national health service delivery reforms.
- Advocate for suicide prevention, substance use policy, violence prevention, and climate change impacts on mental health.
- Promoter of diversity, equity, and inclusion in global health.

His advocacy demonstrates a commitment to translating science into policy and improving mental health systems globally.

Distinctions and Honors

Prof. Atwoli’s contributions have been recognized through numerous prestigious honors:

- International Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association (effective January 2026)
- Fellow, African Academy of Sciences (2025).
- Member, Kenya National Academy of Sciences (2024).
- International Member, US National Academy of Medicine (2023).
- International Fellow, American Psychiatric Association (2023).
- Kenya Psychiatric Association Outstanding Research Award (2022).
- National Honour: Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (2022).
- Kenya Medical Association Distinguished Service Award (2015).

These accolades underscore his stature as a leading voice in psychiatry and global health.

Service and Community Engagement

Beyond academia, Prof. Atwoli has contributed to community resilience and humanitarian efforts:

- Life Member, Friends of Karura Forest and Kenya Red Cross Society.
- Leadership in post-election violence recovery and peace monitoring in Kenya.
- Free mental health consultations for hospice clients and vulnerable populations.

This service reflects his commitment to social responsibility and community well-being.

Editorial and Scientific Leadership

Prof. Atwoli has shaped psychiatric scholarship through editorial and scientific committee roles:

- Editor-in-Chief, East African Medical Journal (2016–2020).
- Reviewer for leading journals including BMC, PLoS ONE, and World Psychiatry.
- Convenor of multiple African College of Neuropsychopharmacology congresses and WPA scientific committees.

His editorial leadership has elevated African psychiatry's visibility in global discourse.

In sum, Prof. Lukoye Atwoli embodies the qualities essential for the President-elect of the World Psychiatric Association:

- Global leadership experience across academic, clinical, and policy institutions.
- Extensive scholarly contributions advancing psychiatry in Africa and globally.
- Commitment to education and innovation in medical training.
- Advocacy for equity, inclusion, and climate-sensitive mental health policy.
- Recognition by international academies and professional bodies.

His career reflects a rare combination of visionary leadership, scientific excellence, and dedication to advancing mental health worldwide.