



**UNIVERSITY
OF GHANA**

CITATION

DR. JOHN NKENGASONG
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, HONORIS CAUSA



Dr. John Nkengasong, as an accomplished Public Health and Laboratory Medicine Scientist, you have established yourself as an outstanding global leader in the field. With over 30 years' experience at the forefront of the fight for global disease control and prevention, you have provided strategic and visionary leadership and advice on preparedness to control infectious diseases across the globe. In doing this, you have fostered strategic partnerships and led in devising strategies to deal with the inequalities that have resulted in a polarised world.

Your work as an innovator in the field of HIV is well established and recognised world-wide. You established one of the most sophisticated HIV laboratories in Sub-Saharan Africa, which was one of the first laboratories in Africa to culture the HIV virus and to map out its genetic subtypes extensively, providing the impetus for characterizing antimicrobial resistance to HIV treatment and developing strategies for reducing mother-to-infant transmission of HIV.

As a leading Laboratory and Biomedical Research Scientist, your contributions and leadership in advancing global laboratory services and research has been outstanding. Over the years, you have worked to integrate Regional Surveillance and Laboratory Networks and helped to establish the African Society for Laboratory Medicine to support African researchers in developing their laboratory medicine capabilities and ability to care for patients. Through your Public Health protection, epidemiology and laboratory research, you have developed innovative laboratory science investigations for the advancement of Laboratory Medicine in supporting and building sustainable, quality clinical diagnostic services. All these have culminated in the naming of several laboratories after you, and the publication of over 260 peer-reviewed articles and books that have shaped and guided global health policy and initiatives.

As the founding Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), you led the agency to prominence as a highly trusted institution during the COVID-19 pandemic, working to coordinate the continent's response. You achieved this by sending COVID-19 diagnostic tools to countries where there were none, setting up a network of laboratories to expand genomic sequencing, creating a pooled platform for the procurement of vaccines and deploying community health workers and other responders to countries in need.

Your sterling leadership, work and achievements have won you numerous international awards and earned you several accolades, including making Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of 2021, and being named African Public Health Champion and "Innovation Hero".

Dr. John Nkengasong, in recognition of your dedication to public health globally and in Africa in particular, your contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 and the field of Laboratory Medicine, and for delivering the insightful and thought-provoking 2022 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lecture on the theme "Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic: Africa at a Crossroad?", the University of Ghana is pleased to confer on you the degree of **Doctor of Science, *honoris causa***.

Ayekoo!

Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse
Chancellor

Justice Sophia A.B. Akuffo (Rtd.)
Chairman of Council

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor

Date: March 18, 2022