

Nomination Statement – Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

I am honored to present my candidacy for the position of President-elect of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). With over two decades of experience in clinical psychiatry, academic leadership, and global health advocacy, I bring a proven record of advancing mental health education, research, clinical service, and policy at national, regional, and international levels.

As Dean of the Aga Khan University Medical College, East Africa, and Deputy Director of the Brain and Mind Institute, I have led transformative initiatives in medical education, including the launch of a new MBChB program and the revision of curricula to meet global standards. My leadership has consistently emphasized innovation, inclusivity, and excellence, qualities essential for guiding the WPA into its next phase of growth.

In research, I have contributed extensively to the global evidence base on trauma, psychosis, adolescent mental health, and the intersection of climate change and mental health. With an H-index of over 40, and publications in leading journals with over 10,000 citations, my scholarship reflects both scientific rigor and global relevance. These contributions position me to strengthen WPA's role as the premier platform for advancing psychiatric science worldwide.

My service in professional leadership includes roles as Vice-President of the WPA Section on Epidemiology and Public Health, Immediate Past President of the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Co-Chair of the Board on Global Health at the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, and Chair of the Association of Academic Health Centers International Steering Committee. These positions have honed my ability to build consensus across diverse constituencies, foster collaboration, and represent psychiatry at the highest levels of global health governance.

As President-elect, I will fulfill the WPA's mission by:

- **Strengthening global collaboration:** Expanding partnerships across regions, ensuring equitable representation of voices from low- and middle-income countries.
- **Advancing scientific excellence:** Supporting cutting-edge research dissemination, fostering mentorship for early-career psychiatrists, ensuring WPA remains the leading convener of psychiatric knowledge.
- **Promoting advocacy and policy impact:** Leveraging WPA's influence to shape global mental health policies, particularly in suicide prevention, substance use, violence reduction, and climate-related mental health challenges.

- **Enhancing education and training:** Championing innovative curricula, digital learning platforms, and competency-based approaches to prepare psychiatrists for evolving global needs.

- **Upholding ethics and professionalism:** Building on my extensive research and clinical ethics experience, to ensure WPA continues to set the highest standards of integrity and patient-centered care.

The challenges facing psychiatry today, ranging from the global burden of trauma and mental illness to inequities in access to care, require visionary leadership grounded in scholarship, advocacy, and collaboration. My career reflects a commitment to these values, and I am prepared to dedicate my energy and expertise to advancing WPA's mission.

I respectfully submit this nomination with the conviction that, together, we can strengthen psychiatry's role in improving mental health and well-being across the world.

Lukoye Atwoli

Professor of Psychiatry

Dean, Medical College East Africa

Deputy Director, Brain and Mind Institute

The Aga Khan University