

Profile of Professor George E Armah

Professor George Armah holds an MSc in Physics from the University of Ghana, Legon, and a PhD in Biophysical Chemistry and Immunology from Osaka University, Japan, and is a foundation and active member of the African Rotavirus Network and Head of the West African WHO Regional Rotavirus Reference Laboratory in Accra, Ghana. He also holds an adjunct position as a senior lecturer in the Clinical Trials programme at the School of Public Health of the University of Ghana. His interest is in enteric viral diarrheal disease in African children and his research focus has been centered on burden and etiology of diarrhoeal disease, epidemiology of rotaviruses and their evolution in the African setting. He is also interested in understanding the observed low efficacy of rotavirus vaccines in developing countries. He has over the past two decades been involved in programmes aimed at providing answers to these questions. He has been involved in several clinical trials on immunogenicity, safety and efficacy trials of rotavirus vaccines in Africa. His work on the multi country clinical field trial on the safety and efficacy on the RotaTeq vaccine in Africa was critical in the informed decision to recommend the introduction of rotavirus vaccines in the developing countries. He continues to be involved in efforts to monitor the impact and safety of rotavirus vaccines as they are introduced in African countries.

Prof. Armah is a member of the African group of vaccinologists, scientists and public Health promoters, who seek to reduce the long wait for new vaccine introductions in the immunization programmes in Africa by advocating for the introduction of available new lifesaving vaccines to African children, and also promoting equity in accessibility of these vaccines. In recognition for these efforts, he was declared a “Vaccine Hero” by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He is a foundation member of the International Rotavirus Organization of Technical Advisers (ROTA) council. He presently chairs the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group of Ghana (NITAG) and sits on a number of International Scientific Advisory Boards.

