

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
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NAME: ONYEKA, Tonia Chinyelu Uzoma

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): TONIAONYEKA

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
College of Medicine, UNEC	MBBS	06/1996	Medicine & Surgery
West African College of Surgeons (Anaesthesia Faculty)	Diploma	04/2001	Anaesthesia
West African College of Surgeons (Anaesthesia Faculty)	FWACS	10/2006	Anaesthesia
Cardiff University, Wales, UK	MSc	06/2014	Pain Management

**A. Personal Statement:** I am a member of several professional bodies including Technical Expert Group (TEG) that produced first-ever pain management guidelines for Nigerian healthcare professionals. Through the Pain-Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) funded by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the Federal Ministry of Health, my team and I trained eight hundred and thirty-one clinicians, resulting in near quadruple consumption of analgesics from what obtained prior to PFHI and significantly reduced pain scores across all hospital departments. As PI in an ASCO-Conquer Cancer Foundation sponsored RCT (#11321), we created a web-based app (the EPAC app) to ensure prompt intervention in symptom management for rural-dwelling and distant-dwelling cancer patients attending our palliative care facility and as PI in the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research funded study, my team and I delivered a psychoeducational intervention family caregivers of Nigerian children hospitalized with the diagnosis of cancer in four tertiary health institutions located in four of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, which resulted in significant improvements in unmet needs, caregiver burden and significant improvements in preparedness for caregiving in palliative care. I am focused on palliative care system research particularly those that aim to develop palliative care for babies and their mothers, children and young people and those that aim at building palliative care workforce capacity within maternal and child healthcare services. Joining Prof. Ezeanolue on this project as Co-I, I will lead NISA-SOAR Career Development Unit and co-lead Research Project 2.

**Ongoing and Recently completed projects I would like to highlight include:**

NIH/Forgety International Centre Grant. “*Strengthening Research Administration Infrastructure for HIV Research in Nigeria*”. **NIH/FIC G11 TW011841**. G. Aarons, E. Ezeanolue (MPI). 09/01/22 – 08/30/25. This 3-year capacity development grant award aims to improve the proposal development and grant management knowledge and skills of UNN research administrators and HIV implementation researchers.

NIH/Fogerty International Centre Grant. *Eastern Nigeria Research Ethics Training (ENRICH) Program*. **NIH/FIC R25 TW011811**. C. Adebamowo, E. Ezeome, T. Ogundiran (MPI). 04/01/2021 - 03/31/2026.

The Eastern Nigeria Research Ethics Training (ENRICH) Program is a collaborative research ethics training program to be implemented jointly by the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), NIH/FIC-funded Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) and University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). Role: Co-Investigator

2019 IASP Developing Countries Project: Initiative For Improving Pain Education Grant. *Project OPUS*. Onyeka (PI). 6/14/2019 - 6/13/2020

The goal of this project was to develop and run an online pain education platform for Nigerian medical undergraduate students in six Colleges of Medicine.

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research Grant. *In-Hospital Psychoeducation for the informal carer of the Nigerian Child with Cancer*. Onyeka (PI).

08/01/2018 – 07/01/2019.

The goal of this proposed research was to assess the impact of a specific psychoeducational intervention on informal caregivers of Nigerian children with cancer while on hospital admission.

ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation International Innovation Grant. *Enhancing Palliative Care in Rural South-East Nigeria: Use of a Mobile App for Symptom Management*. Onyeka (PI)

03/01/2017 – 02/28/2018.

The specific cancer control problem being addressed by this research was non-timely and inadequate symptom control for cancer patients.

Pfizer-Union For International Cancer Control (UICC) Seeding Progress And Resources For The Cancer Community (SPARC) Grant. *University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital – Breast Cancer Support Group* (UNTH-BCSG). Okwor (PI)  
01/01/2016 – 01/30/2016.

The overall objective of this project was to address multiple gaps in care through the provision of easier access to palliative care services, improving the follow-up system and multidisciplinary management to ensure better quality of life and increased treatment compliance for patients with advanced breast cancer in the UNTH health community.

Role: Co-Investigator

American Cancer Society - Treat The Pain Grant. *Pain-free Hospital Initiative (PFHI)*. Onyeka(PI)

10/01/2015 – 09/30/2017.

This project was a two-year hospital wide quality improvement project aimed at integrating pain management into service delivery and increasing pain awareness and pain treatment, especially with regards to use of opioids for the management of moderate to severe pain by monthly training of healthcare professionals (doctors, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists) on pain management.

ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation International Innovation Grant. Chigbu (PI)

*Impact of Community Health Educators on Uptake of Cervical/Breast Cancer Screening and HPV Vaccination in Rural South Eastern Nigeria*. 01/01/2014 – 12/01/2014.

The overall goals of this project was to determine the level of awareness of cervical cancer screening before and after the intervention, the rate of uptake of cervical cancer screening before and after the intervention, the level of awareness of HPV vaccination before and after the intervention, and the rate of uptake of HPV vaccination before and after the intervention.

Role: Co-investigator

## **B. POSITIONS SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS**

### **Positions and Scientific Appointments**

2022 – Present Program Manager, Center for Translation and Implementation Research (CTAIR)

2020 - Associate Editor, Paediatric Pain section, Frontiers in Pain Research.

2020 - Member, ASCO IDEA Steering Committee.

2020 - Member, International Partnership for Resilience in Cancer Systems (I-PaRCS)

2020 - Member, Pediatric Palliative Care Research Network (PPCRN)

2020 - Member, Palliative Care Research Cooperative (PCRC)

2018 - 2020 Head, Department of Anaesthesia, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria

2018 - Member, ASCO Educational Book expert panel

2017 - Member, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (Haifa) at College of Medicine, University of Nigeria

2017 - Member, Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Development of Guidelines on Pain Management for Nigeria

2017 – Present Lecturer, Masters in Bioethics program, Institute of Public Health, University of Nigeria

2016 - Present Associate Professor, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Ituku-Ozalla Campus

2016 - Present Initiator & Principal Investigator, EPAC Research Team, Pain & Palliative Care Unit, UNTH.

2016 - Member, African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)

2015 – 2017 Staff Champion, Pain-Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) Treat-the-Pain program of the American Cancer Society (ACS)

- 2012 - Chairperson, UNTH Chapter of Hospice & Palliative Care Association of Nigeria (HPCAN)
- 2012 - Member, International Society of Advance Care Planning and End-Of-Life Care (ACPEL)
- 2012 - Member, International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)
- 2012 - Member, International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)
- 2012 - Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
- 2012 - International Corresponding Member, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
- 2012 – 2014 Public Relations Officer, Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists (NSA)
- 2010 – 2012 Assistant General Secretary, Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists (NSA)
- 2010 - Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Medicine, UNEC
- 2010 - Member, Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Nigeria (HPCAN)
- 2010 - Present Consultant Anaesthetist, Department of Anaesthesia, UNTH, Ituku-Ozalla
- 2008 - Present Founding Head, Pain & Palliative Care Unit, UNTH, Ituku-Ozalla
- 2008 – 2010 Departmental Research Coordinator, Directorate for Research and Publication, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus
- 2008 - Member, Society for the Study of Pain, Nigeria (SSPN)
- 2008 - 2010 Member, Research Grant Committee, College of Medicine, UNEC
- 2006 - Member, Nigerian Society of Anaesthetist (NSA)
- 2006 - Member, West African College of Surgeons (WACS)
- 2003 - 2018 Locum Physician Anaesthetist, Shell Petroleum Development Company, Port-Harcourt
- 2003 – 2016 Locum Physician Anaesthetist, Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, Bonny, Rivers State
- 2002 - 2006 Chief Resident, Department of Anaesthesia, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
- 1996 - Member, Nigerian Medical Association (NMA)

### **Honors**

- 2019 AORTIC 2019 International Childhood Cancer Day Awareness Awardee
- 2018 Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) Fellow
- 2017 Winner of the John J. Sciarra IJGO Prize Paper Award for 2017: Chibuike O. Chigbu, Azubuike K. Onyebuchi, Tonia C. Onyeka, Boniface U. Odugu, Cyril C. Dim, The impact of community health educators on uptake of cervical and breast cancer prevention services in Nigeria. *Int J Gynecol Obstet.* 2017;137:319–324.
- 2017 African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) African Cancer Leadership Institute (ACLI) Scholar
- 2014 Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative (GAPRI) Envoy
- 2013 Certificate of Recognition, Awarded by the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC), for Support to the Promotion and Development of Palliative Care in the World
- 2012 Global Academic Program Associate - The University of Texas, MDAnderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA.
- 2012 American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) Scholar
- 2012 Conquer Cancer Foundation of American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) International Development and Education Award in Palliative Care (IDEA-PC) Recipient.
- 2012 2nd Place Prize for Best Paper Presented at the 15th Annual Scientific Conference of the Society for the Study of Pain Nigeria (SSPN) Port Harcourt, Nigeria

### **C. Contributions to Science**

**1. Palliative Care Systems:** My current palliative care research focus is to explore the availability, accessibility of palliative care services and how healthcare systems at various levels and individuals in need of palliative care utilize palliative care services in Nigeria and Africa

- a. Agom DA, Onyeka TC, Iheanacho PN, Ominyi J. Barriers to the provision and utilization of palliative care in Africa: A rapid scoping review. *Indian J Palliat Care* 2021; 27(1): 3 - 17. PMID: 34035611
- b. Agom DA, Allen S, Neill S, Sixsmith J, Poole H, Onyeka TC, Ominyi J. Social and Health System Complexities Impacting on Decision-Making for Utilization of Oncology and Palliative Care in an African Context: A Qualitative Study. *J Palliat Care.* 2020;35(3):185-191. PMID: 31842664
- c. Agom DA, Neill S, Allen S, Poole H, Sixsmith J, Onyeka TC, Ominyi J. Construction of meanings during life-limiting illnesses and its impacts on palliative care: An ethnographic study in African context. *Psycho-Oncology* 2019; 28(11): 2201 – 2209. PMID: 31430828

- d. Onyeka TC, Velijanasvili M, Senbeta GA, Manase F, Kordzaia D. 21st century palliative care: a tale of four nations. *Eur J Can Care* 2013; 22(5): 597 – 604. PMID: 23647421

**2. Telehealth, Mobile Health and Cancer:** The use of mobile technologies for cancer care in developed countries is well documented. However, there is sparse documentation on the use and benefits of such technology in LMICs. Some of my research in this area seeks to examine this.

- a. Okunade KS, Soibi-Harry A, John-Olabode S, Adejimi AA, Allsop MJ, Onyeka TC, Godwin O. Akaba, Yusuf A. Oshodi, Omolola Salako, Aloy O. Ugwu, Adefemi A, Anorlu RI, Berek JS. Impact of Mobile Technologies on Cervical Cancer Screening Practices in Lagos, Nigeria (mHealth-Cervix): A Randomized Controlled Trial. *JCO Global Oncology* 2021 ;7, 1418-1425. PMID: 34554814
- b. IJ Okoroafor, FN Chukwuneke, N Ifebunandu, TC Onyeka, CO Ekwueme. Telemedicine and biomedical care in Africa: Prospects and challenges. *Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice* 2017; 20 (1), 1-5. PMID: 27958238

**3. Breast & Cervical Cancer:** My research has focused on issues women with breast cancer and cervical cancer are faced with prior to, during and after treatment such as body image, quality of life, balancing role of wife, mother and patient and unmet needs.

- a. Mazaheri, E., Ghahramanian, A., Valizadeh, L., Zamanzadeh, V. Onyeka, TC. Disrupted mothering in Iranian mothers with breast cancer: a hybrid concept analysis. *BMC Women's Health* 2021; 21, 234. doi: 10.1186/s12905-021-01346-w
- b. Sheikhalipour Z, Ghahramanian A, Fateh A, Onyeka TC. Functional status of women after cancer and its related factors: A study based on Roy adaptation model. *Eur J Cancer Care* 2020; 20(3): e13378. PMID: 33295041
- c. Sheikhalipour Z, Ghahramanian A, Fateh A, Ghiahi R, Onyeka TC. Quality of Life in Women with Cancer and Its Influencing Factors. *J Caring Sci.* 2019;8(1):9–15. doi:10.15171/jcs.2019.002. PMID: 30915308
- d. CO Chigbu, AK Onyebuchi, TC Onyeka, BU Odugu, CC Dim. The impact of community health educators on uptake of cervical and breast cancer prevention services in Nigeria. *Int J Gynecol Obstet* 2017; 137 (3), 319-324. PMID: 28295268

**4. Pain Management:** I have some research done in pain management as listed below.

- a. Onyeka TC, Iloanusi N, Namisango E, Onu JU, Okunade KS, Mohammed AD, et al. Project OPUS: Development and evaluation of an electronic platform for pain management education of medical undergraduates in resource-limited settings. *PLoS ONE* 2020; 15(12): e0243573. PMID: 33301477.
- b. Mirmaroori N, Ghahramanian A, Behshid M, Jabbarzadeh F, Onyeka TC, Asghari-Jafarabadi M, et al. Relationship between self-efficacy and pain control in Iranian women with advanced knee osteoarthritis. *Niger J Clin Pract* 2019; 22:460-8. PMID: 30975948
- c. Onyeka TC, Chukwuneke FN. Pain research in Africa: a 10-year bibliometric survey. *J Anesth* 2014; 28 (4), 511-516. PMID: 24375219
- d. Chigbu CO, Onyeka TC. Denial of pain relief during labour to parturients in South-eastern Nigeria. *Int J Gynecol Obstet* 2011; 114(3): 226 – 228. PMID: 21767839

**5. Ethics:** I also have research work in the field of bioethics as it relates to cancer care.

- a. Onyeka TC, Okonkwo I, Aniebue U, Ugwu I, Chukwuneke F, Agom D. 'Wrong treatment': Doctors' take on medical futility in a low-resource ICU. *UTMJ* 2019; 96(3): 17 – 23.
- b. Chigbo NN, Ezeome ER, Onyeka TC, Amah CC. Ethics of physiotherapy practice in terminally-ill patients in a developing country, Nigeria. *Nig J Clin Pract (Suppl)* 2015; 18(7): 40 – 45. PMID: 26620621
- c. Aniebue UU, Onyeka TC. Ethical, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Considerations in Gynecologic Cancer Care in Developing Countries. *Int J Pall Care.* 2014; Article ID 141627, pages1 – 6. doi: 10.1155/2014/141627