



Professor Rose Gana Fomban Professor Leke

A Cameroonian malariologist and Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Parasitology at the University of Yaounde I.

Professor Leke's research has focused on pregnancy-associated malaria, in which even women who have developed immunity to the severest forms of malaria can be stricken by a life-threatening form of the disease, with implications on the health of the baby. She established a long-time collaboration with Diana Taylor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to investigate this condition. Together they published a study in 2018 that indicated that increased numbers of parasites during pregnancy-associated malaria actually conferred better protection in the baby to future malaria infections, and suggested that a less-severe pregnancy-associated infection may predispose the child towards greater incidence of disease

Professor Leke has been a senior member of many organizations in the fields of immunology and malaria. Professor Leke established the Cameroon Coalition Against Malaria. She was president of the Federation of African Immunological Societies between 1997 and 2001, as well as a council member of the International Union of Immunological Societies from 1998 to 2004. In 2002 a presidential decree made Professor Leke the Chair of the Board of Directors of Cameroon's National Medical Research Institute. Professor Leke won the 2011 Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award for Women, from the African Union, alongside five other recipients. Professor Leke retired from senior university positions in 2013, when she was head of the Department of Medicine and Director of the Biotechnology Centre at the University of Yaoundé I. In 2015 Professor Leke was elected an honorary international fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and established the Higher Institute for Growth in Health Research for

Women Consortium to mentor women scientists in Cameroon. During the 2018 World Health Assembly, Geneva, she was honoured as a Heroine of Health by Women in Global Health and General Electric Healthcare, and in 2019 she was ceremonially named Queen Mother of the Cameroon Medical Community, by the Cameroon Medical Council. She is on the World Health Organization Malaria Policy Advisory Committee and the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of Polio Eradication.