

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Ijeoma Uchenna Itanyi

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

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria	MBBS	08/2005	Medicine and Surgery
Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School Of Public Health, Maryland, USA	MPH	05/2010	Public Health/ Epidemiology and Biostatistics
World Bank Institute, USA	Certificate	04/2011	Health Economics
West African College of Physicians	Fellowship	04/2016	Community Medicine (Preventive Medicine)

### A. PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a Nigerian and US-trained public health physician and epidemiologist, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), and the Program Manager and Training Lead for the Center for Translation and Implementation Research (CTAIR), UNN. My researches have focused on behavioural risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among adolescents to inform early prevention interventions; understanding health systems bottlenecks to provision of quality healthcare; and the use of implementation science to deliver tailored health interventions for maternal and child health. My current research interests are prevention of NCDs, integration of NCD care into existing health systems in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), and digital health interventions to support patient management of NCDs. I have seven years virtual and face-to-face experience with teaching and mentoring undergraduate and postgraduate students, and resident doctors at UNN. My current role as the coordinator of undergraduate medical training in Community Medicine at UNN has given me extensive expertise in coordinating training programs. I also have proficiency in teaching assessment methods and assessment of research works in public health, given my responsibilities as the exam officer for undergraduate medical program in Community Medicine at UNN, and postgraduate external examiner at University of Cape Town, South Africa, respectively. I co-lead the teams which developed the curriculum for UNN postgraduate program in Epidemiology, and the occupational health policy for University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital. I have received peer-reviewed research funding as PI for tobacco, cardiovascular disease and HIV research. I have also served as research coordinator in multiple NIH-funded research projects. I have received several scholarship awards including NIH Mentored Research Award, University of Cambridge Training Award for chronic disease research in Africa, and Early Career Epidemiologist Award by International Epidemiological Association Council.

1. **Itanyi IU**, Onwasigwe CN, McIntosh S, Bruno T, Ossip D, Nwobi EA, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Disparities in tobacco use by adolescents in southeast, Nigeria using Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) approach. *BMC Public Health*. 2018; 18(1):317. doi: 10.1186/s12889-018-5231-1. PMID: 29510706. PMCID: PMC5840734.
2. Ezeanolue EE, Iheanacho T, Adedeji IA, **Itanyi IU**, Olakunde B, Patel D, Dakum P, Okonkwo P, Akinmurele T, Obiefune M, Khamofu H, Oyeledun B, Aina M, Eyo A, Oleribe O, Oko J, Olutola A, Gobir I, Aliyu MH, Aliyu G, Woelk G, Aarons G, Siberry G, Sturke R; Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance.

Opportunities and challenges to integrating mental health into HIV programs in a low- and middle-income country: insights from the Nigeria implementation science Alliance. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2020;20(1):904. doi: 10.1186/s12913-020-05750-0. PMID: 32993621; PMCID: PMC7526407.

3. Gbadamosi SO, **Itanyi IU**, Menson WNA, Olawepo JO, Bruno T, Ogidi AG, Patel D, Oko JO, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Targeted HIV testing for male partners of HIV-positive pregnant women in a high prevalence setting in Nigeria. *PLoS One.* 2019;14(1):e0211022. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0211022. PMID: 30699160. PMCID: PMC6353157.

## **B. POSITIONS AND HONORS**

### **Positions and Employment**

2012-2013	Registrar, Department of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
2014-2016	Senior Registrar, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
2014-2016	Chief Resident, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
2014-2017	Instructor, Community Health Officers Training Program, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
2016-2017	Post-fellowship Senior Registrar, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital
2017-2018	Research Associate, Research Resource Centre, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria (UNN)
2017-	Assistant Professor, Department. of Community Medicine, UNN
2017-2018	Assistant Coordinator, Undergraduate Medical training, Dept. of Community Medicine, UNN
2018-	Program Coordinator and Exam Officer, Undergraduate Medical training, Dept. of Community Medicine, UNN
2018-	Program Manager & Training Lead, Center for Translation and Implementation Research, College of Medicine, UNN
2020-	Honorary Consultant, Dept. of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital

### **Other Experiences and Professional memberships**

2012-2016	Technical Consultant on health systems strengthening, DfID/Abt Associates, for Partnership for Transforming Health Systems in Nigeria
2013-2016	Alumni Mentor, MPH program, Johns Hopkins University, USA
2013-	Certified Trainer on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses, FMOH, Nigeria
2013-	Member, International Epidemiological Association
2015	Co-convener, Southeast Nigeria Health Summit on Universal Health Coverage
2015-2016	Co-Lead, Civil Society Scaling-Up Nutrition in Nigeria, Enugu State Chapter
2015-	Treasurer, Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, Enugu State Chapter
2016-2017	Member, State Committee on Food and Nutrition, Enugu, Nigeria
2016	Technical Consultant on nutrition, UNICEF, Nigeria
2018-	Member, Society for Nicotine and Tobacco Research
2018	Technical Consultant on monitoring and evaluation of severe acute malnutrition, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Nigeria
2019-	External Examiner for MPH degree, University of Cape Town, South Africa
2020-	Reviewer, Journal of Smoking Cessation
2020-	Reviewer, Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice

### **Honors and Awards**

1999-2005	AGIP Undergraduate Scholarship Award, National Merit Category
2001	Honors Distinction (Biochemistry), MBBS degree, University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria
2005	Outstanding Service Award, Federation of Catholic Medical and Dental Students
2010	Honors Distinction, MPH degree, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA
2015	Medical Education Partnership Initiative-Nigeria Mentored Research Award funded by National Institutes of Health, USA

- 2016 Training Award by University of Cambridge/African Partnership for Chronic Disease Research, for capacity building for chronic disease research in Africa
- 2016 Fellow, West African College of Physicians
- 2017 Early Career Epidemiologist Travel Award to 21st World Congress on Epidemiology, International Epidemiological Association Council

### C. CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE

#### Identification of behavioural risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among adolescents to inform early interventions for prevention of NCDs

My research on adolescent tobacco use in southeast Nigeria was the first study that comprehensively evaluated inequalities in adolescent tobacco use in Nigeria. We found higher use of all forms of tobacco in rural schools compared with urban schools, and demonstrated the need for tobacco control interventions to also target students in rural schools. We also identified risk factors for adolescent cigarette smoking, which could be targeted in tobacco control programs. These findings have influenced the Chairman of the state's legislature Health Committee to sponsor a bill for the state to adopt the national tobacco control law.

1. **Itanyi IU**, Onwasigwe CN, Ossip D, Uzochukwu BSC, McIntosh S, Aguwa EN, Wang S, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Predictors of current tobacco smoking by adolescents in Nigeria: interaction between school location and socioeconomic status. *Tobacco Induced Diseases*. 2020; 18:13. doi: 10.18332/tid/117959. PMID: 32180690. PMCID: PMC7067232.
2. **Itanyi IU**, Onwasigwe CN, McIntosh S, Bruno T, Ossip D, Nwobi EA, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Disparities in tobacco use by adolescents in southeast, Nigeria using Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) approach. *BMC Public Health*. 2018; 18(1):317. doi: 10.1186/s12889-018-5231-1. PMID: 29510706. PMCID: PMC5840734.

#### Health systems research to understand bottlenecks to provision of quality health services in low resource settings

My work in the field of health systems has examined barriers to provision of quality health services in Nigeria and investigated treatment outcomes of different types of care. We identified opportunities and challenges to integrating mental health into existing HIV programs in Nigeria; findings which could guide policymakers and healthcare providers in addressing the burden of mental co-morbidities and improving treatment outcomes among people living with HIV in Nigeria. Our feasibility study on training of traditional bone setters (TBS) by orthopaedic surgeons found willingness of TBS to accept training support from orthopaedic surgeons, and orthopaedic surgeons to provide training support to TBS respectively. This intervention could help to fill the gap in primary fracture care in Nigeria and reduce its complications. In another study, we found that treatment outcomes of patients treated for tuberculosis using a 6-month regimen were better than with an 8-month regimen, supporting the new WHO-recommended guidelines for optimal TB treatment.

1. Ezeanolue EE, Iheanacho T, Adedeji IA, **Itanyi IU**, Olakunde B, Patel D, Dakum P, Okonkwo P, Akinmurele T, Obiefune M, Khamofu H, Oyeledun B, Aina M, Eyo A, Oleribe O, Oko J, Olutola A, Gobir I, Aliyu MH, Aliyu G, Woelk G, Aarons G, Siberry G, Sturke R; Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance. Opportunities and challenges to integrating mental health into HIV programs in a low- and middle-income country: insights from the Nigeria implementation science Alliance. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2020;20(1):904. doi: 10.1186/s12913-020-05750-0. PMID: 32993621; PMCID: PMC7526407.
2. Onyemaechi N, **Itanyi IU**, Ossai O, Ezeanolue EE (2020). Can traditional bonesetters become trained technicians? Feasibility study among a cohort of Nigerian traditional bonesetters. *Human Resources for Health*. 2020; 18(1):24. doi: 10.1186/s12960-020-00468-w. PMID: 32197617. PMCID: PMC7085192.
3. Ekenna A, **Itanyi IU**, Nwokoro U, Hirschhorn L and Uzochukwu B. How ready is the system to deliver primary health care? Results of a primary health facility assessment in Enugu State, Nigeria. *Health Policy and Planning*. 2020; (Accepted for publication – in press).
4. Omotowo BI, **Itanyi I**, Ndibuagu EO, Agunwa CC, Obi IE, Idoko AC, et al. Comparative study of six-

month and eight-month treatment of new smear positive tuberculosis cases at a tertiary health facility in Enugu, South-Eastern Nigeria. *Int J Med Health Dev.* 2019; 24:78-84. doi: 10.4103/ijmh.IJMH\_24\_19.

### **Use of implementation science to deliver tailored health interventions in resource-limited settings**

My work has contributed to the use of tailored implementation strategies to deliver HIV and Hepatitis B testing for early diagnosis and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of these infections in rural settings in Nigeria where health facility utilization is low. This provides the opportunity for early interventions to reduce child morbidity and mortality in resource-limited settings.

1. Gbadamosi SO, **Itanyi IU**, Menson WNA, Olawepo JO, Bruno T, Ogidi AG, Patel D, Oko JO, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Targeted HIV testing for male partners of HIV-positive pregnant women in a high prevalence setting in Nigeria. *PLoS One.* 2019;14(1):e0211022. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0211022. PMID: 30699160. PMCID: PMC6353157.
2. Adeyemi OA, **Itanyi IU**, Ozigbu CE, Stadnick N, Tsuyuki K, Olayiwola O, Ogidi AG, Eze C, Aarons GA, Onoka CA, Ezeanolue EE. Sero-prevalence and determinants of Hepatitis B among a cohort of HIV-infected women of reproductive age in Nigeria. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(9):e0236456. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0236456. PMID: 32941424; PMCID: PMC7498243.

## **D. RESEARCH SUPPORT**

### Active Grants

Elizabeth Glaser Paediatrics AIDS Foundation [0257A] Rakhmanina/Tiam (MPI) 12/2019-12/2021  
**Demographic, Clinical, and Laboratory Characteristics and Outcomes of Patients Who Ever Received Etravirine and/or Darunavir**

Role: **PI (Nigeria)**

This is a multi-country study which purpose is to describe the demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics and treatment outcomes of HIV-infected children, adolescents and young adults who ever received the 3<sup>rd</sup>-line antiretroviral drugs, Darunavir and Etravirine.

### Completed Grants

Research Resource Centre, College of Medicine, UNN Itanyi (PI) 10/2018-09/2019  
**Risk factors for cardiovascular diseases in northcentral Nigeria**

The purpose of this study was to conduct secondary data analysis to determine the community prevalence and determinants of cardiovascular risk factors among participants in the Healthy Beginning Initiative program in Benue State, Nigeria.

Role: **PI**

3R01HD087994 Ezeanolue (PI) 09/02/2016-03/31/2018  
NICHD

### **Men's Club: Impact of male partner involvement on initiation and sustainment of exclusive breastfeeding among HIV-infected postpartum women**

The overall aim of this study was to assess the comparative effectiveness of a Men's Club intervention which comprised health education, motivational interviewing and post-delivery weekly phone calls for six weeks on initiation and sustainment of exclusive breast feeding by women postpartum. Participants were male partners of pregnant women.

Role: **Study Coordinator**

R01HD087994 Ezeanolue (PI) 5/1/2016-4/30/2018  
NICHD

### **Intervention for Sustained Testing and Retention (iSTAR) among HIV-infected patients**

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the comparative effectiveness of congregation, clinic and integrated case management-based intervention for sustainable testing and retention for linkage to care, engagement, retention and viral load suppression of women and children infected with HIV.

Role: **Research Associate**

R21TW010252

Ezeanolue (PI)

9/01/2015-8/31/2017

NIH/Fogarty International Center

**Point-of-Delivery Prenatal Test Results through mHealth to Improve Birth Outcome**

The purpose of this study was to develop and evaluate a mobile health platform that includes a database, a smart card and mobile phone application to make maternal prenatal laboratory test results available at the point of delivery.

Role: **Research Associate**

Wellcome Trust, UK

Motala (Study PI), Oli (Site PI)

06/2013-05/2018

**Burden, spectrum and aetiology of type 2 diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa**

The overall aim of this study was to assess the burden and aetiological characteristics of type 2 diabetes in adults in sub-Saharan Africa using large-scale population-based approaches

Role: **Site Coordinator**

R24TW008878

Olaleye (PI)

04/2015-03/2016

NIH/Fogarty International Centre through the Medical Education Partnership Initiative-Nigeria

**A comparative study on the prevalence and determinants of tobacco use among secondary school adolescents in urban and rural areas of Enugu State, Nigeria**

The overall aim of this study was to compare the prevalence and determinants of tobacco use among adolescents attending secondary schools in urban and rural areas of Enugu State, Nigeria.

Role: **PI**

World Health Organization [Grant Number H15-TSA-019]

Onoka (PI)

02/2011 – 01/2013

**The National Health Insurance Scheme in Nigeria: an analysis of enabling factors and constraints to adoption by sub-national governments**

The purpose of this study was to understand why different state (sub-national) governments decided whether or not to adopt the formal sector program of the National Health Insurance Scheme for their employees.

Role: **Research Coordinator**