

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Okeoma O. Mmeje, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, and assistant professor of health behavior and health education, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, and associate professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, Department of Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

M.P.H.	2006	University of Michigan
M.D.	2006	University of Michigan
B.S.	2000	University of California

Professional Record:

2017-Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior Health Education, University of Michigan
2014-Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2013-2014	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2010-2013	Clinical Instructor, University of California, San Francisco

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Mmeje has a strong interest in teaching medical students and residents engaging them in clinical care and research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Mmeje serves as an instructor and provides lectures to medical students, residents, and fellows. She also gives lectures for graduate student courses at the School of Public Health on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and the treatment and prevention of complex cases of recurrent vaginitis. Nationally, she has presented Grand Rounds for the University of California, San Francisco, Yale University, and Mount Sinai Hospital on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and has been an invited speaker for the American College of Nurse Midwives, the National School-based Health Center convention, the Infectious Diseases Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Michigan HIV/STD meeting, and the Association of American Medical Colleges. She has successfully mentored numerous junior faculty, public health providers, undergraduate, and medical students, supporting their educational and career development. She is instrumental in educating others on reproductive infectious diseases and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion principles in her role as a physician-researcher.

Research: Dr. Mmeje has dedicated her career to treating and preventing STIs with evidence-based and cost-effective interventions and leading diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She has been successful in securing funding from the National Institutes of Health as a co-principal investigator on an R01, and a co-investigator on two additional grants (an R01 and R25). Dr. Mmeje has authored 34 peer-reviewed publications and has published two book chapters. She has an impressive breadth of work with local and national recognition through invited lectures, and service in professional societies.

Dr. Mmeje has worked collaboratively with other clinicians to develop and implement expedited partner therapy (EPT) protocol after EPT was enacted in Michigan in 2015. She partnered with the EPIC team to build an EPT smart set, pilot it, and evaluate it, which has led to clinical research evaluating the perspectives of youth aged 15-24 and clinicians and their use of EPT as an STI treatment option. Her research contributions have been transformational. Institutions have altered their standard of care after her publication that demonstrated the safety of insemination with washed semen for HIV discordant couples and her recommendations for discordant prenatal syphilis tests remain widely quoted and utilized.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Pinto RM, Berringer KR, Melendez R, Mmeje O, “Improving PrEP Implementation Through Multilevel Interventions: A Synthesis of the Literature,” *AIDS Behav* 22(11): 3681-3691, 2018. PM29872999
- Mmeje O, Njoroge B, Akama E, Leddy A, Breitnauer B, Darbes L, Brown J, “Perspectives of healthcare providers and HIV-affected individuals and couples during the development of a Safer Conception Counseling Toolkit in Kenya: stigma, fears, and recommendations for the delivery of services,” *AIDS Care* 28(6): 750-7, 2016. PM26960581/PMC4942319
- Zafer M, Horvath H, Mmeje O, van der Poel S, Semprini AE, Rutherford G, Brown J, “Effectiveness of semen washing to prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) transmission and assist pregnancy in HIV-discordant couples: a systematic review and meta analysis,” *Fertil Steril* 105(3): 645-55.e2, 2016. PM26688556/PMC4779710
- Mmeje O, Chow JM, Davidson L, Shieh J, Schapiro JM, Park IU, “Discordant Syphilis Immunoassays in Pregnancy: Perinatal Outcomes and Implications for Clinical Management,” *Clin Infect Dis* 61(7): 1049-1053, 2015. PM26063719
- Mmeje O, Njoroge B, Cohen CR, Temmerman M, Vermund SH, van der Poel S, “Achieving Pregnancy Safely in HIV-Affected Individuals and Couples: An Important Strategy to Eliminate HIV Transmission From Mother-To-Child and Between Sexual Partners,” *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 70(4): e155-159, 2015. PM26334740

Service: Dr. Mmeje has an excellent record of service for her departments, the university, and the greater scientific community. She maintains an active clinical practice focused on treating and preventing STIs and complex cases of recurrent vaginitis. She has built a

referral-based practice and is a member of the Division of Gynecology. She has served as the department lead for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2016-2021. In 2021, as a result of her leadership and passion, she was appointed as an associate chair for DEI in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and in 2022, she was appointed as the associate chief clinical officer for health equity for the University of Michigan Medical Group. Dr. Mmeje serves as a council member for the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a member of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America National Medical Committee. She is also a member of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Clinical Consensus Gynecology Committee.

Dr. Mmeje's leadership work in diversity, equity and inclusion include developing an Inclusive Curricular Guide, a Recruitment and Hiring Toolkit for Faculty and Staff, and an Inclusive Language Guide that has resulted in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology becoming a model for other academic departments within and outside the University of Michigan. She is an ad hoc reviewer for six prominent journals and serves on the Editorial Board of *PLOS ONE*. She was the recipient of the Passion for Public Health Award from the Department of Health and Human Services in 2018 and was nominated for Michigan Medicine Chief of Staff in 2021.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Mmeje has maintained a moderately high level of scholarly and research productivity while in rank as assistant professor. This includes multiple invited national presentations and consultancies, poster and platform presentations at national meetings, and 30 peer-reviewed papers since joining the University of Michigan faculty. Eleven of these peer-reviewed publications were as first author, and an additional nine as senior author."

Reviewer B: "I consider Dr. Mmeje to be competitive with others within her group of faculty who are being considered for Associate Professor...Her work is particularly challenging since it is international in nature and is conducted in rural settings where limited resources exist. Thus, when considering the context of her work, Dr. Mmeje has been very productive. She has been invited to speak at conferences nationally, including conferences which are not within the medical domain, such as the National School-Based Health Care Convention in 2018. Such presentations is evidence of her impact beyond her discipline."


Reviewer C: "...Dr. Mmeje set the scientific agenda and convened relevant stakeholders to move safer conception for HIV-affected people from fringe to a mainstream component of evidence-based HIV care and prevention. Dr. Mmeje also contributed to this work with her pivotal research on acceptability and feasibility of self-insemination for serodifferent couples in which the woman lives with HIV and through her contributions to a meta-analysis regarding the effectiveness of semen processing for sero-different couples seeking pregnancy when the male partner lives with HIV."

Reviewer D: “Dr. Mmeje’s research is innovative, interdisciplinary, and translational with international impact and advances health equity [sic] in reproductive age persons who are at higher risk for HIV and STI transmission. Dr. Mmeje's research has provided new directions for improving outcomes for HIV discordant couples by implementing timed vaginal insertion and washed semen for improved reproductive and perinatal health.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Mmeje is clearly an outstanding educator and has mentored numerous undergraduate students, medical students, graduate students, and a junior faculty member. She has been recognized with a number of awards including a Passion for Public Health Award (2018); University of Michigan Making a Difference Award (2016 & 2018); and she was nominated for Chief of Staff, Michigan Medicine in 2021.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Mmeje is an exceptional physician-scientist and has made major contributions to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is leading cutting-edge research on infectious diseases in women’s health and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. We are pleased to recommend Okeoma O. Mmeje, M.D., M.P.H. for promotion to associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, and associate professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, Department of Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.



Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, Medical School



F. Dubois Bowman, PhD
Dean, School of Public Health

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