

Anafi Mataka

Anafi Mataka is a Portfolio Lead at the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). He is a diagnostics expert with 17 years of experience ranging from the front line of health service delivery as a laboratory scientist to managing national, regional, and international laboratory strengthening programs in limited-resource settings. Anafi provides leadership to several work streams that include accelerated adoption and implementation of technologies including SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid diagnostic testing and community testing for COVID-19, the building laboratory and epidemiology workforce capacity for Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa and Asia; all ASLM education activities implemented under the ASLM academy. He actively works within the flagship Laboratory Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP)'s, fostering knowledge exchange, co-creation, and joint learning among country teams across the continent and global experts. Before joining ASLM, Anafi worked for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation as a country implementation manager introducing a new point-of-care diagnostics for HIV Early Infant Diagnosis in Lesotho. In addition, he has served in government ministries of health of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Eswatini.

Anoke Uzoamaka Rebecca

Anoke Uzoamaka Rebecca is a wife and mother with over 20 years of experience as a Medical Laboratory Scientist. This career has traipsed the laboratory era of routine, specialization, and public health focus in our lean environment. She has participated in and championed key firsts.

Establishing the first isolation lab at the National Hospital Abuja during the SARS-Cov 2 pandemic. A routine lab at the Nation's only National Trauma Centre domiciled at National Hospital Abuja. The Nation's first and still functioning apheresis center. Participation in her coagulation lab at the UK-IEQAS EQA program, the 1st in Nigeria. A few of the leadership, technical, and training capacities developed include. A trainer of trainers in ISO 15189 and SLAMTan (COHORT 2). Trainer of trainees- Laboratory Diagnosis of bleeding disorders National Assessor- NINAS. Currently, she serves as Author/Co-contributor of chapter 4: Laboratory Diagnosis in "Guidelines for Bleeding Disorder Management in Nigeria: 2nd Edition- HFN, Member MESAC, and Haemophilia Foundation of Nigeria, Member World Haemophilia Federation, Member AFMLSN and AMLSN Fellow West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Deputy Director and HOU Department of Haematology National Hospital Abuja

Aliu Israel

Dr. Aliu Israel is a Healthcare Management and Quality Management Consultant, with over 13 years of experience in the area of Public healthcare programs, Laboratory Management, Quality Management, Business Development, Supply chain and Logistics, Operations, Molecular diagnosis, Disease surveillance, Entrepreneurship, Project management, and Research development. He is the National Laboratory Manager of Clina-Lancet Laboratories Nigeria, A member of Cerba Lancet, Cerba Healthcare, and the founder of PEGISOL Consultancy. He has a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science (BMLS), a master's degree in public health, a Master's certificate in Business Management from London Graduate School, United Kingdom, and a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) specializing in healthcare management. He has consulted for over 50 Healthcare organizations in 36 states in Nigeria, the UK, the USA, and other African countries. He is a trained ISO 15189, 17025. 13485, 9001 specialist, Quality Auditor, and process improvement specialist, mentored organizations to achieve ISO Accreditation for different healthcare organizations, consulted for Global funds projects, NGOs, and Government agencies, with several publications and articles in local and foreign journals, He has been involved in the development of 4 National documents on Health and participated in four national surveys in Nigeria. He is a mentor, passionate about cooperation and Personal capacity development. His Managerial and capacity development skills are helping organizations and individuals to scale up their profitability, He is a seasoned Healthcare professional, Speaker, and coach well sort for with a clear passion for capacity building, leadership, management, personal and cooperate growth.

Arthur Bodurie Calvin GARBBER

Arthur B. C. GARBBER works at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (Molecular Lead), College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences part-time lecturer). He has a Master's in Molecular Medicine, BSC Hons in Medical Laboratory Sciences.

Calvin N. OyongAkom

Calvin N. OyongAkom holds a BSc in Nursing from the University of Buea, Cameroon. An MPH holder in Community Medicine from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, and currently a Ph.D. candidate in Epidemiology at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. His Ph.D. thesis is on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and he would like to share the knowledge with other participants of the conference. He has also undergone a lot of training in microbiology laboratory practices. Mr. OyongAkom has been a Laboratory Quality Assurance Mentor at Global Health Systems Solutions, mentoring 10 laboratories for Quality assurance, particularly for HIV testing and related tests. Presently, he serves as the Program Analyst at the same institution.

Chinelo Ebruke

Mrs. Chinelo Ebruke, a trained Molecular Microbiologist, currently serves as Project Manager for the German Development Bank (KfW)-funded project “Strengthening Epidemiological Services and Health Systems in the ECOWAS Region” (PROALAB), which is domiciled at the West African Health Organization (WAHO). The project focuses on the reinforcement of laboratory infrastructure at national and regional levels of health systems in West Africa and the strengthening of cross-cutting competencies including Quality Management System, Transport of Biomedical samples, Biorisk Management, and Laboratory Information Management System. Prior to her current role, Mrs. Ebruke worked at the Medical Research Council Unit (MRC), The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as the Laboratory Manager of the Molecular Biology Laboratory under the Bacterial Diseases/Vaccinology theme. Whilst at the MRC Unit, she coordinated the smooth running of several simultaneously running projects in the molecular microbiology lab including the Global Enteric Multi-Centre Study (GEMS), Vaccine Impact on Diarrhea in Africa (VIDA) study, and various nasopharyngeal carriage and Disease surveillance studies. As a result of these studies, she has authored and co-authored several published papers and many of these studies have informed key public health decisions including the introduction of vaccines in The Gambia, such as the pneumococcal conjugate and rotavirus vaccines.

She currently coordinates and supervises the implementation of Quality Management Systems across laboratories within the ECOWAS Regional Reference Laboratory Network and other national reference laboratories within the PROALAB Network (25 laboratories across 9 countries in West Africa).

Denis Zofou

Dr. Denis Zofou is a Pharmacologist, Research Group Lead, and AMR / One Health expert, with over ten-year experience with the University of Buea (Cameroon). He is the coordinator of the Master's Degree Program in Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance at the University of Buea.

Dr. Denis Zofou has substantially contributed to several One Health Workforce Planning and Development activities, and co-led the development of an innovative One Health Workforce Development Prototype Model, and One Health-oriented training curricula and in-service programs, notably in Wildlife Health, Veterinary Field Epidemiology and Public Health, Pharmacy, and AMR Stewardship. He has contributed to strengthening the capacities of local universities in disease Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) using an e-learning approach. At the University of Buea, Dr. Zofou's research focuses mainly on AMR, Disease diagnostics, and drug discovery from African pharmacopeia, targeting major tropical infectious diseases (malaria, typhoid, etc.), as well as HIV and some non-communicable diseases like diabetes. At the Medical Research & Applied Biochemistry Laboratory (MRABL) of the University of Buea, Dr. Zofou and collaborators have established a Drug Screening and Quality Control Platform including *in vitro* and *in vivo* systems.

Denis has co-authored over 70 scientific papers and co-supervised over 20 postgraduate students (PhD and MSc). Dr. Zofou is the laureate of the 2014 TWAS-ROSSA Young Scientist Prize in Applied Sciences by the World Academy of Sciences, Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa. He is an Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS, Nairobi).

Edwin Shumba

Edwin Shumba is a Medical Laboratory Scientist trained at the University of Zimbabwe. Edwin holds an honors degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences and a Master's in Business Management. Edwin has more than 18 years of experience working on Laboratory Strengthening Initiatives in Africa. Edwin served as the AMR Program Manager at ASLM successfully coordinating the Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (MAAP) project across 14 countries in Africa. Edwin currently serves as a Portfolio Lead at ASLM leading the Pathogen Genomics program.

Emmanuel Akhaumere

Dr. Emmanuel Akhaumere is a Deputy Director in the Department of Chemical Pathology at National Hospital Abuja. He is an Instrumentation and diagnostics expert with over 25 years of experience ranging from the front line of health service delivery as a Medical laboratory scientist to teaching and mentoring Scientists in quality management systems, equipment selection, calibration, validation, and laboratory strengthening programs. Dr. Emmanuel provided leadership to several work streams that included setting up ultramodern diagnostic laboratories under the North East Zone Arid Development program (NEZADP) funded by European Union. Dr. Emmanuel Akhaumere has a flair for Instrumentation and Medical Laboratory diagnostic equipment. He indeed is a consultant in this field to many diagnostic and healthcare organizations.

Emmanuel Khoda Nkumah

Emmanuel Khoda Nkumah is a thoroughbred Medical Laboratory Scientist with an enormous passion for developing and mentoring young minds toward reaching their potential. With over 9 years of experience in delivering efficient laboratory service, he has worked in the private sector, and NGO and is currently a senior Medical Laboratory Scientist with the Federal NeuroPsychiatric Hospital, Calabar. He holds a bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Science, a certificate in Public Health Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and an Executive Masters's certificate in Project Management. He also holds a certificate in Leadership and Management in Health from the University of Washington. He exemplifies a true leader who leads with a drive to create positive change. He thrives competently in difficult situations and holds a strong mantra that says 'Just give me that task, and I'll get it done. He has held several leadership positions and is currently, the National President of the Young Medical Laboratory Scientists Forum where he has brought his experience to bear with a mission to develop the capacities of Young Medical Laboratory Scientists to contribute meaningfully to the profession and by extension, the society. He is the founder of Rock Youth Initiative (RYI), a foundation that has helped discover and develop young talents through skill acquisition and empowerment programs.

Emmanuel Ojo

Emmanuel Ojo is an expert in Laboratory Quality Management Systems. He is a Medical Laboratory Scientist by training with 18 years of post-graduation experience and over 13 years of experience in the provision of technical assistance to public health laboratories in the HIV / AIDS programme in the South-West, South-South, South East and North-Central parts of Nigeria. Mr. Emmanuel Ojo is a certified Laboratory Mentor, Laboratory Assessor, and Master Trainer of Strengthening Laboratory Management towards Accreditation – SLMTA. His current portfolio as a Senior Technical Advisor, Quality Management System is focused on providing Technical assistance and mentorship to selected Laboratories preparing for National and International Accreditation. He has worked on projects funded by the USAID, CDC, and Global Funds and has collaborated extensively with the Government of Nigeria through agencies like the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in designing Medical Laboratory standards and regulations, capacity building for Laboratory Assessors and development of quality assurance policies and Accreditation tools. Prior to joining developmental works. Mr. Ojo was the pioneer Laboratory Manager of the Abuja branch of Path Care Nigeria (now SYNLAB) Laboratory- an ISO 15189 /SANAS Accredited Medical Laboratory where he provided a leadership role in the achievement and maintenance of Accreditation standards. Mr. Ojo has contributed to science with 8 journal articles published as author/co-author as well as over 15 abstracts presented at International conferences.

Foster Ansong-Bridjan

Dr. Foster Ansong-Bridjan is a highly effective Disaster and Operations Management Professional, who emphasizes innovation and creativity in solving complex problems. Energetic and resource-focused with success in developing and leading diverse teams to achieve outstanding results. Possesses exceptional communication, organizational, and presentation capabilities. Dr. Foster Ansong-Bridjan has acquired serious skills over the years in Disaster Preparedness and Management, Logistics Management, Supply Chain Management, Project Management, Procurement Planning, Operations Management, Transport Management, Basic Life Support, EMS Communications and Documentation, Ambulance Operations, and Fire Safety. He holds a Doctor's Degree in Disaster Management, specializing in Disaster Preparedness and Management from the

Atlantic Int. University. He currently serves as the Director, Operations in the Ag/Department at the National Ambulance Service, Ghana. He's a member of serious professional bodies namely: the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – Ghana Chartered Member (CMILT), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) – Member, and Presbyterian Church of Ghana Catechists and Caretakers Conference. He also serves as a member of various boards and committees within Ghana. Dr. Foster Ansong-Bridjan has done a series of presentations. Of recent, on March 31, 2023, he presented on the Leveraging on Technology to improve the operations of The National Ambulance Service at the Biennial Conference, College of Basic Applied Science, University of Ghana, Legon.

Idris A. Saliu

Idris A. Saliu is the Country Director for Safe Blood for Africa (SBFAF) in Nigeria. The foundation provides Technical Assistance to the National Blood Service in Nigeria from 2004 to 2016. He represented the Foundation on the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Committee for six (6) years. Idris has worked in different institutions and in different capacities in research; teaching hospitals and universities in Nigeria as a medical laboratory scientist. He has also worked with the Crown Agents as the Training Programme Coordinator in the implementation of the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) intervention project titled: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building in HIV Testing for Blood Safety in Nigeria from 1999 to 2002. Idris enjoys teaching Blood Transfusion Science. He has served the Medical Laboratory Council of Nigeria in different capacities; as a Board Member, Examiner, Assessor, invited lecturer at the Council's special events, and a facilitator in her Continuous Professional Development. Idris was a member of the governing Board of the Medical Laboratory Council of Nigeria. He is a co-author of WHO Bio-Safety Guidelines for Laboratory Staff and Other Health Workers in Contact with Dangerous Pathogens with Emphasis on HIV and has over 20 publications in several Journals. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists in Nigeria. Idris is a Fellow of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (*FIMLT/FMLSCN*) and also a Fellow of the West Africa Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Blood Transfusion Science Faculty. (*FWPCMLS*) He is a member of the following professional and allied organizations /societies; Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria, Nigeria Society for Hematology and Blood Transfusion (And editorial Adviser Nigerian Journal of Hematology), Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (*AfSBT*)

Served on the Education Committee from 2012 to 2016, Africa Biological Safety Association (ABSA), British Transfusion Society (BBTS), International Plasma Fractionation Association (IPFA), International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT) American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and International Society for Laboratory Hematology (ISLH)

James T. Duworko

Dr. James T. Duworko is a dedicated senior public health physician with more than 28 years of progressively greater leadership and management responsibilities as a public health specialist, leader, manager, and policy advisor in diverse sectors of the health system in Liberia and Uganda. He has expertise and experience in health systems design, research, family planning, and reproductive health; maternal, newborn, and child health; epidemiology; and communicable disease prevention and control, specifically HIV and malaria. He has managed large teams of professionals with diverse backgrounds and large projects at the donor level. He worked as a consultant for PATH/TyVAC and assisted Liberia's Ministry of Health to prepare its application to GAVI for the inclusion of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine in its Expanded Immunization Program.

Dr. Duworko is currently the Director of the Partnership for Research on Vaccines and Infectious Diseases in Liberia (PREVAIL) and is responsible for overall executive management and senior direction of the day-to-day operations of this complex partnership. He does this while functioning as a scientific advisor to PREVAIL studies and providing leadership for the governance structure to implement the overall strategic vision for PREVAIL. Currently ongoing are studies in Ebola, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Lassa Fever, and SARS-CoV-2.

Dr. Duworko is married, the father of two adult daughters, and an incredibly happy grandfather!

Jane-Francis Tatak Kihla Akoachere

Dr. Jane-Francis Tatak Kihla Akoachere is a Professor of Microbiology at the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Science, University of Buea, Cameroon. She holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Benin, Nigeria, and has been teaching in the Microbiology Degree Programme of the University of Buea since she joined the academia in 1998. Her research interest is

in Environmental and Public Health Microbiology with a special interest on Antimicrobial resistance. Prof. Akoachere has also published on the role of the environment in the spread of infectious diseases in Cameroon. She has mentored several MSc and Ph.D. students.

Professor Akoachere has held several administrative and academic positions, including the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Country Liaison for Cameroon, ASM Ambassador to Cameroon, Secretary General of the Cameroon Society for Toxicological Sciences, Consultant in curriculum design on Antimicrobial Resistance for One Health Central Africa (OHCEA), and Coordinator for Microbiology Programme at the University of Buea. Presently, she is a member of the Board of Directors of Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS), a member of the Scientific Committee of the D-SINE Project, Vice-Dean in charge of Programmes and Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Science, University of Buea, and the Vice-President of Cameroon Society for Microbiology.

Joseph Bonney

Dr. Joseph Bonney (MBChB, MPH, MSc DM, and MGCPs) is an Emergency Medicine Specialist at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital with a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) and Disaster Medicine (MSc DM). Dr. Bonney is also a research fellow at the Global Health and Infectious Diseases Research Group, Kumasi Collaborative Center for Research in Tropical Medicine, and plays leading roles in Global Health Research Projects including the implementation of the Ghana Critical Care registry, RECOVERY Trial Ghana, COVID-19 Vaccine trials, ANTICOV Clinical Trial for COVID-19, and Pandemic preparedness among others. Dr. Bonney has led Emergency Medicine development as a founding member of the Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana, a member of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine- WHO Task Force, President of the African Federation of Emergency Medicine (AFEM), member of The Africa Coalition for Epidemic Research Response and Training (ALERRT) and a Board Member World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM).

Joseph Ahaneku

Professor Joseph Ahaneku obtained his Ph.D. in Chemical Pathology from the University of Ibadan at the age of 28, he was subsequently employed at the then-Anambra State University of Technology in the old Anambra State (now Nnamdi

Azikiwe University, Awka) as the Foundation, first and only Lecturer 1 Academic Staff of the Department of Chemical Pathology, College of Health Sciences, Nnewi Campus. In 1992, he was appointed Honorary Consultant Chemical Pathologist at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi, Anambra State. In 1994, the then Dr Ahaneku, won the Science and Technology Agency (STA) of Japan fellowship and grant to work at the National Institute of Health, Tokyo, being the first Nigerian and the only African that year, to secure the highly competitive STA fellowship and grant. At the end of the 18-month stay in Tokyo, Dr. Ahaneku emerged as the STA foreign Researcher of the year under the Research Development Cooperation (RDC) of Japan, making Ahaneku, the first African and first black Scientist to receive that STA and RDC of Japan honor. The then Dr. Ahaneku, rose through the ranks to become a Professor of Chemical Pathology on his 35th birthday 1st October, 1997.

Prof Ahaneku has worked as a Consultant for UNESCO projects. He has held several administrative positions from faculty to University management levels. He was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka in 2010 – 2012 and 2012 – 2014 (two terms). He was also the Director Confucius Institute at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, from 2010 to 2014 and later became the Chairman of the Board of Confucius Institute Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Xiamen University, China partnership under Hanban, China for five years. Prof Ahaneku served as the 5th substantive Vice-Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State (2014 to 2019). He was elected the Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVC) from Sept 2017 to June 2019; and the Chairman, Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) from October 2018 to June 2019.

Professor Ahaneku is a member of the Executive Council of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Chairman, of the Basic Clinical Science section of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria, and Vice-President of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria. Prof Ahaneku was a Member of the last Board of Directors, Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN). He is the current National President, Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria and a visiting Scholar with the National Universities Commission, Abuja, Nigeria.

Prof Ahaneku is happily married to Professor, Gladys Ifesinachi Ahaneku, and they are blessed with four boys and a daughter.

Kehinde Abraham Ojifinni

Dr. Kehinde Abraham Ojifinni is a passionate and optimistic Emergency Medicine specialist. He has been working at this 'edge of chaos' for over fourteen years. He began his career in emergency medicine at the nation's foremost academic hospital, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Driven by a passion for thriving emergency care in the country, he went on to obtain a fellowship from the College of Emergency Medicine, South Africa, and a Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

As a consultant Emergency Physician in the nation's nascent emergency medicine programme, Dr. Ojifinni has a growing passion for EM development, Disaster Medicine, clinical governance, capacity building, advocacy, education, and training. His clinical areas of interest include trauma, cardio-respiratory emergencies, critical care medicine as well as point of care ultrasonography as well as development of emergency department information systems.

He has contributed to the curriculum development and instruction materials for many local emergency medicine-related courses such as the Ibadan Basic Trauma Course, Introduction to Principles of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Ultrasound Courses, Emergency Airway Management, and Basic Emergency ECGs. He is currently the Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria, and a foundation fellow of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine at the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

In his quest for passive education of younger doctors in the principles of emergency medicine and public enlightenment, he has diverted his literary skills into writing small pieces of his ER experience on social media. The positive responses from the readers (doctors and non-doctors alike) have birthed the SALInE (Save-A-Life-In-Emergency) Project through which interested persons and groups have contributed to emergency care through care-funding and/or acquisition of much-needed emergency medical equipment.

Lawrena Chinyere Okoro

Dr. Lawrena Chinyere Okoro is the Deputy Registrar, Mentoring, Inspection and Molecular Laboratories, Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) with over 27 years post qualification experience. She holds a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology/Parasitology and a 2nd M.Sc. in Total Quality Management and organizational excellence. She was the Pioneer Director of Accreditation in MLSCN.

She has worked with the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Family Health International (now FHI 360), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Nigerian National Accreditation System (NiNAS) where she worked on routine diagnostic laboratory tests, HIV/AIDS laboratory management, laboratory diagnosis of Tuberculosis and Drug-resistant Tuberculosis, provision of Proficiency Testing (PT) Scheme, In-Vitro Diagnostics regulation, and Medical Laboratory inspections, Certification and Accreditation. She was the technical lead for the establishment of the MLSCN Public Health In-Vitro Diagnostic Laboratory. She also pioneered the implementation of international accreditation /certification schemes in Nigeria as the first Director of Accreditation in Nigeria's National Accreditation System (NiNAS). She is an assessor for ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021, and ISO/IEC 17024. She is the immediate past Chair of the Marketing and Communication Committee of the Africa Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and the National President of the Association of Female Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria.

She is currently leading MLSCN efforts to drive the implementation of QMS in all the medical laboratories in Nigeria.

Mapayi, Funmilola Aduke

Mapayi, Funmilola Aduke is the founder and currently the Managing Director of Total Health Care Diagnostics Limited. Funmi graduated from the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ibadan more than two decades ago with a B.Sc. degree. She also holds an M.Sc. from the Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Ibadan, and is rounding off her Ph.D. program at the same Department. She is an associate member of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria. Funmi is happily married and blessed with three children.

McPaul I. J. Okoye

McPaul I. J. Okoye is the Branch Chief, Laboratory Branch of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC, Nigeria. He provides overall strategic vision and technical leadership for the CDC Laboratory services delivery and systems strengthening programs in Nigeria. McPaul Okoye is a Medical Laboratory Scientist, with more than 25 years of progressive experience in Public Health Program Management and Medical Laboratory Services Delivery & Systems Strengthening. He provides overall technical directions for CDC's public health

laboratory systems strengthening interventions for the Presidents' Emergency Program on AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program, and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) programs in Nigeria, with a primary focus on HIV and related Diseases, Tuberculosis, Malaria, COVID-19, Mpox, Lassa Fever, and other Priority Diseases of Public Health Importance. McPaul Okoye is a co-chair of the United States Government (USG) Inter-agency Laboratory Technical Working Group. He is also the Laboratory Pillar Lead, of the USG Inter-agency Incident Command Structure (ICS) for COVID-19 and other Disease Outbreak Response

He provides technical leadership for the CDC/Nigeria inter-agency and inter-donor collaboration and partnership for High-Impact Laboratory systems strengthening interventions for public health excellence in Nigeria. Honorary Fellow of the National Biological Safety Association of Nigeria (FNiBSA (Hon))

Prior to joining the US CDC, McPaul Okoye was the Senior Laboratory Program Manager, for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), from 2006 – 2015, and provided overall technical direction and leadership for all USAID-funded HIV Counseling & Testing and laboratory programs. He provided technical direction and laboratory Services delivery & systems strengthening implementation oversight to the largest PEPFAR funded Laboratory Network in West Africa.

McPaul Okoye is a:

Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (FWAPCMLS)

Fellow of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (FMLSCN)

Fellow of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (FAMLSN)

Momoh Gbetuwa

Dr. Momoh Gbetuwa a Ph.D. Biomedical Material and Tissue Engineering Scientists focused on developing skills in a clinical role within healthcare and using training and experience to contribute to research, and hospital management and make a positive impact on health and healthcare. He did my Ph.D. at the Taipei Medical University in Taiwan and was awarded a scholarship for an outstanding international graduate student and was also provided financial support for three

semesters. He was also awarded 1st prize for an oral presentation which was held at 'The 3rd International Symposium on Engineering and Technology 2021' (ISET 2021). Am also working at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation helping in the training of laboratory scientists across the country. He graduated from the Taipei Medical University in Taiwan in 2022 with a Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Material and Tissue Engineering. I did my undergraduate BSc Hons. at King's College London upon completion, He pursued further to do my Master's degree (MSc) at Kingston University London it was at this stage he develop an interest in research in medicine where he started his first employment at the Royal Brompton Hospital as a research scientist.

With the research experience harvested from Royal Brompton Hospital, he developed a deep-rooted interest in research in medicine, health care, and the development of new treatments, and also possesses an in-depth knowledge of mammalian cell culture. Having a strong analytical, methodical, and ability to interpret data to develop and implement projects these experiences were gained at hVIVO better treatments, faster (formerly Retroscreen Virology) in London which have broadened his research skills. At the College of Medicine and Allied Health Science, am the coordinator of Laboratory Science and diagnostics which is solely involved in the training of laboratory scientists and the training of medical students in laboratory rotations. Alongside his research skills, he has been sent for training in other countries. He has very recently, on 17th February completed a training in Biorisk Management in Lagos, Nigeria.

Mounerou Salou

Pr. Mounerou Salou (PharmD, MSc, Ph.D.) is a full professor of medical bacteriology and medical virology at the University of Lomé-Togo. In addition, he is the head of the medical lab at the university teaching hospital Campus of Lomé and he is also the head AMR reference lab in Togo. Prof. Salou has been working in his field for 21 years and has worked on various research topics including bacteria resistance to antibiotics, HIV drug resistance, Rapid Diagnostic Test performance assessment, infectious diseases diagnosis (HIV, HBV, Dengue virus, SARS CoV-2), evaluation of the antimicrobial activity of Togolese medicinal plants. Most recently Pr Salou became a member of the highly esteemed scientific committee against COVID-19 in Togo

Pr Salou is the AMR focal person of Togo and he also belongs to the AMR task force set up by the West African Health Organization (WAHO)

Nirmal Ravi

Dr. Nirmal Ravi is a physician-scientist and healthcare executive working to improve healthcare delivery in developing countries. Trained in biomedical engineering and general medicine, he has been working at the interface of biomedical science, medicine, and public health to bring high-quality healthcare to populations in need. He is currently the chief innovation officer at EHA Clinics- a Joint Commission and ISO-accredited private primary healthcare network in Nigeria. At EHA Clinics, he leads the research and clinical laboratory departments.

Oko Eze

Oko Eze is the molecular diagnostic/product specialist at DCL Laboratory Products Ltd and has worked in the IVD industry for 7 years with experience ranging from sales to application/support services. He is a Laboratory key expert providing training on instrumentation, Laboratory quality audit, Quality management implementations, and supports to Laboratories, ensuring quality outcome and standards.

He was the lead person in the setting of Molecular Laboratories and training across Nigeria in the heat of the Covid-19 pandemic for both private and public laboratories/institutions. His work in DCL Laboratory products Ltd focuses on ensuring Health access, sustainability, and quality improvement in the Laboratory. He is a biosecurity expert; a certified biosafety cabinet Field Accreditation certified by NSF and a certified ISO 17025:2017 lead auditor/implementer.

Oko Eze is a seasoned Medical Laboratory Scientist, he holds a B.MLS degree from the University of Calabar, Calabar, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He currently serves as Manager, Medical/Quality Affairs at DCL Laboratory Products Ltd, Nigeria.

Prince Sodoke Amuzu

Dr. Prince Sodoke Amuzu is a medical laboratory scientist, business consultant, and politician.

Professionally, he is a Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Sciences (WAPCMLS), a member of the Ghana Association of Medical

Laboratory Scientists and the Rutland Institute for Ethics, Clemson University- USA. He obtained his first degree in Medical Laboratory Science from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and an Executive Certificate in Good Corporate Governance from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. Followed by a Master's degree in Business Administration from Central University and then a Doctor of Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University for Development Studies. He has a working experience with ISO 17025 and a Certificate in Internal Quality Auditing for ISO 15189.

He is a past President of the Profession of medical laboratory science in Ghana and a past Chairman of the Council of Allied Health Presidents of the Ghana Federation of Allied Health Professions. He has consulted and worked for many medical laboratories and diagnostics businesses in West Africa including Ghana's largest laboratory business; MDS-Lancet Laboratories Limited, where he was one of the first Directors. Notably in Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, where he was the Managing Consultant for EcoMed Advanced Diagnostics Limited. In 2012, he was appointed a Key Opinion Leader for Becton Dickinson in West Africa, a global medical technology company. He serves as a Faculty Advisor for the Koforidua Technical University since 2017, a Part-time Lecturer at the University for Development Studies, and a member of the Technical Review Committee for the National Health Laboratory Policies in 2016 for the Ministry of Health. Dr. Amuzu was a member of expert committees of the West Africa Health Organisation on the harmonization of medical laboratory science curricula in 2011 and the professional code of ethics in 2012. And an expert member of Committees of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science for the harmonization of training curricula in 2011 and later in 2015, medical laboratory science job classification in the ILO's ISCO 88 classification. He was the lead advocate for the passing and Presidential Assent of the Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Law in Ghana, ACT 857 (2013).

He was appointed and served as the Honorable District Chief Executive for the Akatsi North District Assembly from May 2017 to November 2021. Under his leadership, the District was awarded the 2018, 4th best performing District in Ghana by the Office of the Head of the Local Government Service and also awarded the 2018 best District investment in tourism by the Ghana Tourism Authority for the creation of the Ave Crocodile Resort.

Currently appointed to the Governing Board of the Allied Health Professions Council of the Ministry of Health in Ghana. He chairs the Board's Professions Practice Committee. He got appointed to the Ho Teaching Hospital again by His Excellency the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as a board member and humbly serves as Chairman of the finance and administration committee. Dr. Amuzu is a Christian, married with four children.

Sahr Moses Gevao

Prof. Sahr Moses Gevao is a graduate of Medicine from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, and specialized in Haematology at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. He was a Commonwealth Medical Fellow at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital London in Haematology and Blood transfusion.

He is a Fellow of the West African Coll of Physicians and a Member of numerous professional bodies and Associations. He was recently certified in Biorisk Management and Biosecurity by IFBA. He has served in top positions in Academia and professional life including Head of College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, and Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Sierra Leone. He is currently, Professor and Consultant Haematologist at the University of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation. He is also Chairman, of the Council for Colleges of Health Specialties and Chancellor, of Njala University.

Sodiomon Bienvenu SIRIMA

Holder of a doctorate in Medicine (MD), a Bachelor's in Socio-anthropology, and a Ph.D. in epidemiology. Sodiomon B. Sirima is an expert on clinical trials and one of the African pioneers in conducting ICH-GCP-compliant Malaria vaccine trials. He has led a national research center in Burkina Faso where he has built capacities for a strong clinical research platform. For two years, he is the Chief executive officer of "Groupe de Recherche Action en Santé" (GRAS), a non-governmental health research Institute. Up to today, he has mentored more than several scientists and conducted more than thirty epidemiological and community-based studies and more than fifteen ICH-GCP compliant clinical trials funded by most of the important agencies across the World supporting research on tropical/ infectious diseases which have generated over 180 peer review scientific publications and led to significant policy changes in malaria control strategies making him one of the key

opinion leaders in the malaria research field. He has served/continues to serve at a high-level many Africans, Europeans, Americans, and international.

Organization's experts' committees/boards. He is a former EDCTP partnership board chair. His current research projects include clinical trials of Typhoid, Schistosomiasis, shigella, malaria, and COVID-19 vaccines/drugs.

Tegomo Alain Awungia

He is the Country Coordinator for the Saving Lives and Livelihood project under the Africa CDC and MasterCard Foundation grant for Cameroon. In addition, he is the Technical Lead for Laboratory Systems Strengthening activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo under the PEPFAR grant.

Working for Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS), he has over 8 years of experience in healthsystems strengthening activities, focusing on External Quality Assessment (EQA) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) for Early Infant Diagnosis Point of Care Testing. He expanded GHSS' coverage from Cameroon (16 sites) to the Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC (12 sites) and Coted'Ivoire (30 sites) by actively engaging in sustainable collaborations and partnerships while ensuring optimal site impact.

The hallmark of his work in Laboratory Systems strengthening has been to contribute to the adoption of the National guidelines for the certification of HIV and related Point of Care testing (POCT) sites and testers, and the certification of 20 testers from 08 POCT sites in Cameroon, likewise the adoption and dissemination of strategic documents in the DRC.

Away from work, he enjoys continuous learning and self-improvement activities. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Buea-Cameroon with a research interest in parasitic factors associated with HIV indeterminate results.