2010 ANOG Medical & Service Award Recipient

Dr. Christian Mbamalu Ezekwueche

Born in 1942 in Abagana, Anambra State, Dr. Ezekwueche attended St. Peter's Primary School in Abagana and All Saint's Primary School in Egbu (Old Owerri Province). He later attended Iheme Memorial Grammar School in Aro Ndizuogu followed by Higher School at the Hope Waddell Institute in Calabar. In 1963, he matriculated at the University of Ibadan/University College Hospital where his training was interrupted by the Nigeria/Biafra Civil War where he served as a Captain in the Medical Unit of the Biafran army. After finishing at Ibadan in 1971, he interned at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital in Enugu before moving to the US in 1973 upon attaining a surgical internship at Freedman's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C.). Between 1974 and 1979, Dr. Ezekwueche continued his medical training in Brooklyn, New York, where he completed his surgical residency at Brooklyn Cumberland Hospital and his OB/GYN Residency at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. From 1979 to 1983, he served as an attending Physician at the Columbia Hospital for Women; a clinical instructor at George Washington University Teaching Hospital; and a OB/GYN practitioner as a member of the Group Health Association in Washington, D.C. In 1983, he moved his family to Macon, Georgia, where he established a very successful OB/GYN practice. He also served as an assistant clinical professor in OB/GYN at the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA. He retired from practice and teaching in 2008.

Dr. Ezekwueche has been a tireless leader, supporter, and fundraiser in several Nigerian and American communities. He founded the Abagana Welfare Union, Georgia (AWUAGA) in 1991 and led the building of the new Girls Science School in Abagana. He later went on to found the Abagana Welfare Union in the Americas (AWUA) in 1995. He also founded the Nigerian Organization of Middle Georgia which hosted the first Nigerian Heritage Festival in 1994 in Macon. He was a founding member of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) through which he served on the board and participated in medical missions in Nigeria, and was a founding member of 100 IGBOS. He is also a member of Igbo Union, Atlanta. Dr Ezekwueche has personally contributed to several capital raising campaigns including the new Tubman African American Museum and the Ronald McDonald House in Macon, the Igbo Union building in Atlanta, and the Girls Science School and St. Peter's Anglican Church Parish Hall in Abagana. A staunch believer in the power of education, he established scholarship programs at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Boy's Secondary School (NASA) and the Abagana Girls School. Dr. Ezekwueche along with his wife established the Christian & Chi Ezekwueche Foundation to support advancement in medicine and support the arts.

In addition to his work in the community, Dr. Ezekwueche was also very active professionally, having served on the board of the Central Georgia Health Systems and was voted President Elect of the Bibb County Medical Society before retiring in 2008. He served as a member of the Credentialing Committee and Chair of the OBGYN Department at the Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG). He is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (FACOG) and of the International College of Surgeons (FICS) and a member of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists.

For his significant and sustained contributions to all his communities, Dr. Ezekwueche has been widely recognized. He was titled *Ichie Ugochinyelu* in 1994 for continued leadership and service in Abagana. He was the recipient of the Outstanding Obstetrics & Gynecology Faculty Award in recognition of student and resident education at the Mercer University School of Medicine and the Medical Center of Central Georgia. He has also been recognized by the Nigerian Consulate for community service; the Nigerian Organization in Middle Georgia for leadership; the AWUA and AWUA-GA Award for vision, leadership and service; Igbo Union, Atlanta for philanthropy; and the Callaway Society Award for service and philanthropy.

Dr. Christian Ezekwueche is married to a very supportive wife, Chiebonam (Iyom Odiukonamba), a father of five wonderful children, and a grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren. He is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Macon, GA, and St. Augustine's Church in Abagana.